

President's Survey

President's convocation presents a survey and new plans for 2010
FRONT PAGE

Crowded Much?

Parking troubles arise during the beginning of the fall 2009 semester
CAMPUS NEWS

Music Video in Houston

Local band is attempting to make their video debut on MTV 2
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Dateline: Downtown

T U O N T R U N N C V O U M O N

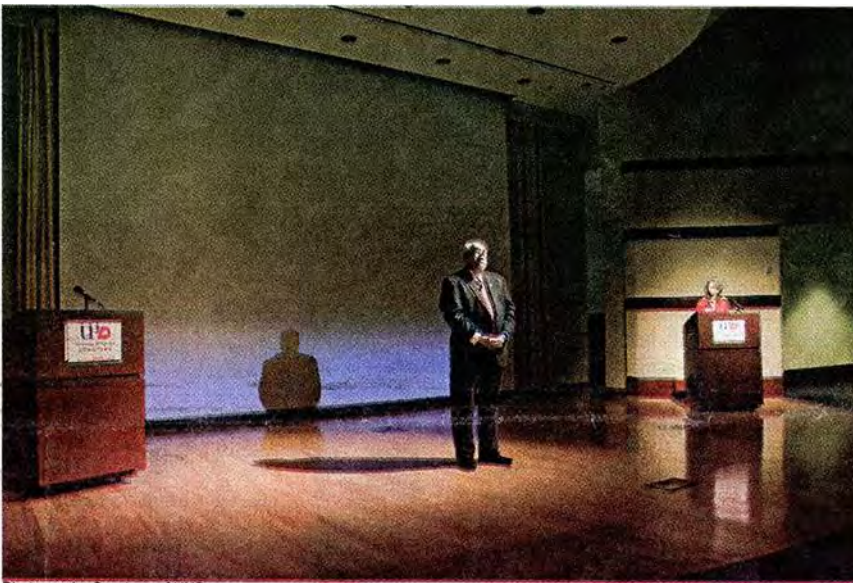
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Convocation Presents New Survey



Photography Courtesy of UHD

Wilbert Chinchilla
MANAGING EDITOR

The Wilhelmina Cullen Robertson Auditorium contained staff, faculty and (peppered) students this past Thursday to partake of the convoking of Dr. William Flores; the new UHD president. The crowded convocation evoked the same items posed in the discussion by Dr. Michelle Moosally, Faculty Senate President, and Dr. Flores; resources to avoid disruption, guests seated themselves along the stairs as they listened about different topics: enrollment, parking, retention, hires and retirement. An official announcement

was made by Dr. Moosally for Provost Molly Woods who will be stepping down from her position at the end of fall 2009. Dr. Moosally will also be completing her term as Faculty Senate President at the end of this fiscal year.

Changes approaching as stated by Dr. Moosally in the coming years include the approved Governor House Bill 2504, which among other things, requires all Texas higher education institutions to place their course information (syllabi) online by 2010. Dr. Moosally also posed the Faculty Senate items that would be addressed this year such as child care needs and

see FLORES on page 5

"I Want an Atmosphere Where We can Change Things" Flores Meets with Council of Organizations

Charles H. Carter Jr.
STAFF WRITER

Newly elected university president Dr. William Flores heard suggestions from numerous students in ways that UHD could be improved. Dr. Flores heard all suggestions made without exception and encouraged the student to continue to make suggestions whenever they see him. He stated that suggestions should be emailed to him. The Council of Organizations is chaired

by Nataura Brown, who is also the Vice President of S.G.A. (Student Government Association) and is composed of representatives from all student organizations. Topics discussed at the council of organizations were varied: the end of the UPass, School Spirit, Parking, Student Services, Student Retention and School Prestige.

Dr. Flores reminded the students that UHD is not a rich organization, but "We want to spend it [the money] in the right places." He

also reminded the students that most improvements will become available after they've graduated. "Eleven years may seem like a long time; eleven years from now today's second graders will be entering college." Dr. Flores made it clear that he intended to build the prestige of UHD. School spirit was discussed by several students. Dr. Flores commented that UHD did not have one place or time for all students to gather.

see S.G.A. on page 5



Photography by Charles H. Carter Jr. Dr. Flores is seen above taking to students at the Council of Organization meeting where every student is representing a student organization.

STUDENT LIFE

Letter to the Editor Should Higher One be in Control of our Funds?



Image via Google Images

"The OneAccounts an FDIC insured student checking account offered to all students by Higher One. Students can take advantage of free checking with the OneAccount, with no minimum balance requirements and no monthly fees. Every student enrolled at University of Houston-Downtown is pre-qualified to open their own OneAccount." (<http://www.learnaboutone.com/learn.php?id=SS>)

My name is Erik Harris and I am first year part-time student at UHD. I am preparing to file an official complaint with the Better Business Bureau regarding Higher One. I recently moved to the Houston area and was laid off and then decided to enroll at UHD. I was expecting a refund from Financial Aid and was told that my only option in receiving the card was through my Gator Card. So I then ordered my Gator Card through the student activities office and decided to use my rent money to purchase books and pay for classes. Since I was

told that I had a refund waiting and it would be immediately available on my card once I received it, I felt it was no big deal to use my rent money.

I ordered the card on August 25 through the SAE and my card was ordered by Higher One to the card manufacturer on August 28. I checked daily to make sure everything was fine with my card through the www.uhdgatorcard.com website.

It said there was an expected delivery date of September 4. I called Higher One on two different occasions to make sure that date was accurate and each representative told me it

should not come any later than September 4. So I checked my mail daily and today on September 4, I received my mail and there was no card.

I have contacted Higher One three times, I contacted the SAE, Financial Aid, Cashier, Business Affairs, and Student Enrollment and no one can help me. My rent was due on September and my landlord has already handed me my eviction notice. Luckily they gave me until today at 6pm to pay my rent and they will waive my late fees and not count it against me. But I still

see LETTER on page 3

Online Sound-Bites



Fans: 80 (Currently)

Come join the discussion on our fan page to answer questions that could be featured in The Dateline Downtown.

Reuben Rodriguez wrote

on August 27, 2009 at 11:28

My complaint about UHD; the parking, well at least for this semester.

I've been a student here for several years and have never had a problem. Even during peak times, there was always sufficient space in the back of the Daly lot. Volunteering for the shuttle or walking the 7 minute or so journey from the back of the Daly lot to the main building was never a big deal to me.

Kevin Lill wrote

on September 1, 2009 at 10:27pm

#2
Arron her "O" print; proies; ors th v; e loser pointers.



Followers • 77 (Currently)

Come join the discussion on twitter and possibly be featured in The Dateline Downtown. Follow @TheDateline or search [uhd](http://www.search.twitter.com) at www.search.twitter.com

lerryF41: Not really sure wrry uhd has cheerleaders. Not complaining JUST a li bit contused .

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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.

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Know Your Options: Successfully Navigating Through Your Core Requirements, Part 1

Rebecka Black
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As a new semester has begun for all of us, some of you may be finding yourselves in classes you already dread. In the chaos of registrations and orientations, you chose a course out of an uncertain sense of obligation. Perhaps Chemistry was the only option you knew of for your science requirement and now, not only do you loathe every class, but you're also totally baffled and out of your element. Thankfully, there is another option. The common core requirements that we all must endure force each of us to succeed in a variety of science, fine arts, and history courses alongside all

of those mandatory English composition and math courses.

Although there is no escape from the Texas legislatures' demands on our education, there are some vaguely publicized options that may make these required courses more bearable and quite possibly, even interesting to you. Knowing that not many of us thumb through the UHD course catalog in our leisure time, hopefully this article will give you a better idea of what options you have for next semester. So, let's start off with our chemistry course example. Your advisor more than likely listed your core science options as biology, chemistry, geology, and physics courses. What you may have not known is that there are options within these categories.

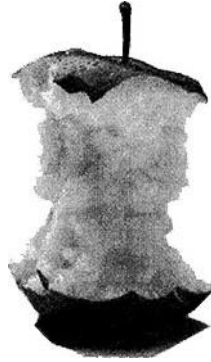


Image via Google Images

For instance, although taking a physics course may sound terrifying, UHD offers two astronomy courses that both count as physics credits. PHYS 1301, which is Intro to Solar System Astronomy, is 'a course for non-science majors which surveys the history of astronomy, its technologies and physical principles, the

solar system and its origins." Really, this means you get to study constellations, planets, and very few laws of physics. The astronomy path in physics offers two sequential courses, 1301 and 1302 (Intro to Stellar and Galactic Astronomy) so that your six hours of natural science requirement can be fulfilled without worry. Since these courses can be used for the core requirements, they are introductory courses, meaning that you don't have to be a rocket science to succeed in astronomy.

For those of us not ready for space travel, but still needing just one more natural science course, there is also a meteorology course option that counts as a geology credit. In GEOL 1304, Introduction to Meteorology.

non-science majors focus "on the study of the atmosphere - its composition, structure and properties." This type of information is certainly useful in a city like Houston - a city very familiar with extreme and unusual weather conditions. Of course, there are those among us who will no doubt go on to be the next Nobel Prize winning chemist, and I don't mean to pick on chemistry, but for those of us who are scientifically challenged, we need options. Fortunately, UHD's College of Science and Technology recognize that not all of us can be an Einstein or a Darwin and they gladly offer the rest of us more palatable options. Hopefully, with these options illuminated, next semester won't be so rough for you.

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LETTER

Continued from page 2

have not received my card nor am I able to receive my refund by any other means. I have researched the Higher One company at the BBB and they already have a Crating. They have received 190 complaints in the last 36 months.

They have received 4 complaints for delivery issues, 29 regarding refund issues, and 38 regarding service issues. I researched some of the contracts that Higher One has with other schools and for most of them Higher One is the sole distributor of student funds. That raises not only a delivery issue for me but a service issue as well. I absolutely despise Higher One and I am very disappointed in UHD's choice in making this the only option. I have received debit cards and credit cards much quicker than this. I really hope that this is

the only matter that a UHD student has to experience with the GatorCards in the future and I hope that this situation never happens to anyone else.

There has to be a backup system implemented for students whose cards may get lost in the mail or experience this same situation. Currently, the only option that is available if a card is lost in the mail is to order another card and wait an addition 7-10 business days to receive.

ERIK HARRIS
UHD FRESHMAN

Have you fwd any complications with Higher One? If so, email a letter to the editor at Datelim@gnor.uhd.edu. Please review our policy on the previous page.

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- Be a team player and aid as a support mechanism for your fellow team members
- Participate in training sessions during the spring semester (attendance is mandatory)
- Must sign and abide by the rules stated in the o-team service agreement

Have Questions?

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http://www.uhd.edu/admissions/orientation/oteam_join.html

campUS ngW

Do you have tips? Contact us at editor@campusnews.org for any news events or stories we should cover.

Like Sardines in a Can Enrollment Increases during the beginning of Fall 09



Photography By Lisa McKay
Students during the beginning of the semester were told to move along as they attempted to park at the Main St. parking lot

Rodney Johnson
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It's about 8 o'clock and you've just arrived at school for an 8:30 class. You figure with half an hour to spare you can grab a bite to eat, look at a few ads in the hall, and get seated, on time for lecture. It all sounds pretty reasonable until you factor in the first event parking. Each term, the university is faced with many of the same problems; long lines at the registrar's office, really long lines at the testing center and advising office. On top of all those yearly "norms", before you step foot in the school you must deal with the hassle of parking. Many students, faculty, and visitors

complain that there aren't enough parks to accommodate the hundreds of people that enter the universities doors each day.

With people entering and exiting the campus as the day evolves, generally, more permits than parks are sold to provide sufficient access throughout the day. However parking problems arise in the morning, as classes begin, when there are more cars to park than available spaces, then begin to decline in the mid to late afternoon. The university takes parking seriously and constantly develops many solutions to decrease parking problems. Under the Chief of Police Vanessa Turner,

the university's parking manager, answers many questions concerning parking. "Unfortunately there is always congestion on campus and in parking lots during the first two weeks of the semester as students and parents are on campus finalizing registration, class schedules, financial aid other university business. However, traffic on and around campus has been unusually high this year due to increased enrollment."

The permits themselves do exactly as their titled; they "penn" holders to **park in certain areas, but do not guarantee a spot.** Even so, the university assures holders that, "if the parking program is well managed see **PARK** on page 4



UHD Fall Fest Health Fair'

Start the journey to a healthier YOU!



Wednesday, September 9th
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Faculty & Staff
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. UHD Community
Special Events Room (A-300)

FREE basic health screenings, blood pressure and glucose checks, vision screenings, nutrition counseling, fitness tests and various informational booths. There will also be giveaways and fun fitness demonstrations.



**Fall Blood Drive
September 8th & 9th
9:00a.m.- 3:00p.m.
UHD Coffeeshop**

Hosted By:
Community Involvement Center, Sports & Fitness,
and Student Health Services



Photography by Charles H. Carter Jr.
Joining a fraternity or sorority can be advantageous to students because of networking and leadership opportunities.

Fraternities and Sororities "Frats" at UHD are currently recruiting new members. Each group has its own requirements and duties. For instance, some of the fraternities require 30 community service hours per year. Some only require

a membership fee. Students seeking membership in a fraternity or sorority should contact a representative of the desired fraternity or contact the Student Activities & Events Office (S-204).

FLORES

Continued from page 1

creating a faculty handbook. After Dr. Moosally's time, Dr. Flores began his speech with an opening statement and a powerpoint presentation in his background, "For nearly four decades, this university has been a beacon of opportunity for Houston and for its students. May the beacon shine bright and light up this great city."

As the glowing slides transitioned, the "UHD Today/Tomorrow?" popped up on the screen and laughs began to accumulate as Dr. Flores states, "It's a good opportunity I told (my employers,) 'Gee, come to an institution, you put me to be president; now you tell me they are going to change the name.'" Dr. Flores continues to elaborate on the name change and its mantra that could help define ourselves by completing the discussion with, "We're making a name for ourselves!" With superlatives given to students and faculty (apparently making a their own name), Dr. Flores' closing statement was to bring a new survey to the attention of everyone.

Currently, "UHD President Bill Flores asks for your ideas and insight as UHD moves ahead. Please complete his web survey at www.uhd.edu/presidentsoffice/." The survey currently presents four questions (aside from optionally divulging your identity):

- What does UHD do exceptionally well? What makes UHD distinct from other institutions serving Houston or South Texas?
- What could UHD do better? What would you recommend we improve?
- What opportunities exist for UHD that we are not currently tapping (resources, partnerships,

Addressed needs, groups we're not reaching, etc.)? If you were president for a day what one thing would you do to make UHD a better place?

When queried about enrollment for the beginning of this semester and the lack of resources i.e., parking, computers, etc., Dr. Flores believes that it will all go away after the first two weeks. "Do you think we are going to see [that rush] next week? We are already losing students. If you look at enrollment by the third semester, we lose two-thirds of those students. We got to do a better job of keeping our students. But when we do that job, we have to plan for it."

PARK

Continued from page 4

always be some spots available. Even at peak periods although, at times, those spots may be at the most remote, least desirable lot." The university works day and night to "settle" traffic within the university. Partnering with METRO has allowed a transit stop literally at the school's front door. Mrs.

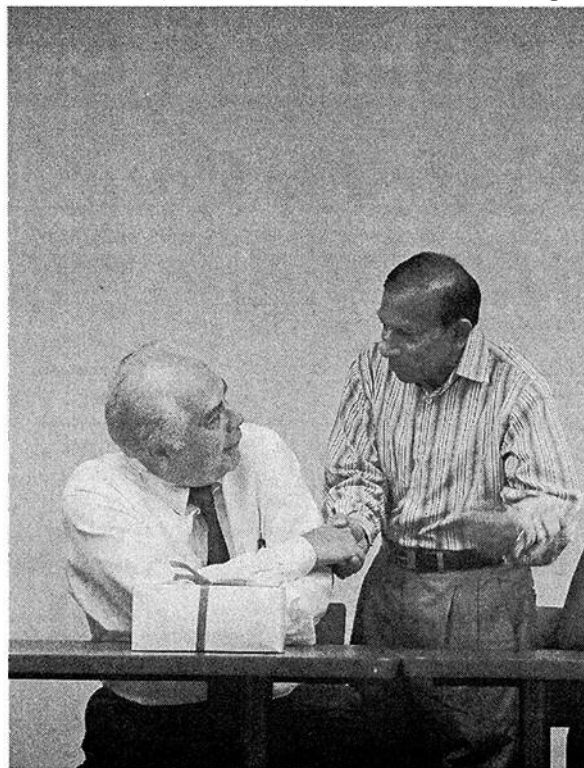
see **PARK** on page 7

S.G.A.

Continued from page 1

He explained some of the benefits that "School Spirit" gives the school; he stated his desire to build an alumni base to help support the aims of UHD. "Five dollars a month is not much. But what if every UBD graduate would contribute five dollars every month? We could do something with that." Dr. Flores commented that the ending of the U Pass program (an unlimited bus/train pass sold for a minimal fee) was decided by the authorities at METRO, not the UHD administration. Parking was discussed by several students.

The lack of close-in parking was a primary concern. Another student suggested that an elevator needed to be installed into the Shea Street Garage. Dr. Flores agreed that parking could be better, and the Shea street garage needed an elevator. Dr. Flores embraced the idea of a mentoring program for the entire school, juniors and seniors assisting incoming freshmen with adapting to the new school environment after a student noted that once such a program existed. Expanding the Honors Academy to other major



Photography by Charles H. Carter Jr. The new university president Or. William Flores is shaking hands with Or. Arisul Isam, Professor of Economics.

programs was also discussed. Dr. Flores explained that the current honors program is funded by a grant that limits the scope of the organization.

One student mentioned the lack of outdoor athletic facilities. The UHD baseball team - and other intramural athletics - is competing

with other (non-UHD) organizations for the use of the field. Dr. Flores that the purchase of land near downtown would be very expensive; he is examining if another facility may be shared. Suggestions should be emailed to the President's office at President@uhd.edu.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Dateline Downtown accepts unsolicited music, film, and video game reviews from students. Have an event to promote or cover? Contact us at Dateline@gator.uhd.edu.

Tontons Keep Local Scene Warm With Video Shoot

Lindsay Young
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Lights flashing, cameras rolling and the jazzy blues styles of The Tontons was the spark of interest for a dedicated Houston fan base at the House of Blues on August 31. Original in the Houston music scene, The Tomons offer something different to the table. With echoing guitars, steady drumming, and lead singer Asli Omar's voice reflecting that of Billie Holiday, this band brings something new to Houston's music scene. Houston locals, The Tomons have played themselves through the venues and talked with their fans, truly learning about all that Houston's scene has to offer. From playing little venues like The Last Concert Cafe and Numbers, they have reached

bigger venues over the years like Warehouse Live and playing in venues during the South by Southwest Music Festival in Austin back in March.

Following these, recently, The Tontons have played Houston's Summer Fest and are now working on getting out their first video. Supported by The Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau, The Tontons have now made their first video for a song called Leon off of their EP Sea and Stars. Directed by the experienced Ross Wells in Zen Films, this video plans to reflect Houston's wild and exciting night life. With flashes of the city life and a mix of the band's live show, Wells hopes to convey that Houston is ready to take on anyone in this music scene. Shooting at the House of Blues, The Tontons

were able to successfully record their first video as well as put on an entertaining show for the fans for free at a nice venue.

However, this music video was not just an opportunity for The Tontons, but also for those who have a desire for two-second fame. According to Wells, the video will be finished by September 10 and on the popular site YouTube not to long after. Not to mention, the eventual goal is to get the video on MTV. Popular with their music fan base and the venues around Houston, The Tontons are looking for an even brighter future. Currently signed to the label Esthetic Noise, maybe this can become a possibility.

The only thing left pondering in the minds of the people is whether they will make it or not.



Photography by Lindsay Young (left to right) Asli Omar, Justin Martinez, Drums; Adam Marhez, Guitar; (not in photo) Tom Nguyen, Bass. <http://www.myspace.com/thetontons>



Behind the camera are about 50-plus dedicated fans who arrived at the House of Blues at 6 p.m. in order to be part of the shoot. Director Ross Wells (pictured left) is attempting to capture the Houston live at the set in the House of Blues.

New B.S.W. Degree Available at UHD

UHD Release

The University of Houston - Downtown is offering courses toward a new degree in social work to help fill the growing need for social workers in the Houston area. Organizers of the program have a plan to produce practitioners with the cultural understanding and skills required to work with diverse populations. According to the C.S. Department of Labor, demand for social workers is projected to increase by 20 percent by 2010. Jo Daugherty, Bachelor of Social Work

associate professor of sociology and social work, and Dawn McCarty, assistant professor of social work, are collaborating with the Council on Social Work Education to assure the profession's standard of excellence in higher education is reflected in UHD's program. The CSWE recently granted candidacy to UHD's social work degree program, one milestone towards the UH D's Bachelor of Social Work degree's full accreditation by 2013

UHD's B.S.W. degree will serve as a major step in the community, said Susan

Ahern, dean of UHD's College of Humanities and Social Sciences. "The B.S.W. program will develop graduates who are culturally sensitive as they begin their social work careers. Our College also has a long tradition of sending graduates to the University of Houston's Master of Social Work program and other master's degree programs. With the national accreditation we are seeking for our program, UH D students who go into an M.S.W. degree may save close to a year of coursework. We are excited to offer accreditation to our social work education. too.

Identifying population," which mirrors the diversity of the Houston metropolitan area." The first group of students admitted to the B.S.W. program started this fall. The program has an admissions process, and students can apply throughout the year.

Interested students can enroll in the social work classes pending formal acceptance into the program. Bailey says a number of social work courses are open with non-major students. UH D student Damaris Cortez enrolled in Introduction to Social Welfare Policy and Human Behavior

in Social Environments as soon as she learned about the program. She was among the first to apply. "I was so excited when I learned UHD offered the degree program," she says.

"UHD is representative of people like me, who work and go to school. The professors (Bailey and McCarty) are passionate about social work, and their passion shows in their teaching." The early application deadline for acceptance into the program is October 15 for the Spring Semester 2010 and February 15 for Fall Semester 2010. Early

As Simple as the Number Three



Image Courtesy of Focus Features
 The Machine who caused the apocalyptic reality in the movie is chasing 9 (Elijah Wood; left) and 7 (Jennifer Connelly; right). The first feature film from director Shane Acker who has worked on *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*. He is originally working as an architect before his short (of the same feature film title) received much praise and recognition.

Wilbert Chinchilla
 MANAGING EDITOR

The film *9* was first an Academy Award winning short of the same title by director Shane Acker. The short took the "non-verbal Wall-E" route while the new seventy-nine-minute feature consists of an entire ensemble. Although the voice acting adds to the experience of the film, the action, mystery, and originality of *9* evokes what a post-apocalyptic world might look like for robotic ragdolls. The vision and execution is memorable, but the western style of story telling deviates this new feature from the original charm of the short. The characters are quite easy to remember since each is named a number between 1 and 9.

In each of these characters, there is a distinction in traits and attitude. 1 (Christopher Plummer) is the leader of the clan who advises the others not to engage the enemy. Ultimately 2 (Ianin Ladau), 3 & 4 (who don't speak), 5 (John C. Reilly), 6 (Crispin Glover), 7 (Jennifer Connelly), 8 (Fred Tatascioro), 9

(Elijah Wood) attempt to stop "The Machine" who caused this apocalyptic reality and "creates new machines in its image". Throughout the movie, the unraveling of truth, deception, and lies from the lives of robots made of fabric and machinery are small enough to fit in your hand. *9* is

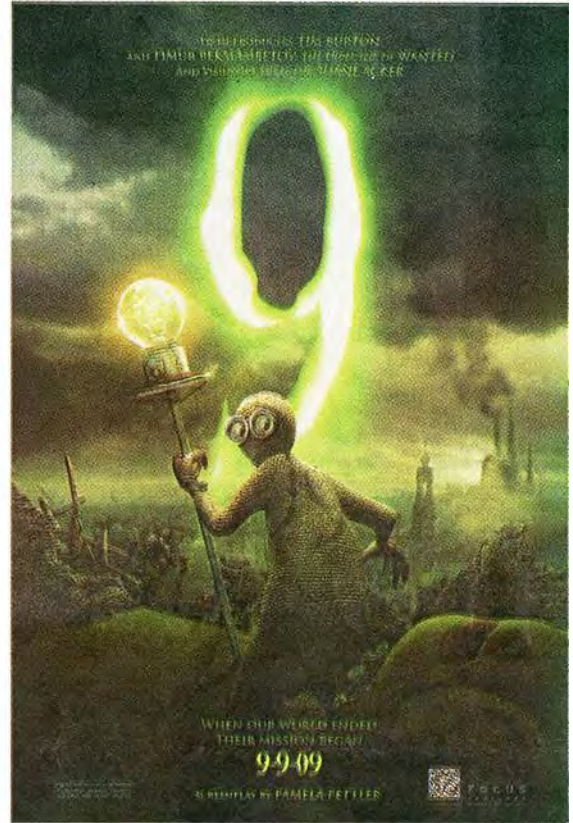
technology in the present as much as our ancestors worshiped the sun in the past, we are dependent on it without knowing if it would ever turn on humans and we are all as significant as little robotic rag dolls fighting against domination. *9* is a grown-up CGI film with



Image Courtesy of Focus Features
 The film was made thanks to the production money generated by Tim Burton who is currently filming a live action version of *Alice in Wonderland* slated for 2010.

more of a mystery movie with large elements of action and solving this mystery is what **keeps the viewer so engaged.** Acker and writer Pamela Pettier attempt to answer **questions with real sociological imagery.** The current events **which place now could bring,** this apocalypse. We worship

many messages to convey) with commanding visual attention. Sadly, most things are solved from the storyline and not left to the imagination, proving that western storytelling has always been as simplistic as the number three: beginning, middle, end.



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PARK

Continued from page 5

Turner states, "Students are certainly encouraged to explore the public transportation options. METRO currently offers a 50% discount to full-time students through their Q-Card program."

With gas so high, it may not be a bad thing to look into

other means of transportation especially when "going green" is the new chic. For more information on this and other transportation needs, stop by the parking office at 351 North in the Main building.

Outsourcing a Job You Don't Have

Aldo Cruz
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Taking into account how hard many of us are working to earn our degree, and then land a great job, it is imperative for us to be aware of all the trends taking place within the job market: what jobs are in high demand, what jobs have a long-term stability, what are the highest-paying jobs, etc. But now, we also need to take into account what jobs are less vulnerable to offshore outsourcing. Offshore outsourcing – as defined by the Texas International Law Journal – is "a business practice that involves shifting the production of goods and services abroad in order to increase efficiency of labor, energy, and other resources of a firm." Have you ever noticed

how many products we use contain a label indicating they were made in China? Those products are produced by offshore outsourcing.

Offshore outsourcing began as a business strategy implemented by major manufacturing companies that sought to decrease production costs in order to increase their profits in the long-term. Now, however, we are also experiencing this transition in many jobs that fall under the white-collar category, particularly the information technology sector (data processing, computer programming, and technical support). The main reason jobs in this particular industry are being sent abroad is because of the great amount of money companies can save. For example, according to the



Image via Google Images

consulting firm Cap Gemini Ernst & Young, the average computer programmer in India costs about \$20 per hour in

wages and benefits, while a computer programmer in the U.S with a similar technical background, costs \$65 per

hour. Although companies in the private sector are the ones that tend to engage in this practice, the U.S government has actually begun to send contracts abroad.

This (particularly) is what has triggered widespread criticism and legislative responses. Aside from having the same negative effects as the offshore outsourcing done by the private industry, by having government contracts sent abroad, (critics believe) this will jeopardize our national security. This is mainly due to the nature of the data the government shares with its foreign contractors. This data can include anything ranging from top-secret projects from the Air Force, to information regarding the infrastructure of a utility company, which in see **JOB** on page 11

How Enrollment Affected Students

An increase of about 40-percent affected UHD students

Judith Wattle
STAFF WRITER

UHD has a lot of new arrivals for the fall semester of 2009. The obvious change can be seen when a student drives into any parking lot or walking into the building to get to their classes. Fall 2009 has a shockingly large increase of students by 40% compared to previous years and semesters. UHD is the third largest four-year state university in the region with an enrollment of over 12,000 students and from more than 70 countries. UHD has been trying to boost brand awareness and reinforce the university's identity.

Other incentives that may have contributed to this influx in enrollment at UHD includes competitive tuition fees, offering more degree programs, expanding the number of online courses, and the existing joint admission program has enticed many students. All these incentives could be the reason there are so many students at UHD this fall. How will this affect the students at UHD now? Although UHD's incentives attracted



Image via Google Images

The Houston Chronicle has reported that increased enrollment has also affected local community colleges like HCC and Lone Star College, which is now a distance learning center for the four-year university, UHD.

more students this semester, more students mean fewer resources. There will be fewer computers

available, less parking spaces, fewer textbooks, less access to the library, and most importantly limited financial aid.

However, with drop dates approaching many students that have commented saying "these people will not be here long, let's just wait until after the drop dates." How many students are really going to stay? Like every semester, there are more students in the beginning and after the drop dates they disappear along with the financial aid. With more students does that mean more students will drop? Most of these students have financial aid and if they drop they would be receiving 50% to 70% of their money back. That financial aid could have gone a long way for another student who really wants to go college. If the student population continues to increase, UHD could have a new problem on their hands.

Students Voice Concerns On Healthcare Reform



Photography by Guillermo Lopez Velis
The University of Maryland are requiring all incoming freshman this semester to have coverage. Schools like the University of Iowa are requiring mandatory flu shots. Currently, UH does not have any policies requiring students to be covered or obtain the H1N1 vaccine. UH does provide health insurance that costs \$420.00 for the Fall or Spring semester only and \$210.00 for Summer only (for non-insured students only).

"As many as 1.7 million college students lack health insurance coverage," which was reported by the Government Accountability Office (GAO). Bates himself will be uninsured come November because he will be off of his parent's plan "which is kind of scary".

In the same GAO report, "certain groups of students, including those who attend part-time, are older, are members of racial or ethnic minority groups, or whose families are low-income, are more likely to not have coverage." For healthcare reform and rally supporter Amy Carabes, a freshman in the Lone Star College system, this is a profile of her current situation. "Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Medicaid and Medicare can only cover so many age groups and [college students] are pretty much left behind. My parents never took me to the doctor to get checkups; [now], I am overweight and doctors are saying I am at risk for heart

disease and diabetes. I finally realized I need good healthcare and now my healthcare is up because I am eighteen."

These students reflect the college population that is typically covered by their parent's medical insurance, but Carabes' situation is one that arises for many Hispanic college students. According to a new Hispanic research report, "More than one-fourth of Hispanic adults in the U.S. lack a usual health care provider, and a similar proportion report obtaining no health care information from medical personnel in the past year." Now that she is eighteen, she is part of this demographic. With college students supporting healthcare reform, there are some that are against it.

Lary McCarrher, a student at the University of St. Thomas and rally supporter against (this particular) healthcare reform bill states that she is against healthcare because it would support funding for abortion. "Abortion is genocide and I feel the need to stand against it whenever I can." says McCarrher who wore red

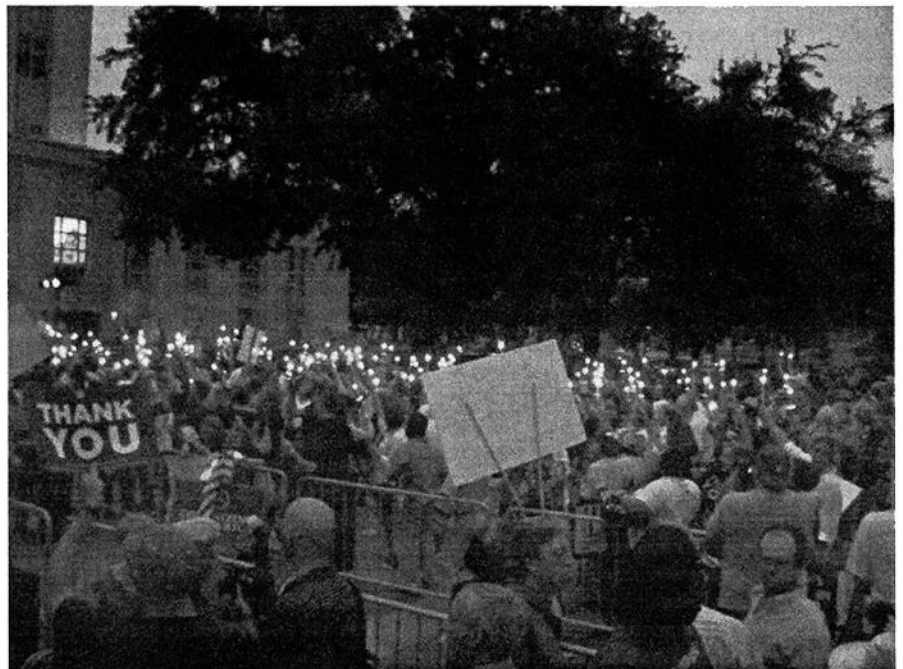
see CARE on page 10

Wilbert Chinchilla
MANAGING EDITOR

The divide on healthcare reform isn't lessening focus on the national stage where college students are active on both sides and no resolution has been reached. On September 3rd, a healthcare reform rally was taking place at the reflecting pool next to Houston's city hall and among the supporters, for and against healthcare reform, college students were making their presence known by screaming and chanting the same jargon as their adult counterparts. The divide was blatantly affirmed by the organizations present: Texas Right to Life, The National Right to Life, Service Employees International Union, ACORN, and Democratic and

Republican Representatives. Instantaneously reaching the rally, arguments were arising with supporters who (pessimistically) end their debates by saying, "good discussion". Where does this discussion leave Houston which has the highest uninsured rate of any U.S. city...college students who are not covered and need (some form of) healthcare?

"for a lot of people that go to college nowadays, healthcare is very expensive for them to afford. Schools provide healthcare and add it to your tuition, but it's too expensive. Some students have had to leave school because they had to pay for something they got hospitalized for [sic]," says Bradley Bates, a student at the UH-Main and supporter at the rally for healthcare reform.



Photography by Guillermo Lopez Velis
Supporters for healthcare reform at the rally lit candles that gave representation of the truth. Supporters against the healthcare reform bill proposed by Barack Obama have faced much criticism for misinforming the public.

CARE

Continued from page 9

in support of the Texas Right to Life. *Note*, the healthcare reform bill is not currently finalized and some items are still in discussion. Colleges across the country like the University of Maryland are implementing a mandatory requirement of being covered. Due to the recent swine flu outbreaks and its current threat as a pandemic, colleges like The University of Maryland are requiring all incoming freshman this semester to have coverage.

Healthcare reform will affect college students directly or indirectly. With this war-like backlash, students and their families will need some form of coverage whether they like it or not. As the rally supporters chanted "we don't want Obamacare" or "Jesus healed the sick", a supporter for health reform was taken away by an ambulance as he suddenly began grabbing his chest and hyperventilating. The dusk began to set and the crowd was dwindling, this man by the reflecting pool seemed to be debating whether to be carried by the stretcher and taken to the hospital. All stakeholders i.e., patient and paramedics were seen enacting what could be the result of this bill being passed or not passed; the stretcher or the road.

auditions for "Ain't Misbehavin" and Student One-Act Plays

9/8/2009 1:30 PM
9/8/2009 3:30 PM

Location: O'Kane Theater (One Main Building, North side, Room N-364).

Open to faculty, staff, and students.

Contact Information:

Name: Thomas Lyttle, Professor of Arts & Humanities

Phone: 713-221-8118

Email: LyttleT@uhd.edu

RAW

O'Kane Gallery University of Houston-Downtown RAW brings together Doug Cason, Mark Greenwalt and Lisa Qualls, three Houston artists who combine classical drawing and painting techniques with contemporary concepts and materials. The



artists draw on their knowledge of world history and traditional technique to combine humanistic values within current social and political issues.

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Contact uhd.hsf@gruail.com for more information on how to join. No fees our first meeting will be

'09 Mayoral Forum

Meet Houston's Candidates for Mayor

Time 6:30 P.M.
Location Cullen Robertson Auditorium
Third Floor, Academic Building

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

6:00-7:00 p.m. Reception with food and drinks

Registration: www.uhd.edu

Panelists: Annise Parker, Gene Lodze, & Roy McAdams
Moderated by K.H.O.J. TV Political Rep. Lee McAdams
Open to the public

www.uhd.edu

Panelists
Academic Representative: Social Science Department Chair Adolfo S. Wito
Student Representative: SGA President Leticia Sanchez
Media Representative: Habitat News Slogginer from HOOSON Press
Moderator: Constance

On-the-spot voter registration services provided by the League of Women Voters Education Fund



Greener Gators

An Eco-conscious Column



Photo by Greener Gators
The Greener Gators are seen taking a boat tour of the Buffalo Bayou. Because of the University President's Climate Commitment, this collective will seek out ways to make UHO a greener campus in the Houston metropolitan area.

In the last issue we told you what we were about. We mentioned some of the general goals that we have; here's a quick refresher:

Increasing the environmental awareness of UHD students, faculty, and staff

Translating the heightened awareness into measures implemented on campus

Transcending our influence to the metropolitan and greater Houston area

Ultimately becoming informed, active, passionate proponents of the "Green Movement"

Greener Gators is a collective group of individuals who wish to help in making our goals a reality. That means you (or at least that's what we're hoping for). We need students, faculty, staff and everyone in between to help us out. The UHO community, including our families, is a great mass of people- people who drive,

watch TV, and drink bottled water.

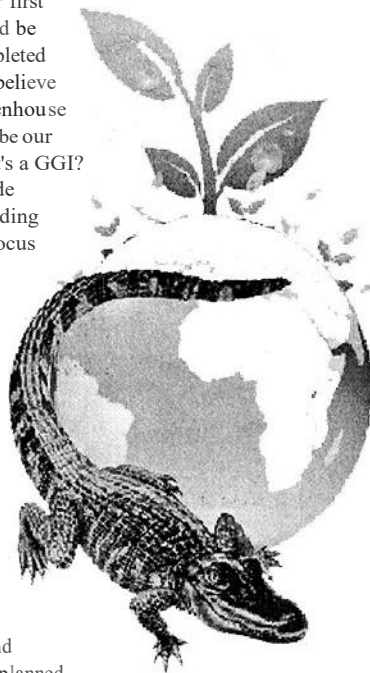
Without a doubt, every individual can lead a green (or greener) lifestyle. To be honest, our campus has many, many ill practices when it comes to looking out for our only home, Mother Earth. Fortunately, that means that we have many, many ways of making our campus "greener". Our first order of business should be a task that can be completed relatively quickly. We believe that conducting a Greenhouse Gas Inventory should be our first action item. What's a GGI?

A GGI could provide vital information regarding which areas we must focus most of our efforts on. As a signatory of the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, we need to know the breakdown of our energy consumption on campus as the first step in trying to curb it. We have a number of volunteering activities, field trips, and educational seminars planned

out for the semester. We need help in making all of these programs successful, and we also need for people to participate in these FREE programs. We kindly ask that you join us in this noble cause by contacting us at: GreenerGators@gmail.com
We want to hear from you, if you're interested or not. Tell us what you want to get done on campus, what ideas you have for becoming green, and if you just have a simple question about recycling. Even if it's not a question, just e-mail us to tell us that you read this.

With wishes for a hurricane-free season,
Greener Gators

Green Tip:
When driving at those super-sonic speeds on the highway (>45mph), use the ac to cool the cabin, and then just keep the fan running. Try it!



JOB

Continued from page 8

the wrong hands would allow terrorists to strategically target substations and black out an entire region. Seeing as how the practice of offshore outsourcing only leads to numerous consequences, it's imperative for us as potential employees (and current students), to acquire skills that will make U.S. companies dependent on us. By doing so, we will ensure that companies don't lay off thousands of workers, in exchange for cheap labor they can find across the Atlantic.

B.S.W.

Continued from page 6

applicants receive priority consideration.

Founded in 1952, the Council on Social Work Education is a nonprofit association representing individuals, and both undergraduate and graduate programs for professional social work education.

The association's Council for Higher Education Accreditation is the sole accrediting agency for U.S. social work education.

Career Expo Success Strategies: Make Your Resume Pop

9/2/2009 5:00 PM-6:00 PM

Location: UHD Career Service Office, 340-N (One Main Building, North Side, 3rd Floor).

Gain Experience Get Published Get Paid

Complaints / Requests / Ideas

dateline@gator.uhd.edu

Submissions do not guarantee publication.

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COMICS

Dr. WRoCk, UHD

by Rebecka Black

We find our hero speeding towards a paper in need!
What's the prescription? Rough Drafts Rx!

Panel 1: A student asks, "Dr. Wrock! Please HELP! My thesis is unclear and I don't know what to do!" A speech bubble says, "My team is on the way!"

Panel 2: A student looks at a graph and says, "Beep...Beep... Oh no! This paper is fading fast!"

Panel 3: Dr. Wrock says, "Try to hold on, Essay. Thesis statements can be so tricky." A student replies, "You bet they can! We're just glad you came in when you did. Your due date is coming up and you were a wreck!"

Panel 4: A student says, "Thanks Dr. Wrock! Without your team, I'd be a goner!" Dr. Wrock replies, "Don't thanK me. You came for hel in the Knick of time. If only all stru lin a ers would come in sooner..."

Stay tuned for another dramatic installment of **Dr. WRaCk, UHD!**
Next time our **hero...BRAINSTORMS!**

Visit Dr. WRoCk's colleagues in **N-925** for helpful writing strategies and tips!