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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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What's in a Name?

Letter To The Editor

By Tynisha Scott

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As a soon to be alum of UHD, I have been fortunate enough to be involved with faculty, staff and student body on a number of levels. However, since the beginning of the name change process I have seen each of these bodies gradually degenerate into territorial packs determined to speak their peace and prove the other side wrong through sarcastic commentary and often misguided insults all under the guise of a profuse love for this university. Seeing the body of a great institution like ours sink into a state of embittered turmoil is frustrating and disheartening; yet there was one thing mentioned in both Eric Roberson's and James Duvall's pieces that struck a nerve within me.

Why does it seem that many students have just now visibly and proudly taken up the banner of UHD after the name change process became a cemented reality? Where were the legions that now exalt the pride of being a student of UHD in protest of a name change when there

were town hall meetings with the administration and calls for student participation in various educational conferences? Where were these bands of boasting voices when UHD needed student advocates for a plethora of initiatives, i.e., Open House and New Student Orientation, which were and still are used to attract prospective students? I do not doubt the sincerity of Mr. Roberson or Mr. Duvall in their pride in UHD; however, they, as well as I, have been amongst the minority when it comes to those students who have always professed a love for UHD.

Many who are opposed and for the name change suggest a variety of valid reasons that come off as trite, facetious or just plain offensive. Mr. Roberson claims that the research behind the name change process has been full of missteps and invalid procedures, such as the omission of key UHD populations (i.e., the Alumni Association), that there are no valid reasons

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Official Name Change Is Put To A Halt

By Wilbert Chinchilla
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

In December after taking finals, the majority of students and recent alumni left for vacation thinking about the possibility that the name on their sweatpants, their college, and most importantly, their diploma, could change upon returning for spring 2009 classes. During the break, on Dec. 12, 2008, it was reported by the Houston Chronicle that the University of Houston-Downtown will no longer consider Houston Metropolitan University as a name choice. Furthermore, all names containing the word "Houston" had been disapproved by the leadership committee and the new Chancellor of the University of Houston System, Renu Khator.

The UH System has also approved the UH-Clear Lake and the UH-Victoria campus's "downward expansion" enabling both schools to give freshman and sophomore classes no later than Fall 2012. This would make each a four-year competing institution with the other campuses containing the same introduction to their individual names. As read in the 2009 Legislative Agenda for the UH System, both "downward



SGA Treasurer, Jaime Puente, speaks on behalf of the UHD student body. To view a video of his statement visit www.uhdsga.org.

expansion" and UHD name change proposals are labeled as institutional issues. The issue of UHD's name, as stated by the UH System website, is that "the names are so similar, there is often confusion between the University of Houston and the University of Houston-Downtown. The UH System seeks to rectify this confusion and ensure separate identities by renaming UHD."

On Feb. 6, UHD presented the new proposed name, "University of South Texas" at the town hall style meeting held at UH-Hilton Flamingo Room. The UH System Board of Regents voted unanimously and rejected the name. The board also ordered a delay on any further action regarding the name change. According

to reports from the Houston Chronicle, the Board of Regents stated, "the process, which came up with the suggested name in about a month, had been rushed". One of the speakers from UHD who spoke about the name change being rushed was SGA Treasurer, Jaime Puente, who spoke on behalf of the student body and told the board that, "in summation, we as the students of the University of Houston-Downtown do not agree and resist changing the name of our University. We do not feel the process has been conducted under the ideals of shared governance because we have not been able to adequately express our opinions on the matter. We understand, however, that the

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STUDENT LIFE

Sex On Campus? A Post-Valentine's Editorial

By Frank Raia
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



Some students ignore the consequences of committing sexual acts on campus. (Photo courtesy from flickr.com)

Valentine's Day is a holiday when people spend vast amounts of currency for another in the hopes of procreating with them. We all know this because we experience it as we grow older. Valentine's Day can be fun, but you'd be surprised at how many partake in shenanigans on campus.

It doesn't surprise anybody to see people going totally out of their way to give others great gifts. It could be a flower, a box of chocolates, a stuffed bear or even a set of balloons. There were people went all out on this holiday. After gifts are given some students may find the need to finish the acts at school. Most don't understand the consequences of their actions; others just don't know where to go.

It's about that time, that moment.

But you need a place to go that's quick, quiet and most importantly, vacant. I couldn't mention all the places available, but a classroom without computers would be nice. Or maybe the art room on the 11th floor would suit a couple's needs. Sometimes one may feel a bit romantic and would like to play a nice piano solo in the theater. If you feel extremely lucky, why not try for something in the gym? I could go on and on with a list of places to go on campus, but then these mysterious spots would no longer be kept secret. And please, don't do it in any of the parking lots. You will get caught.

Now you're thinking, "people actually do this?" Yes! They do. But it's only a small percentage of the school population. Getting caught isn't pretty, but the odds aren't so bad. Our school hosts approximately 12-13,000 students, faculty and staff that may just linger around doing something. Now the odds of you getting caught and turned in is about a 1-5 ratio, but you don't want to be that one. If you get caught it's a class B misdemeanor.

You may be shitting in your pants right now, but that's okay. If your acts are consensual you may not get busted. They may take your information and make fun of you, but still, don't do it and you won't get caught. Now if happen to stumble upon inappropriate activity on campus, please say something. Just don't report them to the fuzz. That's not cool.

Name Debate

Continued from page 1

for the name change and that by changing our name we will no longer have a common identity amongst the students, faculty and staff. While I have my own reservations about the research, I am aware that the Alumni Association was included in the survey process on a number of levels and this can be verified in the report produced by Richards/Carlberg that is available on the UHD website. Additionally, while emotions on both sides lead some of us to believe that neither side has a legitimate reason for being for or against the name change, those who have expressed that they only came here because we were affiliated with UH seem to have missed the sign on the door when they walked into One Main.

What about the loss of identity we will experience as a result of the name change you say? If the only thing that drew you to UHD was the affiliation with UH, then perhaps you ought to think about transferring within the next semester or so because since 1974, we ceased to be a branch of UH. As harsh as that last bit may sound, the fact that we are the Gators is something that many students truly are NOT aware of day in and out. While the statements above may imply that I completely support the name change it is imperative that I stress why I have always been of two minds about the name change because of my roles here as a student and as a student worker with New Student Orientation under the Office of Admissions.

As a student I think it is absurd that we should have to change our name. Like many, I do not agree with the stipulations put forth by the UH Board of Regents in regards to what our name can become. In conjunction with the stipulations and the names that have rose to the top via the name change selection process, I know I am not alone in feeling as if our institution is being railroaded into a indistinguishable name that will only further complicate any future marketing plan determined to rebrand us as an institution of choice as opposed to an institution of last resort.

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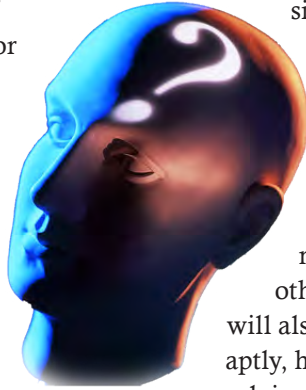
Use Your Philosophy

Course Recommendation, Opinion

By Peter de Graaf
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Can you name a class you've taken whose subject matter already exists as a part of your everyday life, yet you probably aren't aware of it? No? It's called Philosophy; the Greek word that translates to the love of wisdom. Whether you realize it or not, everyone has a philosophy. It is this philosophy of yours that enables you to make decisions regarding a host of situations that confront people in everyday life, including the humble, as well as the not-so-humble, undergraduate college student.

The trouble is, most of us cannot quite formulate, or even describe what our philosophy is, unless we are confronted by a situation that commands such a formulation. Everyone out there, whether in class, at the bus stop or at the bar all have some level of belief which dictates how he or she will react to certain situations. Furthermore, this not-quite-known philosophy of ours dictates how one will approach studies and life in general. Wouldn't it be nice to be able to learn how to



formulate this philosophy while still earning undergraduate credit towards a degree? Indeed, it would.

Taking a class in philosophy will more than simply inform you on your position and beliefs with respect to God, to what is real, to how we obtain knowledge or to what we think is right and wrong. In fact, a philosophy class will you make you argue for your beliefs. It is within this argumentation that you will discover many things about your beliefs that you otherwise may have taken for granted. You will also discover how it is that people, or more aptly, how it is that people should, go about solving problems in the world of business and medicine. It is a class that teaches you how to think. Unfortunately, this little how-to is abundantly absent in most undergraduate majors, including yours.

So, as you muddle over which general electives to take for your major next semester, consider a philosophy class so that you can really learn how to think. And then, watch out – you might be shocked to learn what it is that you truly believe in.

Octuplets Scandal

Who Is To Blame?

By Elizabeth Alvarez
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Eight newborns and six others at home, why even risk it? Surely everyone has heard the news of the octuplets born to a single mother of six that made headlines. Unlike large families before, the Suleman family is truly a unique circumstance. That is why Nadia Suleman gave an interview to NBC defending her stance after coming under scrutiny. What provoked an unemployed mother of six to go through In-Vitro fertilization for the seventh time? How can one woman emotionally, financially and physically take care of fourteen children by herself? Who is truly responsible for allowing this woman to go through this procedure continuously?

One question in mind is why Ms. Suleman was not evaluated prior to going through the procedure. When adopting children, one is required to pass a background check, be financially stable and have the time and household space to raise a child. The same measures taken for adoption should have been taken prior to allowing anyone to go through any kind of fertilization treatment. Someone, possibly a social worker, should be sent to examine the family's living condition. They should sit down with the potential patient and assess the reasons why they are going risk having another child? Furthermore, there should be a psychological evaluation to make sure that this person is ready and is in the right state of mind for raising children.

Yes, in the past people have had large families. The difference between Ms. Suleman and those families is the children's ages. Normally, large families have children with ages that are spread out, where as the octuplets and the other six children's ages are packed together. From experience, normally the elder children are able to assist the parents in the care of younger siblings by cooking and maintaining the house hold, but are normally at an age to do so. Ms. Suleman has six other children where the oldest is only seven.

It is said that it takes a village to raise a child, so will it take a city to raise these children? Without a doubt children are costly, and at times parents struggle to pay bills and balance work and family. The mother of these octuplets has been unemployed, is living with her parents and is caring for six other young children, three of which are disabled. How will she do it? What plan does this mother have to provide for all fourteen of her children in the near future? When having children one must consider the expenses that come with raising them. These include food, clothing, diapers, medical visits, transportation and child care. On top of that, these children will need an extensive amount of help. Everything from money by the state of California, which is suffering a financial crisis, to volunteers and donations.

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CAMPUS NEWS

IPSA Searches For Students With Talent

By Huma Ahmed
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

For the first time at UHD the Indian Pakistan Student Association (IPSA) will host a Cultural Show on Saturday, March 28 in the Wilhelmina Cullen Robertson Auditorium. Tryouts for the show will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 24 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Anyone with singing, dancing, modeling, or acting talent is welcomed. If you would like your talent(s) to be exposed, then this your best chance.

IPSA is coordinating the cultural show not just for enjoyment, but also to inform students and guests about the organization. Its main focus is to bring together diverse cultures by getting others to experience an adventurous trip to a new organization.

Any student from the University of Houston-Downtown may become a member of IPSA upon paying respective membership dues. Bi-weekly meetings are held on Thursdays around 2 p.m. inside Student Activities in S-204.

For the past 50 years India and Pakistan have been playing tug-of-war to prove to one another their power, status and superiority. Their main conflict is to

win the war against Kashmir. Because most of the population of Kashmir is Muslim, Pakistan argues that Kashmir should be allowed to decide which country they want to belong to. There people are trying to break apart from each other, create conflicts and destroy the animosity. But here at UHD we are all going towards the opposite direction.

We students are trying to spread our diversity, culture and peace towards one another. We are trying to unite as one and find an end to the conflicts created.

On Nov. 26, 2008, India was shaken by a series of terrorist attacks across ten prominent locations in Mumbai, India's cultural and financial capital. Pakistan was blamed for the deadly act and once again, fights, killings and accusations continued. The students from India and Pakistan in United States were informed about the news, but the reaction was different. In the U.S. no one created a bloody, deadly environment. Instead, they stood together as one and tried to find an end to this conflict.

The main purpose of IPSA is to send a message across the people that no matter how many fights



or wars India and Pakistan have faced, here in the United States we are trying to create peace and friendship between one another. We are working as a group to share our thoughts and values, and to help one another in hardship.

So go out there for the tryouts and support UHD's Indian Pakistan Student Association. Remember, anyone can participate in this cultural event. We need all of you to show your talent and be part of a fun night coming up.

For further details please contact the president of IPSA, Hammad Beg, at (713) 392-6206 or the event planner, Danish Rehman, at (832) 713-4041. You can also visit the website at www.ipsauhd.org.

UHD Offers Opportunity To Donate Blood On Campus

By James Duvall
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If you missed the blood drive in February, UHD is offering you another opportunity. The Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center will host blood drives on April 14 and 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Coffee House next to Smoothie King on the 3rd floor. Perhaps one of the safest and easiest ways to save a life is to give blood. I, myself, have donated quite an amount since I started about six years ago. In four years I achieved an acclaimed '1 Gallon' mug. It wasn't because of the mug that made me want to donate, but because a very simple act can go so far as keeping someone alive. All it really takes is 15 minutes of your time. People make various excuses that keep them from donating whenever I ask them to come and donate with me. True, there are some with medical reasons not to donate, but the following reasons shouldn't stop anyone.

1. Fear of needles. One can be in a far worse and fearsome scenario without a choice than to be scared of a needle. We are willing to do a lot of things in this world, particularly for money, but not too many are willing to go out of their way to give blood, especially out of fear of needles. After having a needle inserted in

me many times, I would have to equate the insertion of a needle to an ant bite. The only difference here is that you don't have to scratch it constantly.

2. Possession of a tattoo or piercing. You can still donate. The only exception is there is a waiting period after a newly inserted tattoo or piercing; but after waiting period, they are more than willing to take a donation of blood from you.

3. No time. That's understandable. A lot of us don't have a lot of time to spare, but that doesn't mean we can't make the time for it. I'm sure a lot of us can spare 15 minutes away from facebook and such to go and donate. The Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center usually stays on campus for two days twice a semester, and if they don't suit you there, they have plenty of facilities outside the university, equipped with recliners and a personal TV for you while you're donating. They also try to accommodate you with your schedule.

One must keep in mind that the donated blood is used for a wide range of ways, all of which are extremely important. The website giveblood.org lists trauma victims, surgery patients, premature babies, individuals with anemia and cancer patients who are in need of others to donate blood. Do whatever it takes to give blood, for it is always in need and in short supply. Conquer your fears and find ways to make time. With that, I pose this question: What would you do for a life?

Dance Marathon To Benefit Texas Children's Hospital

By Tynisha Scott
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Can you do the Cupid Shuffle, Electric Slide or Boot Scootin Boogie? Are you a Guitar Hero or a DDR Master? If you answered yes to either question, the UHD Dance Marathon needs YOU! The Community Involvement Center will host UHD's first annual Dance Marathon benefitting Texas Children's Hospital on Friday, April 3 from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. in the Special Events Center.

Founded in 1991, the Children's Miracle Network Dance Marathons have sprung up across the United States and are currently being hosted at over 100 universities. Every penny raised for and during the Dance Marathon has been donated to a local children's hospital of the host campus. This year UHD will become a part of this fun and charitable tradition to raise funds for Texas Children's Hospital.

Located in the Texas Medical Center just south of downtown, Texas Children's Hospital is an internationally recognized full-care pediatric hospital that is a part of Children's Miracle Network. The Children's Miracle Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to saving and improving the lives of children by raising funds for 170 children's hospitals across North America. Each year the Children's Miracle Network helps 17 million kids, making it one of the world's leading children's charities.

As one of the beneficiary hospitals of Children's Miracle Network, Texas Children's has garnered widespread recognition for its expertise and breakthrough developments in the treatment of cancer, diabetes, asthma, HIV, premature babies, cardiogenic and attention-related disorders. Additionally, Texas Children's is one of the largest pediatric hospitals in the United States dedicated to providing the finest possible pediatric patient care, education and research. One of UHD's own students and Orientation Leader, Kayla Cooper, has been a beneficiary of the excellent treatment and outreach provided by Texas Children's and shares her experience below.

"I have been going to Texas Children's Hospital for almost 22 years of my 23 years of living. I originally was sent there when I stopped walking at 15 months of age and was diagnosed with cancer. Throughout and ever since my treatment process, I have been a part of Texas Children's wonderful Cancer Center. While most people find hospitals scary and horrible, Texas Children's is like another home to me and makes me feel safe. Given that I have had numerous surgeries, several ER visits, hundreds of tests, and thousands of visits, all in a number of different areas, including Hematology, Cardiology, Audiology, Urology, and Neurology, I have essentially

grown up in Texas Children's Hospital." With all that Texas

Children's has given Kayla, she will be amongst the many who plan to come out and dance for the kids who are unable to do so themselves. Yet, if you're not a dancing queen or king, there's no need to fret over not being able to help out with this great cause.

There will be a host of other activities for teams and individual participants to engage in such as Guitar Hero, Dance Dance Revolution and many carnival style games all for a good cause. In addition, there will be performances by Houston area musicians, bands and dance crews of varying genres. Each Dance Marathon participant will receive a number of free incentives during the event including a smoothie from Jamba Juice, a hot dog from James Coney Island and a goodie bag filled with various items from other event sponsors. Additionally, there will be many door prizes including items donated by the Houston Dynamo. With so much fun in store why wouldn't you want to gather your boogie shoes, air guitars and charitable hearts for such a worthy cause?

If you're unable to make it to the actual event on April 3 and would still like to make a donation, you may do so either online or by donating \$1 or as you purchase items from the Food Court in the Academic Building starting in March. For each dollar you contribute at the Food Court, you can add your name to the display of balloons that will be featured in the cafeteria.

For more information, visit the UHD Dance Marathon at <http://www.kidsmiracles.org/uhdmm> and remember, it's all for the kids!



Octuplets

Continued from page 3

This story should be used as a lesson for law makers; they are the ones who actually allowed Ms. Suleman to go through In-Vitro fertilization continuously. The social and medical systems are flawed and laws should be instated to not only make it more difficult for people, such as the mother of the octuplets, to be allowed to continue with any procedure. Thorough methods of examining living conditions to psychological evaluations could prevent another octuplets drama. However, the eight newborns are not guilty of being born under such circumstances and scandal. Whether you think the actions taken by Ms. Suleman are insane or think it was a blessing, one can only hope that these children will grow under the care and supervision of a loving family.



A combination picture shows (clockwise from top L) Josiah, Makai, Jeremiah, Nariyah, Jonah, Noah, Maliyah and Isaiah - the octuplets born January 26, 2009 in Bellflower, California in this undated handout photo released by NBC News.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

SXSW Hosts Networking Event

Houstonians Prepare For Conference in Austin

By Wilbert Chinchilla
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



On Tuesday, Feb. 16, the South by Southwest Interactive Festival (SXSW) created a networking event at the House of Blues showcasing Houston's technology and web 2.0 communities. As the precursor to March 13 and the start of the interactive festival in Austin, this event allowed the college student and the CEO from Houston to touch base. Throughout the rustic Egyptian ambience of the House of Blues Foundation Room, a sea of square-rimmed glasses and faux-hawk styled hair diminished the idea that Houston business is an "old-man's game".

There was no need for stationery since the event was created for the up and coming technology community. The invitations were all sent electronically via social networking sites like Myspace, Facebook and Twitter, a South by Southwest 2007 Web Award winner. Twitter is also becoming increasingly popular for professional uses because of the instantaneous updates on events, news and possible job positions available. Social networking sites are major factors in business today proven by the majority of business cards containing social networking web addresses.

After checking in with two drink tickets every student, yuppie and CEO traded them in to hold a beverage in one hand and business cards in the other. The night had become more like an event at SXSW and less like Houston when two local live bands performed. Even two DJ's were on-site to transition the music from rock to pop, from



Dancer Cardinal Cyn came from Austin, Texas to entertain guests at the South By Southwest Interactive networking event inside the House of Blues. (Photo taken by Contributing Writer, Frank Raia)

pop to rap and eventually return to rock. Guests were even treated to a burlesque show by Cardinal Cyn, a dancer hailing from Austin who interestingly enough ended the acceptance of drink tickets for the networking event.

This is not the last event before the start of SXSW to take place in Houston. Festival goers that will travel from Houston to Austin can

be treated to a Pre-SXSW Party at Caroline Collective on March 12. If you are currently planning to attend SXSW or want to learn more about the arts in the Houston community, then I recommend you to attend this annual event. According to Caroline Collective, the mission "is for Houstonians attending SXSW to have the opportunity to share ideas, goals and contacts before

going to what is arguably one of the better networking and promotional conferences each year".

As the networking event came to a close, guests established their contacts as future references for the conference in Austin. A conference which is expected to have more music, burlesque and interactive experiences. ■

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Halt

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decision has been made. That being said we would like to have more time to properly consider what the new name should be."

Although the board of regents has only approved a delay, the future actions of all stakeholders remain unknown, but due to the short timeline of the 81st Texas Legislature working in Austin, there is in fact still a window of opportunity that UHD can change its name. After the uproar from the student body around campus during the month of January, the UHD website contained these words in the portal to the name change website, in UHD blue, "UHD is changing its Name".

Film Review: Confessions of a Shopaholic

By Carissa Larson
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Rebecca Bloomwood loves Prada; Rebecca Bloomwood loves Chanel; Rebecca Bloomwood loves Gucci; Rebecca Bloomwood is in debt. In fact, her shopping-addiction is so out of control that even with a steady income, it is not enough to support her obsession. So when she loses her job, and ironically, ends up a journalist for a financial magazine, she slowly becomes aware of her financial problem. After getting caught “google-ing” how to write an article at work, she resorts to what she knows. She writes her financial columns with references to shoes and the right coat; a debt collector chases her around the city; and she has a bottle of tequila ready at hand when forced to face her endless stack of bills.

This charming movie will literally make you laugh out loud. Almost every scene is filled with humor and fun; especially the “fan dance,” a hilarious scene involving her wealthy, ever-so-handsome boss with salsa music and a paper hand fan. As you dive into the glamorous --and sometimes not so glamorous-- world of Rebecca Bloomwood, it is instantly intriguing.

On the contrary, “Confessions of a Shopaholic” does have its faults.



The stereotypical story of a young woman living in Manhattan with a passion for fashion and overused credit cards has already been done before. Yet, director P.J. Hogan manages to update the plot; and with a perfect cast and witty banter, shed a whole different light on the film. “Confessions of a Shopaholic” is not just a comedy, it is also a cautionary tale. Financial problems and debt are tragedies many families experience, especially today. This film represents hope. If Rebecca Bloomwood can learn a lesson, pay

off her debt and lift that weight off her designer draped shoulders, it is possible for all of us to do the same.

“Confessions of a Shopaholic,” based on the “Shopaholic” series by Sophie Kinsella, is impossible to resist. Isla Fisher, who plays Rebecca Bloomwood, is adorable, quirky and loveable. Aside from a stunning performance by Isla Fisher, the film is also backed by a very strong cast, consisting of Joan Cusack, Hugh Dancy, Kristin Scott Thomas, John Lithgow, Leslie Bibb and John Goodman.

Complete with sample sale’s shopper-on-shopper wrestling, talking store mannequins and a closet explosion, a little too similar to that of Mt. Vesuvius, “Confessions of a Shopaholic” is utterly ravishing. Just as Rebecca feels compelled to buy that green scarf, which simply “makes the outfit,” I feel just as compelled to see this film again.

COMICS



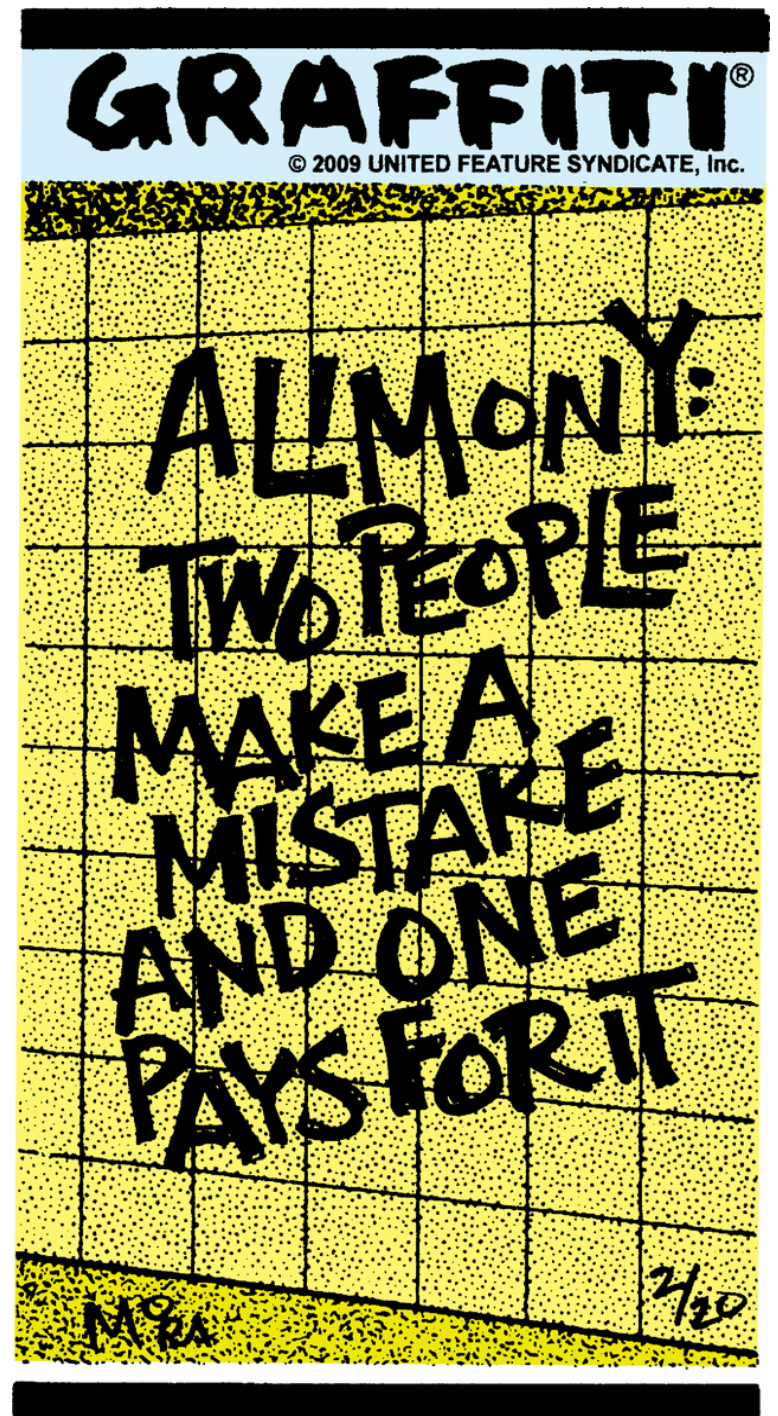
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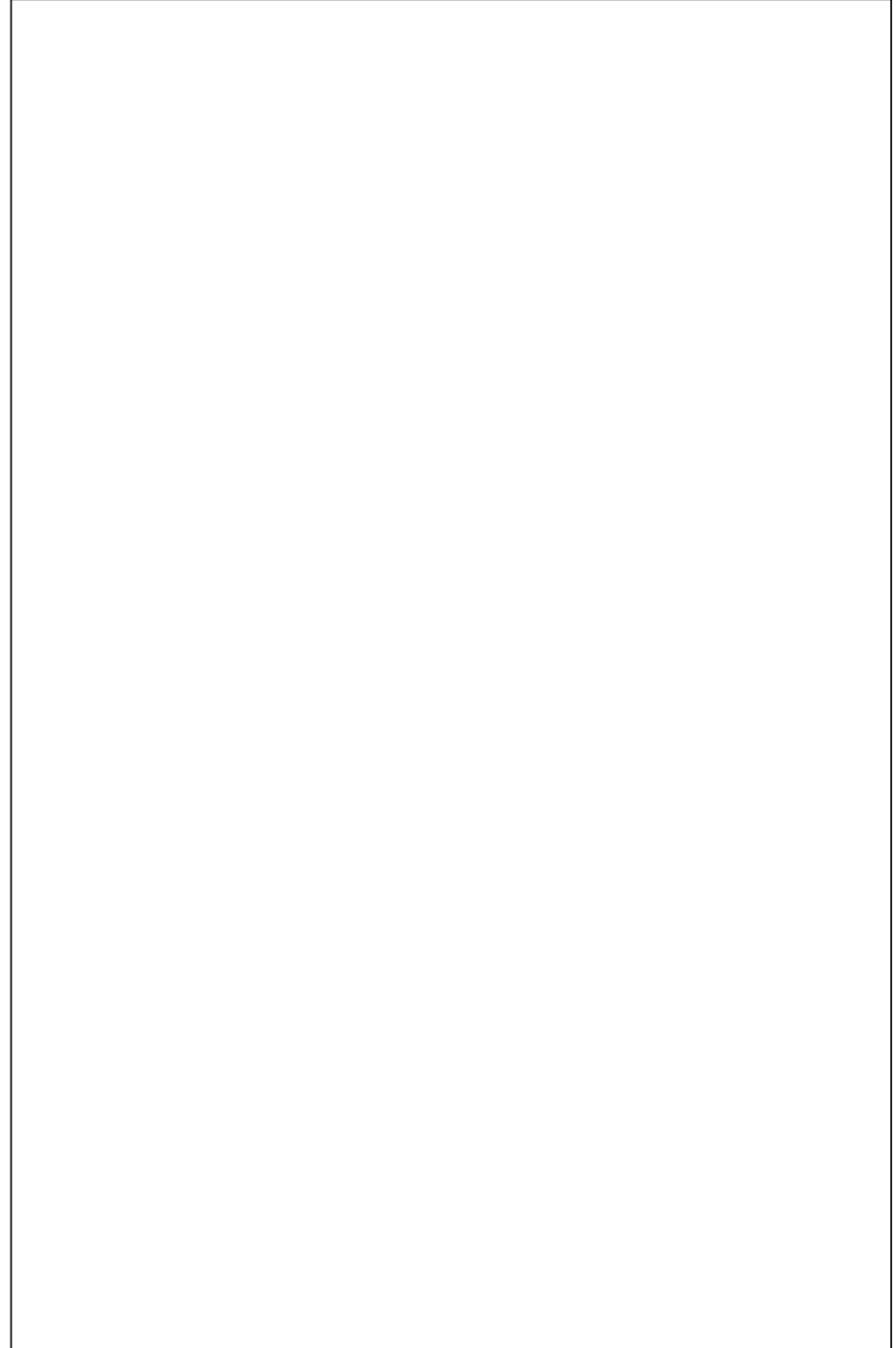
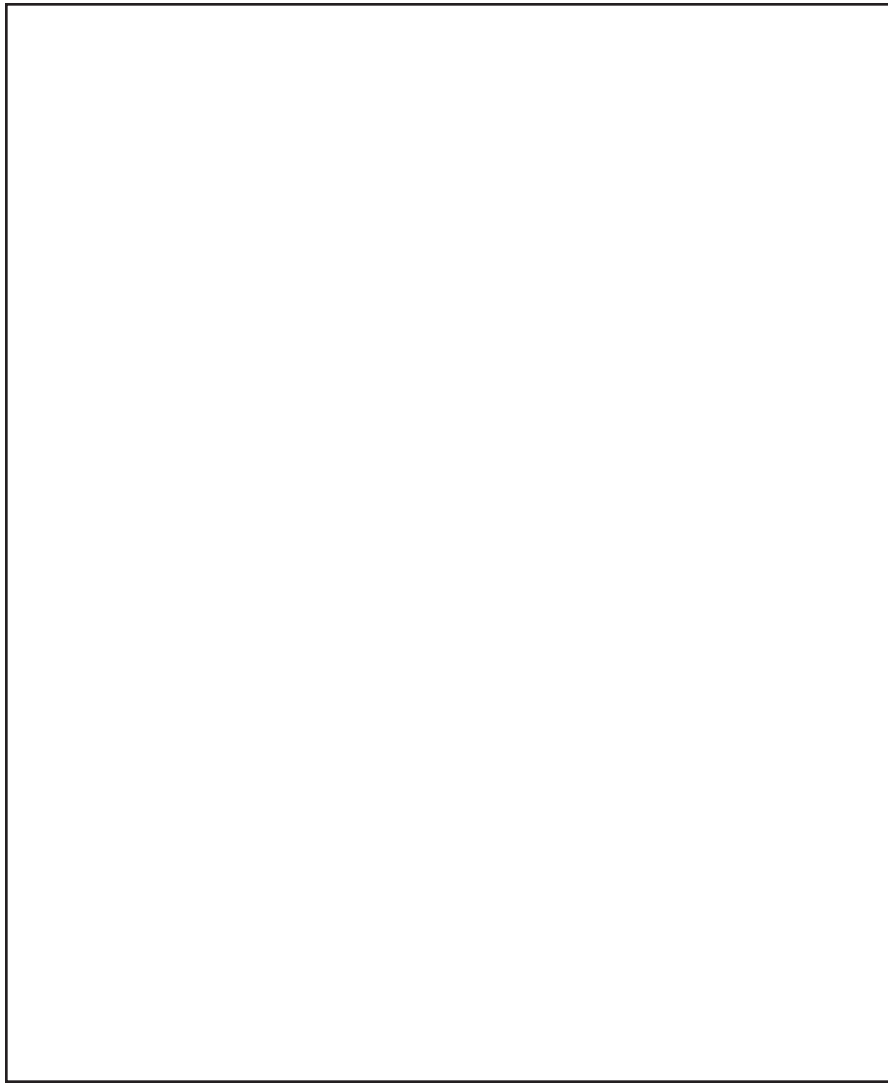
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Yet as a person who has tirelessly and enthusiastically worked with acclimating new students to UHD and advocated for our institution to prospective students, I can honestly say that the reasons given by the administration for the name change are not false conjectures or failed last minute attempts to placate our institutional body. They are real. They are continuously present. They happen every day and are further broadened when we as a student body are not actively promoting UHD outside of our campus walls. I have been to many conferences where I along with many others have had to constantly reiterate that we are NOT UH. This frustration is not metered at all when some who walk in these very halls betray the greatness of UHD in numerous ways. How many students go around claiming they go to UH when they actually attend UHD? How many prospective students come here mistakenly thinking we are UH and are intensely disappointed when they find out they're incorrect? How many bus loads of visitors have shown up to our campus ready to unload for a football game for a team that does not even exist on our campus? How many students have brazenly told me that they are only at UHD until they can accrue enough credits so that they may attend the "real UH?"

If you think the answer to those questions is a fairly low number, you would be surprised to know that you would be

very very wrong. Over the three years that I have been involved on this campus in the Information Center, with Student Activities, in Orientation, and with various student organizations, I have jadedly endured many of the concerns that resulted in the proposal for the name change in the first place and as a soon to be alum I am fatigued by the fact that they still persist. Yet I continually remind myself that there are many within the halls of UHD that are quite proud to learn, work, and teach here day after day and I along with many of you are amongst them. So with that I ask you all, really, what's in a name? If you can carry on this same boastful pride throughout your remaining years here no matter what our name becomes, then isn't that all that matters in the end? If you don't have pride in your university, how can you expect others to hold it in high regard or respect it or yourself? It's disingenuous to protest against something you may have never believed in yourself. And if any of you happen to believe that I am a complete idiot for writing all this and that the name change is nothing more than pure fallacy, then by all means, prove me wrong and show the UH Board of Regents, President Castillo, Chancellor Khatur, and this current administration that all of us, students, faculty, and staff can collaboratively come together and exhibit the greatness of UHD for all of Houston and the world to see.





Men Of Courage

Presidents' Day Editorial

By Gina Parker Ford
CEO OF DENTAL CREATIONS, LTD.



Winston Churchill once said, "Courage is rightly considered the foremost of the virtues because upon it, all others depend."

Courage is the key character trait of a great leader. Every February, we celebrate great leaders in American history by celebrating Washington's Birthday, commonly known as Presidents' Day.

Even though George Washington had almost no formal education, all of the college educated Founding Fathers acknowledged him as their leader. Also, he was not particularly eloquent so that people would follow him.

While serving as Commander of the Continental Army, Washington and his men spent a winter at

Valley Forge enduring cold and hunger, fighting disease, and watching their friends die at the rate of 12 per day.

Most men would have quit and said it is impossible to defeat the British. Not George Washington! In the famous words of actor John Wayne, "he saddled up anyway."

History tells us that Washington lost more battles than he won. Despite a seemingly hopeless seven-year war, his faith in God and his fortitude led the ragged Continental Army to victory against the mightiest military in the world.

What Washington did have was extraordinary integrity, sound judgment based incorruptible scriptural principles, and an unwavering belief in the power

and majesty of the supreme Creator that he followed.

Daniel Webster said of Washington, "America has furnished to the world the character of George Washington, and if our American institutions had done nothing else, that alone would have entitled them to the respect of mankind."

During another crucial time in American history, Republican President Abraham Lincoln demonstrated the courage of his convictions in leading the battle to end slavery in America. He acted upon the precept that "all men are created equal."

Author James McPherson in *Tried by War* wrote about President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation noting that

Courage

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Lincoln told those in his inner circle, "I never in my life felt more certain that I was doing the right thing than I do in signing this paper. If my name ever goes down in history it will be for this act, and my whole soul is in it."

Another great President that had the courage to do the right thing was President Ronald Reagan. Reagan stood strong against the evil empire of Communism. Peter Robinson in his book *How President Reagan Changed My Life* tells the story of how Washington bureaucrats did not want the famous line about tearing down the Berlin wall in the speech to be given that day. Robinson notes that while traveling to give the speech the president was asked whether he would leave the line in, Reagan smiled and said, "The boys at State are going to kill me, but it is the right thing to do."

True to his word on June 12, 1987, President Reagan, speaking at the Berlin Wall with the Brandenburg Gate behind him responded to Mikal Gorbachev's false promises of peace. He said, "General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization, come here to this gate. Mr. Gorbachev, open up this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!"

Because of Reagan's courage, the world heard "freedom ring" in the Soviet Union. Margaret Thatcher said, "He won the Cold War without firing a shot."

Evangelist Billy Graham said, "Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened." Let us follow the example of these great men and be a people of moral courage!

Be Fit In 2009

By Huma Ahmed
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Whether you're enjoying traditional American turkey, Chinese fried rice or some late night junk food while you're watching your favorite TV show, the accumulation of pounds will start bloating your body before you even realize it. You will then wonder why the scale needle increases every time you step on it. Instead of being paranoid and helpless, get up and exercise. Another semester at UHD has begun and most students are back to their busy routine. Working and studying can be very time consuming, and one does not always have time to exercise or eat right. Instead of wasting time eating out, sitting in front of the television or just being lazy, take advantage of UHD's

Student Life Center. It offers a variety of programs such as aerobics, kickboxing, yoga, and martial arts. Personal trainers are available to help you become motivated, fit and healthy. Even if you don't have time to join these programs, take advantage of your free time and take a jog on the treadmill.

There are many students at UHD who are weight conscious. These students go to the Student Life Center and spend at least an hour working out during their break time. The fit and healthy students usually take servings from the salad bar at the cafeteria during lunch time. It is important to know that UHD cares about a student's health by offering

see **ARTICLE** on page 12

Cheetah Population At Risk

EarthTalk™
FROM THE EDITORS OF E/THE ENVIRONMENTAL MAGAZINE

Due to its plight in recent decades, the cheetah, which can reach speeds of 70 miles per hour, is considered one of the world's most endangered species by the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

A hundred years ago some 100,000 wild cheetahs inhabited 44 or more countries throughout Africa and Asia. According to the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF), a Namibia-based non-profit organization, today the species exists in only two dozen of those countries—including areas of North Africa, the Sahel, East Africa and southern Africa—with worldwide population numbers now between 12,000 and 15,000 individuals living in small groups. In addition, about 150-200 of the fast cats live in the wild in Iran (where they are known as the Asiatic Cheetah), their forebears having been

brought in from Africa in the early 20th century.

The chief threats to the cheetah's existence are loss of habitat, poaching and hunting (their hide and trophies can command top dollar), and getting shot by livestock farmers. Decline of gazelles, wildebeests, impalas and other preferred prey species (also due to hunting and habitat loss) is a factor, too.

According to CCF, throughout Africa cheetah numbers are dwindling even within protected wildlife reserves due to increased competition from other larger predators like lions and hyenas. As a result, most protected areas are unable to maintain viable cheetah populations, so individual cats tend to fan out beyond wildlife reserves, placing them in greater danger of conflict with humans. Those cheetahs that do survive in the wild come from a smaller,

less diverse gene pool, leaving them susceptible to disease and predation in their own right. Furthermore, captive breeding has proven tricky, and wildlife biologists are not optimistic that such efforts can have a measurable positive impact on the cheetah's future.

Cheetahs have lean bodies, long legs, a large heart and expansive lungs. And with these features come additional speed; perhaps this is why the cheetah is often referred to as the "greyhound" of the cats. In fact, some say a cheetah looks like a "dog with a cat's head." But with weaker jaws and smaller teeth than other large predators, cheetahs have difficulty protecting their kills, let alone their own cubs. This has meant that population numbers for wild cheetahs are falling faster than for other big cats.

The cheetah's future may look dim, but conservationists see **Cheetah** on page 12



"A cheetah mother and her cub on the Masai Mara National Reserve in Kenya." (Picture: courtesy of "Getty Images")

Does A Cold And Snowy Winter Mean That Global Warming Is Bunk?

EarthTalk™
FROM THE EDITORS OF E/THE ENVIRONMENTAL MAGAZINE

On the surface it certainly can appear that way. But just because some of us are suffering through a particularly cold and snowy winter doesn't refute the fact that the globe is warming as we continue to pump carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the 10 warmest years on record have occurred since 1997. And the National Atmospheric and Oceanographic Administration (NOAA) reports that recent decades have been the warmest since at least around 1000 AD, and that the warming we've seen since the late 19th century is unprecedented over the last 1,000 years.

"You can't tell much about the climate or where it's headed by focusing on a particularly frigid day, or season, or year, even," writes Eoin O'Carroll of the Christian Science Monitor. "It's all in the long-term trends," concurs Dr. Gavin Schmidt, a climatologist at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies.

Most scientists agree that we need to differentiate between weather and climate. The NOAA defines climate as the average of weather over at least a 30-year period. So periodic aberrations—like the harsh winter storms ravaging the Southeast and other parts of the country this winter—do not call the science of human-induced global warming into question.

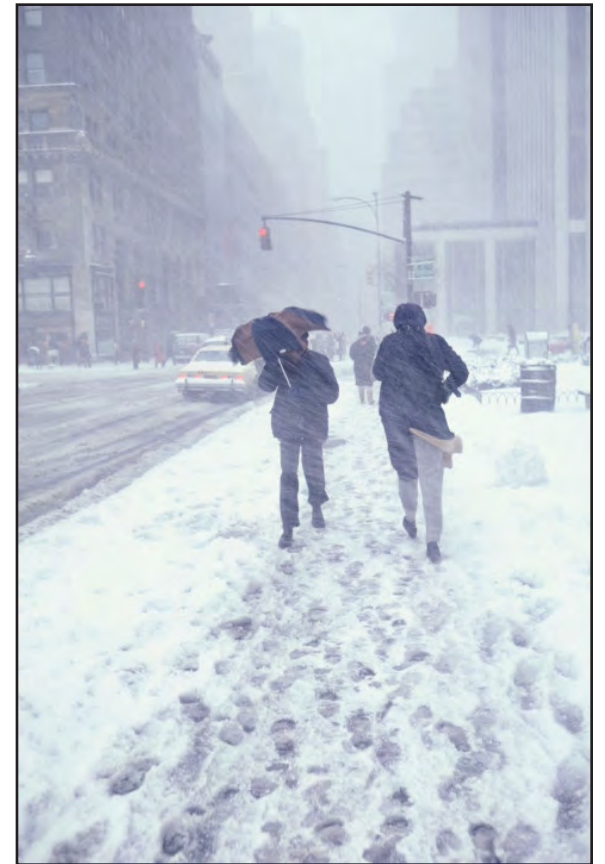
The flip side of the question, of course, is whether

global warming is at least partly to blame for especially harsh winter weather. As we pointed out in a recent EarthTalk column, warmer temperatures in the winter of 2006 caused Lake Erie to not freeze for the first time in its history. This actually led to increased snowfalls because more evaporating water from the lake was available for precipitation.

But while more extreme weather events of all kinds—from snowstorms to hurricanes to droughts—are likely side effects of a climate in transition, most scientists maintain that any year-to-year variation in weather cannot be linked directly to either a warming or cooling climate.

Even most global warming skeptics agree that a specific cold snap or freak storm doesn't have any bearing on whether or not the climate problem is real. One such skeptic, Jimmy Hogan of the Rational Environmentalist website writes, "If we are throwing out anecdotal evidence that refutes global warming we must at the same time throw out anecdotal evidence that supports it." He cites environmental groups holding up Hurricane Katrina as proof of global warming as one example of the latter.

If nothing else, we should all keep in mind that every time we turn up the thermostat this winter to combat the cold, we are contributing to global warming by consuming more fossil fuel power. Until we can shift our economy over to greener energy sources, global warming will be a problem, regardless of how warm or cold it is outside.



"More extreme weather events - from snowstorms to hurricanes to droughts - are likely side effects of a climate in transition, but most scientists maintain that any year-to-year variation in weather cannot be linked directly to either a warming or cooling climate." (Picture courtesy of "Getty Images")

Looking For A Job? Dateline Is Hiring

Editor for UHD student newspaper needed for 2009-10. The Student Publications Advisory Committee is seeking applicants for the position of editor for Dateline: Downtown, the student-run bi-weekly newspaper at UHD. Flexible beginning date, but candidates must commit for the entire 2009-10 academic year. Duties include working cooperatively with student business manager and student adviser, developing and managing a stable of student freelance writers to cover news and events on campus, and assertively managing staff and producing newspaper approximately every two weeks. Must know page-making software program Adobe InDesign. The paper needs stories on events of interest to students, including student life, academics, university administration, and student government, as well as cultural coverage of theatre, film, music, and the arts. Typical commitment is 20 hours/week. Qualifications include at least sophomore standing; at least one semester at UHD; successful completion of basic writing and/or communications courses; and the maintenance of at least a 3.0 GPA. Applications are sought immediately and will be accepted until April 30 or until the position is filled. To apply, contact Dr. Anthony Chiaviello, at Chiaviello@uhd.edu, then download and complete electronic application from UHD web site, and forward it as an attachment to an email.

Business manager for UHD student newspaper needed for 2009-10. The Student Publications Advisory Committee is seeking applicants for the position of business manager for Dateline: Downtown, the student-run bi-weekly newspaper at UHD. Successful candidate will begin on-the-job, paid training ASAP. Candidates must commit for the entire 2009-10 academic year. Duties include managing business and financial matters for the paper, in cooperation with the student editor and adviser, and selling advertising space in the paper, including businesses in the campus neighborhood of NoDo. Will train on PeopleSoft accounting system for payroll and accounts. Typical commitment is 20 hours/week, monthly salary plus 15% commission on ad sales. Qualifications include at least sophomore standing; at least one semester at UHD; successful completion of basic business courses; and the maintenance of at least a 2.5 GPA. Applications are sought immediately and will be accepted until April 30 or until the position is filled. To apply, contact Dr. Anthony Chiaviello, at Chiaviello@uhd.edu, then download and complete application from UHD web site, and forward as an email attachment.

Cheetah

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have been working to lessen the decline in some areas. For instance, CCF began educating livestock farmers around Namibia in the early 1990s about how to prevent cheetahs from preying on their livestock without resorting to the rifle. As a result of these education efforts, along with stronger enforcement of endangered species and anti-poaching laws, cheetah populations in that country stabilized—now some 2,500-3,000 cheetahs make their home in Namibia—after having fallen to half that the previous decade. Clearly more such efforts are needed.

Be Fit

Continued from page 10

a variety of exercise programs. This is vital for students in a busy environment where snacks like chips, candy and soft drinks are grabbed on the way to class. One should workout to burn those extra calories before they start adding up.

The UHD Student Assistance Program (SAP) is also available to inform you about health issues in our society. If you need advice about weight, life stress or education, SAP is there to help either in person or online. Issues like eating disorders, high blood pressure, obesity and weight control can be discussed. The office is located in room S-447 where the hours vary daily.

So make 2009 fit and healthy by joining a fitness program. Not only will you lose weight, but most importantly you will be healthy, feel less stress and even receive positive feedback through assistance programs on your personal health related issues.

University of Houston-Downtown Fitness Programs

Spring 2009

Don't leave exercise out of your education!



Aerobics, Cardio-Kickboxing & Strengthening

January 26 – April 30, 2009

Free of charge

Mon & Wed	8:15am-9am	Step w/weights
Mon & Wed	1pm-2pm	Step w/weights
Mon/Tues/Thur	4:15-5:15pm	Latin Aerobics
Mon & Wed	5:15pm-5:45pm	<i>New!</i> Mini-Kick
Mon & Wed	5:45pm-6:45pm	Kick w/weights
Tues & Thurs	9am-9:30am	<i>New!</i> Stretch & Breathe
Tues & Thurs	11:45am-12:15pm	Butts & Guts
Tues & Thurs	12:45pm-1:45pm	Cardio-kickboxing
Tues & Thurs	5:15pm-5:45pm	<i>New!</i> Butts & Guts
Tues & Thurs	5:45-6:45pm	Cardio/toning

Specialty Classes

Registration begins 1/20/09

Classes are \$10 for 8 classes

Aikido	2/11 – 4/08/09	Wednesdays	2:30-3:45pm
Hip Hop	<i>New!</i> 2/10 – 4/07/09	Tuesdays	2:30-3:45pm
	2/13 – 4/10/09	Fridays	4:15-5:30pm
Martial Arts	<i>New!</i> 2/09 – 4/06/09	Mondays	6:45-8:00pm
Latin Dance	2/11 – 4/08/09	Wednesdays	7:00-8:15pm
	2/13 – 4/10/09	Fridays	5:30-6:45pm
Pi-Yo	<i>New!</i> 2/10 – 4/07/09	Tuesdays	7:00-8:15pm
Pilates	2/12 – 4/09/09	Thursdays	2:30-3:45pm
Tai Chi	2/13 – 4/10/09	Fridays	11:00-12:15pm
Yoga	2/09 – 4/06/09	Mondays	11:30-12:45pm
	2/12 – 4/09/09	Thursdays	7:00-8:15pm

Additional workshops, exercise certifications and motivational programs are offered throughout the semester. For a complete listing of these programs, review a Fitness Programs catalog found on any floor of the Student Life Center.



To register or inquire about any of the programs listed above, please stop by the Student Life Center or call 713-221-8225.
 Website: www.uhd.edu/sports&fitness email: Sports&Fitness@uhd.edu last updated 01/20/09