

STUDENT LIFE

Letters to the Editor: **Tenure and You**

At first I thought "Tenured Professors: The Process and You" was a mere regurgitation of the same point written in the op-ed piece in the same issue: UHD students should be more informed about university issues that affect them. However by the third paragraph, a greater concern engulfs the overall tone. While I commend Dateline for encouraging students to be vocal about excellent and mediocre professors, there's an inherent risk in soliciting haphazard commentary in the midst of the tenure process. The author was mistaken to suggest that now is the time for students to lift their voices because the real time to do so is at the end of each semester when students are asked to complete course evaluations. Although many students are eager to use these evaluations to commend or criticize a professor and or chosen course materials, there are many students who blow this opportunity off and instead choose to post snide or asinine comments on RateMyProfessor. com. Likewise, some students wrongly assume

that professors don't read or incorporate comments, criticisms, or suggestions for future classes. With such misguided assumptions in mind, this article only serves to inflame the egos of students who begrudge a professor for reasons unrelated to their course. Thus to anonymously solicit opinions in the manner was purely irresponsible journalism to say the least. If you want to encourage students to make their voices heard, it's vital to encourage them to do so at the appropriate time, not at the last minute in a sensationalist fashion.

TYNISHA SCOTT ALUMNI & POST-BAC STUDENT TYNISHASCOTT@GMAIL. COM

Editors' Response: Tenured Professors

Wilbert Chinchilla and Christina Rodriguez

The Dateline staff and I, the managing editor, believe that journalistic integrity is maintained because two sides-- students who may want to praise or criticize - were presented. We absolutely wanted to inform all students about the process on the local level. There is a lot more that is involved with the process of obtaining tenure; the Dateline only shed light on a small portion of this process. You are right; there is an inherent risk in soliciting responses from students. But course evaluations seem irrelevant and ineffective, especially if students aren't aware that their comments can affect tenure. There is no real amount of data that could prove evaluations work. At the end of the day, we have to trust the judgments

of constituents in charge of evaluations.

Asinine or snide, every student has a right to their opinion; it's the law. Irresponsible journalism would include not providing a list of professors up for tenure. The facts were presented, the author did not encourage hate mail; instead, the author was presenting an opportunity for students to have a voice. That is the ultimate goal of this student-run newspaper. Soliciting opinions is not a way to show disrespect, but a method to support professors who do deserve tenure.

We do not want to regurgitate information, so if this article has informed the reader, then we have done our job. It is also our job to make sure that students who do respond do so in a coherent manner without using slanderous or libelous diction.

was a part of." This student decided not to write a letter because there wasn't enough grounds for a person to write a recommendation if they only took one class with the professor.

From Alumni to current students, The Dateline has received emails recommending Dr. Yuan:

Hello,

Yuan Shengli has been one of the best Computer Science professors I have had in UHD and I would love to see another great professor recieve tenure. Bukhari M.U.

Hi All,

I am a recent graduate of UHD. I am writing to recommend Dr. Shengli Yuan for tenure with the university. Dr. Yuan was my professor in a Computer Science Software Engineering course. Although the course team project required a lot of effort and his exams were challenging, I have benefited from the knowledge gained in that class. This year after graduation, I accepted a position J.P. Morgan Chase in a software release management position that allows me to apply information learn in Dr. Yuan's class. Please grant Dr. Yuan tenure with UHD. Sincerely, Kern R.

Professor Asks for Recommendations

Wilbert Chinchilla MANAGING EDITOR

An overwhelming amount of students have contacted the Dateline Downtown after the "Tenure and you" article

Fans - 94 (Currently)

was published on October 5, 2009. The majority of the students were emailing the Dateline to recommend one professor in particular: Dr. Shengli Yuan. As one of his former students - who wants to remain anonymous - told the Dateline, "He sent me a personal email. I didn't realize he remembered who I was because I took his class so long ago, but he remembered my grade and what clubs I

@UHD. And there's technical difficulties.

Online Sound-Bites



Followers - 84 (Currently)

Come join the discussion on our fan

featured in The Dateline Downtown.

page to answer questions that could be

Come join the discussion on twitter and possibly be featured in The Dateline Downtown. Follow @TheDateline or search uhd at www.search.twitter.com

4 days ago from UperTwitter

holtkampw #UHD advertised with Burst Media. I just saw an ad on

brownboyrocks Watching CNN's Latino In America pre-screening

MyPunchBowl. 8 days ago from web



sarahhirsch @solarfish30 UHD aka Harvard on the Bayou, aka Yale by the Jail.:) 7 days ago from TweetDeck



RozzyP At UHD trying to get volunteers to sign up about 5 hours ago from Twitterrific

Dateline Staff Report

DATELINE UHD, Oct. 14, 2009- Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Molly Woods responded almost immediately to the op-ed story in the last issue of Dateline that encouraged students to voice their

Contact Us

Managing Editor Wilbert Chinchilla dateline@gator.uhd.edu (713) 221-8569

Associate Editor Christina Rodriguez dateline@gator.uhd.edu (713) 221-8569

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

Staff Writers Judith Wattley

Contributing Writers Aldo Cruz Amanda White Sana Tobaccowala Jong Hyun Koh Jose Gutierrez

Other Contributors Rebecka Black

Faculty Advisor Anthony Chiaviello chiaviello@uhd.edu (713) 221-8520 opinions on faculty seeking tenure. In an email broadcast on the evening of October 6, VP Woods called on the UHD community to join in reassuring professors going up for tenure that, "we have a policy-driven process that will be followed."

The story- by a student who asked that his or her identity be with help- encouraged students to write to Dateline:Downtown to give input on faculty tenure decisions, promising that the paper would withhold student identity on request. Dateline advisor, Associate Professor of English Dr. Anthony Chiaviello, corrected that, saying in an interview with Dateline, "Students are always free to express themselves, and the Dateline editor can decide whether to print their names or not, but such published opinions have no bearing on the tenure process."

Woods also commended tenure candidates, noting that, "Our candidates have worked hard to develop the report that will be reviewed by colleagues at each of the designated levels. The recommendation from each of these levels will take into consideration the comments from students enrolled in the [tenure] candidate's classes, as indicated on the course survey provided toward the end of each course ... We will be following our policy."

Do you have tips? Contact us at Dateline@gator.uhd.edu for any tips, events, or story ideas to cover.

CNN Presents New Documentary at UHD



Photo by Aldo Gino Cruz. Panelists who participated in CNN's Latino in America Screening, who were mediated in the discussion by CNN's Senior Anchor Patricia Janiot.

Aldo Gino Cruz CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Latinos are officially the largest minority group in the United States. According to the U.S. Census, as of July 2008 there were about 46.9 million Latinos residing in the U.S. Furthermore, the U.S Latino population is expected to nearly triple by 2050-a projected population of 132.8 million by July 1, 2050. According to this estimate, Latinos will constitute about 30% of the nation's population, making it empirically impossible for this phenomenon to go unnoticed. For this and other reasons, CNN's Soledad O'Brien explored "how Latinos are reshaping our communities and culture and forcing a nation of immigrants to rediscover what it means to be an American". She compiled her findings in "Latino in America", one of CNN's most anticipated documentaries.

Although the film premieres on October 21 & 22, the University of Houston-Downtown had the honor to host an advance screening on October 8, which was then followed by a panel discussion. "It's a great honor for us to host this event," said UHD President Dr. William V. Flores. "CNN brings national recognition, so it's a great way to build a reputation for UHD in the city of Houston". The panel discussion was led by CNN in Espanol's senior anchor Patricia Janiot.

The individuals in the panel were: Dr. Laura Murillo, President & CEO, Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Richard Farias, President & CEO, Tejano Center for Community Concerns; Adrian Garcia, Harris County Sheriff; Emily Probst, Producer, CNN Presents; and Dr. William Flores, President, UHD. Harris County Sheriff Adrian Garcia believes that CNN is

being supportive of the Latino population by doing this, and that "what it will ultimately do is change the levels of awareness of the progress being made by Latinos, in our community." This is an issue that the documentary greatly emphasizes and tries to promote.

Although Latinos have come a long way thus far, prominent Latino individuals strongly believe that there is still more to do. "The next step is to empower ourselves more politically," State Representative Carol Alvarado said, "we are one of the only major cities that doesn't have a Latino represent us in Congress." "Latino in America" greatly emphasizes how Latinos are affecting America in numerous areas-religion, education, business, etc. Yet at the same time it describes the transition that Latinos are going through. Latinos trying to assimilate in America are forced to tradeoff the preservation of their beliefs in hard work and family values in order to become a part of American society. As Latinos, we now have the duty to find a middle ground.

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

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

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. Our Town Hosts Our Town

Christina Rodriguez ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Houston is known for many things, but one aspect of this city that is often overlooked is the Theatre District. The area is only minutes away from the University of Downtown-Houston and consists of Jones Hall, the Wortham Center, Theater Under the Stars, the Hobby Center, the Alley Theatre, and other organizations. The Pulitzer Prize-winning play Our Town is currently appearing from October 2 through November 1, 2009. This play was written by Thornton Wilder in the 1930s, and is considered a classic American masterpiece. It is described as 'enduring' in

every advertisement, for the simple reason that the play deals with time directly. This play takes place in three acts: Daily Life, Love and Marriage, and Death and Eternity.

By setting the play in a tiny fictional community called Grover's Corners, New Hampshire, Wilder allowed something as vague as time to be defined by members of the most trivial town. By doing this, he is making the play relate-able to anyone who sees it. The story follows two teenagers who fall in love in the first act and get married in the second. They are confronted with death and eternity in the last act. But this seems simple enough, right? Everyone who has read Romeo and Juliet can at least grip the feelings and intents in this play.

But the difference between this play and others is the manner with which the play is presented. To begin with, the stage is empty when the seats begin to fill. There is scenery, but it is only a brick wall with doors. Everything else that is necessary is rolled on and off stage on wheels. The Stage Manager, played by James Black, runs the production.

He introduces the actors and even corrects and interrupts them. He also narrates between and throughout scenes. In the story about life and how beautiful it is, Black is constantly calling

see TOWN on page 7



Photo by Jann Whaley James Black as Stage Manager from *Our Town* playing at the Alley Theatre.

A Halloween Zombie Nightmare

A Fictional Narrative by Apallonia Del La Rocca

The zombies are coming for us! That year it was different from all the other years before.

Not too long ago I was traveling around this great nation with ESE and Posse and we stumbled upon a large group of zombies terrorizing a small town outside of Fort Stockton, Texas. It seemed like a great idea to stop there because the food, gas and beer were cheap and we needed a break. But what we saw was truly horrific.

We walked in on a person tearing apart the gas station attendant savagely by another person. This "person" had grey dead skin and missing parts of his body. Terrified we didn't know what to do but thankfully when we travel we bring weapons for such strange situations. Thus a member of the group produced a handgun and shot the monster dead after wasting several shots. Knowing what zombies are and how they are killed due to reading several books and watching way to many movies we quickly gathered everything that could be taken and burned the building to the ground.

Communication with authorities couldn't be established because the zombies had nearly taken over the entire city. After supplying ourselves we drove into Downtown and saw nothing but a war zone. A small group of people were openly attacking the zombies using rifles. We quickly joined the war by gaining access to America's best weaponry- a few MP-5 urban sub machine gun, M-1, AR-15, AK-47 fully automatic rifles, .08 gauge Shotguns, Walter PPK, Sig-sauer .357, HK, HK P-7. The list went on and on.

It took several days but we managed to push the zombies to the outskirts of town. The showdown started at City Hall. At this point see **ZOMBIE** on page 7 <text>

editorial

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.

Author Responds to Events after Published Tenure Piece

From: Woods, Molly

A Dateliner

The response regarding the recent article on tenure has been overwhelming. This Dateliner will continue to bring you information about your education and how your tax dollars fund education. As always your comments are most welcome, and *The Dateline* looks forward to continue providing you with information to enlighten and demystify the educational system and how YOU the student and tax payer fund it.

As a point of interest with regard to the article, tenure is indubitably a very tedious, lengthy and encumbered process. It is a process the individual seeking tenure has to want to endure, and if he or she is not successful, because it is such a grueling process on the candidate, often a candidate decides to associate with a different institution, take a job outside of academics, or to completely reevaluate his or her goals and priorities with regard to teaching. This is a result of the often grueling process that the candidates must go through.

The Dateline is always pleased when its articles reach the reading spectacles of everyone. Vice President and Provost Molly Woods sent out a memo on ListServ regarding Dateline's article on tenure. It is flagged as being of high importance. It is exactly reproduced below:

Sent: Tuesday, October 06, 2009 3:42 PM To: DT Faculty Cc: Ahern, Susan; Bates, Donald; Pelz, Beth; Pincus, George: Flores, Bill; Woods, Molly Subject: UHD Faculty Seeking Tenure!! Importance: High University Colleagues: Please take a few minutes to read the article in the most recent edition of our student newspaper regarding the process for obtaining tenure. The article addresses the tenure process from the unidentified author's perspective and solicits comments from students regarding their support, or

for the faculty listed. Let us remember: The faculty listed are our colleagues asking to be considered for tenure. They need to be reassured that we have a policy-driven process that will be followed. Our candidates have worked hard to develop the report that will be reviewed by colleagues at each of the designated levels. The recommendation from each of these levels will take into consideration the comments from students enrolled in the candidate's classes as indicated on the course survey provided toward the end of each course.

We will be following our policy. Molly Woods

VPAA and Provost

VP Woods was given an opportunity to give any additional comments, beyond her memo. No response was received by publication deadline.

VP Woods' comments touch at the very core of The Dateline's quest to give The Student a voice. tenure is a process...the result of which directly impacts no one more profoundly, than the student. The process is followed and student evaluations are fed into the process. Is that the only input the student has, as central as is the student in the educational system? Should it be? Would not letters written by anyone with direct see AUTHOR on page 9

Work Smarter Study Tips

Sana Tobaccowala CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It feels like school has just begun and yet we are already in the middle of the semester. Work is overloading us, and there is hardly enough time to blink or relax without thinking about the work that needs to be done. It seems like everywhere you go in school someone is discussing a paper they have to finish, a test they have to study for or just an assignment that needs to be completed. Now is the most critical time, where we spend our days working hard and trying to get everything done. But it's hard to just do everything at once.

Everyone wants to get good grades and wants to have more free time without constantly having homework on their conscience. The key is to take small steps: start off by getting an agenda book, and fill in



Image via Google Images different assignments, tests, or essays that need to be done as well as different times that you can do them in the day. You'll soon find where all that wasted time is going and you'll find you have more time for homework and other activities that you just couldn't fit in before. If you're having trouble with certain assignments, then you should form study groups with your peers in classes, as others might also be having the same problems as you.

Often talking about a subject in a small group makes it much easier for everyone to understand.

lack of support, for tenure

If you received a paper back from a professor and haven't done well, don't just disregard it. You should go and speak with the professor, and find out what you did wrong and how you can do better for the next paper. The most important thing is if you haven't done well on a test or anything else that is important, don't just give up when you think you've failed. This should push you to work harder so you can still make a high grade. It's always possible, and just takes some determination and there are always going to be obstacles, we just have to learn how to overcome them. If you follow some good study habits, you'll do well in this semester and all the upcoming ones.

Student Conference on Sustainability, Social Justice and Leadership



Open to ALL Students Date: Friday, October 30 Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Location: Special Events Room A300 Breakfast and Lunch provided Register at www.uhd.edu/sae



Award Winning Journalist Simran Sethi

For more into contact Michelle at (713) 221-8250 or email at studentactivities@uhd.edu

FEATURES If you Define Sexuality between Loading Screens, You're a Gaymer

Wilbert Chinchilla MANAGING EDITOR

Video games are becoming a part of daily American life where half of us, according to a recent NPD report, plug into gaming machines to escape reality avoiding the issues of real life; not so for "gaymers." Gaymers are video game enthusiasts who identify as being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT). "People act like it's a weird thing to find; like we're unicorns," says Eric Hulsey, the blogger and organizer of the social "meet-up" group, Houston Gaymers. Established between friends, Eric Hulsey, 23, Lee Longoria, 25, and Ross Lewis, 25, Houston Gaymers is an organization started for gay men and women to just play video games.

Four months after launching a website, twitter and facebook group, the Houston Gaymers entertain attendees at meet-ups with games and drinks; like the "Mario and Luigi Shot".

The consensus of attendees is singular; "there is a lot less dancing, drugs and judgment where it's not about one thing." "A lot of people complain they don't fit into the gay scene and that causes a problem with people trying to identify with it. When they see other gay guys with other common interests then they feel like they are part of the community" says Lee Longoria. This portion of the gaming community is seen as invisible to the public because of the divide of the once underground word "gaymer," according to graduate student at the Department of Comparative Media Studies, at MIT, Jason Rockwood.

As an undergraduate at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Rockwood produced the "gaymer survey," one of the only academic surveys to shed light on the topic of LGBT gamers. During the survey's undertaking in 2006, 80 percent of the 10,204 surveyed identified themselves as LGBT. Rockwood states that "there are two different [gayming] communities. Some people used [gaymer] as a term of pride and at the same time, there are other video gamers, particularly because the environment is so hostile towards gays in general, [who] stay away from the term." The Houston Gaymers group is the former of these communities.

"There is no discrimination; I can be close and hold my boyfriend's hand in public where nobody looks at it weird," says attendee Zachary who is in a relationship with a gaymer. Although discrimination is not exercised at gay-friendly meet-ups, anonymity in online gaming provides a window of duress for gaymers via their video game consoles and names.

Homophobia Online Looking In

"I wanna shoot you right now. Maybe hang you. I wanna hang you since you're gay." "That's not nice."



Image via www.houstongaymers.com

Houston Gaymers are one of the first "gaymer" meet-up groups within the nation. Monthly meet-ups take place at the Coffee Groundz. For more information you can visit houstongaymers.com.

"I know it's not nice but its true," replies another unknown gamer to "xxxGayboyxxx" in a widely publicized video titled "Halo 3: Homophobia Evolved."

This account of homophobia

is a reaction to the word "gay" in a player's Xbox Live gamertag (a screen name). In online gaming, Gaymers experience homophobia "always" 10.6 percent,

see GAYMER on page 9

Marching on National Coming Out Day



Judith Wattley

National Coming Out Day was this past October 11, 2009 and to commemorate it lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals came out to support The National Equality March (NEM) in Washington D.C. that ended with rallying speeches at the Capitol Building. President Obama spoke the day before at a fund-raising dinner for the Human Rights Campaign. During this dinner, President Obama vowed to allow gay men and lesbians to serve openly in the military by stating, "I will end don't ask, don't tell". Among the fanfare, Obama failed to offer a timetable for doing so. This omission has inflamed critics who say he is not fighting aggressively enough for gay rights.

At the NEM, Supporters young and old gathered together letting President Obama know that there is no such thing as partial equality for the LGBT or any community. The partial equality addressed is the passing of Proposition 8 in California, which prohibits and does not recognize same-sex marriage and bigotry at the work place. The NEM was created in order to open the eyes of all Americans throughout the nation and recognize that marriage is between two people that love each other; not just a man and woman. Among some of the speakers at the podium in front of the capitol building were activists Bruce Bastian, Cleve Jones, Penelope Williams and Lady Gaga who made the crowd go wild with her speech. Lady Gaga graced the stage with her presence, as she greeted and humbly thanked the crowd for allowing her to be there.

As Lady Gaga spoke she screamed out to President Obama see **EQUAL** on page 7

ZOMBIE Continued from page 4

Continued from page 4

those left went on the offensive to eliminate the few remaining zombies. The townsfolk kindly gave us the rifles of the fallen. In those days spent fighting an overwhelming number of zombies, somebody quoted Sir Winston Churchill's speech, "We shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our Island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills;



that it is one of the first to that is widely used now.

attention to small details such as what kind of flowers the ladies keep in their gardens. His actions are justified at the end of the play when Death and Eternity refer to letting life slip by without notice, only to miss those moments so much when someone has passed away. After seeing this play without any prior knowledge, it is apparent dead souls, but still goes back

The best way to explain is by talking about A Christmas Carol. In the scenes where Ebenezer Scrooge is taken into his past, his regret at his actions is apparent when he tries to speak to the girl he once loved, and she can't hear him. The same happened in Act III: Death and Eternity. The dead is even warned by other

to her favorite memory, thus tarnishing it by her inability to speak to her family. This was probably the only part of the

from zombies. Or are they?

Image via Google Images

This play is still

Dateline : Downtown

signature.

Our attacks on them became systematic and around the clock. We didn't stop. We never gave up. To ensure the virus wouldn't spread we burned everything that they touched. The smoke covered the sky.

Time flew by and we gathered our force and noticed not one amongst us suffered at the hands of the zombies. We jumped into the van and I fell asleep only to awaken later with a copy of "The Zombie Survival Guide" by Max Brooks. Its nice to know that the cuts, burns and bruises on my body are from work and not

available at the Alley Theatre until November 1. There are two dates for Student Matinees, which are October 27 and 28. For tickets to any of the remaining performances, please call (713) 220-5700.



Photography by Jann Whaley Elizabeth Bunch as Emily Webb and Jay Sullivan as George Gibbs in the Alley Theatre's production of Our Town. Our Town runs on the Alley's Hubbard Stage October 2 -November 1. For more information visit www.alleytheatre.org.

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"Are you listening?" in attempt to let him know that this issue cannot be ignored for much longer. With the LGBT community and its pundits stating that action for change needs to happen now, many are growing tired of being ignored. Barney Frank, Massachusetts' openly gay house member, told the Associated Press, that the event was "a waste of time at best." About 200,000 LGBT marchers gathered, where organizers like Equality Across America believe "at the very least the organizers of the NEM have altered the terms of debate. They have set out an inspiring new vision as only a new generation could have done, taking the LGBT movement beyond the dark days of the struggle against HIV/AIDS, standing on the shoulders of the giants of the civil rights movement, to catch sight of a goal that may be closer than you think: 'Equal protection for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender people in all matters governed by civil law in all 50 states." Some of the other celebrities that attended were Perez Hilton, Cynthia Nixon from Sex and the City, artist Staceyann Chin, Kelly Osbourne, and Fall Out Boy Pete Wentz.

interpret situations in a way

play that I did not like, since this image has now been used and exhausted. Regardless of what pop culture has done to classic American literature, this was a play that used minimalist style to enhance its meaning. It deals with humanities' happiest

loneliest moments.

and most innocent moments, but also in their saddest and





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Dateline : Downtown

Powerlifting Today, Be a World Champ Tomorrow



Photography by UHD Powerlifting

Aldo Cruz CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If you've been to our gym lately, there's a great possibility that you've seen several guys-and some girls, too-seriously pumping some iron. You might've felt intimidated, though. You should be. They are the members of our Powerlifting Team, who are now heading to the World Championships to be held in late October in Reno, N.V. They qualified after winning the World Association of Bench Pressers and Deadlifters' (WABDL) National Collegiate Bench Press and Deadlift Championships. What is even more impressive, though, is that the team was formed in 2007, clearly indicating a promising future. "I can't believe the talent I count with," said Coach Hudson.

Despite its short existence, the team has already won the National Championship back-to-back. The World Bench Press and Deadlift Championships will be a 6-day meet of intense competition, with competitors from all around the world—rarely representing an educational institution—but the team remains highly confident. "I feel sorry for the other guys," said Co-Captain Robert Nguyen. Although qualifying for this big event was very difficult, raising the funds to actually attend won't be any easier. It's going to cost about \$600 per lifter to attend the event; this includes airfare, lodging, and entry fees. Throughout the Student Life Center you will find jars with a brief message requesting a donation for the Team. The team has also taken to the cafeteria to ask for donations during lunch time.

If you want to contribute to UHD's athletic success, please support our Powerlifting Team. Aside from being one of the very few teams representing an educational institution—most competitors represent elite gyms—our team counts with a distinctive racial makeup. Coach Hudson proudly labels his team as "the perfect picture of diversity." "I felt nervous about being one of the few minorities at Nationals," admitted Co-Captain Ilian Rojas, "we were the underdogs." But this didn't stop the team from being highly successful at this meet. The team is open to everyone.

The majority of the team's most successful members joined the team with no experience whatsoever. That means that it's open to anyone regardless of race, previous experience...and gender. Olga Hernandez, one of team's co-captains, became a National Champion after 2 years of being in the team. "My friends always told me it was a guy's sport," she said, "but I didn't listen to them." She is now heading to the World Championships with the rest of the team.

Haunt the Night With Rock By Jose Gutierrez

Houston's Live Underground Venue

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

ESE is playing on Halloween at Jet Lounge in Downtown

Houston, Texas on October 31, 2009. This is by far the best show for your buck. ESE puts on great shows when they play, and this is ESE's first Halloween show

(which should be no different). The bands playing are ESE, Ghost Stories, 13 Black Coffins and Sewer Surfers. ESE recently returned from a west coast tour and has played few shows since then they are looking to play songs from the last 2 albums. They are also looking forward to debut new songs that are going to be considered for their much awaited third album.

13 Black Coffins always play like

F: 7:30am – 6pm S: 8am – 6pm

Sun: 10am - 6pm

there is no tomorrow while the band features a female lead singer who sounds like someone between Janice Joplin and Amy Winehouse with a

> driving Psychobilly sound that is very intense, and yet very smooth. Ghost Stories are your classic Psychobilly band with a constant mix of English and Spanish lyrics that keeps you listening for more. The Sewer Surfers

are a great up and coming band from San Antonio that will rock as hard as the city they come from. Halloween should involve cheap booze crazy costumes and great music; this is going to be fun and something not to be missed, so don't miss out. For more information just show up to the Jet Lounge. It's 1515 Pease Street, Houston, TX 77002, Tel (713) 659-2000 not far from the Toyota Center.



M- Th: 8am – 8:30pm F: 8am – 5pm S: Closed Sun: Closed Continued from page 5

knowledge of a Professor not be incorporated, at some step in the process? Surely they are, all the time, in such situations. And, can VP Woods prevent anyone from writing a letter commenting on a candidate,; would she want to, and would UH lawyers want her to even suggest anyone cannot do so, based upon the Free Speech laws of our land? These are the questions The Dateline would like VP Woods' responses to, much more than a memo that seems to slice at the vocal cords of students.

Carefully read her memo, just as she suggested to her "colleagues" to all "read" The Dateline's article. (The Dateline appreciates the publicity, by the way.) Use every brain cell you have honed at UHD to discern what is stated in her memo. And, NEVER let anyone EVER take away your right to have your voice heard, ESPECIALLY when you foot the bill.

The Dateliner

United Nations Day

Location: 1099-N (One Main Building, North side, 10th Floor). Julian Escutia, Consul for Community and Economic Affairs of the Mexican Consulate will discuss the relationship between the United Nations and Mexico, the Model United Nations, and the history of the United Nations. Free. Open to students, fac-ulty, and staff. Contact Peter Li, Associate Professor of Social Sciences at 713-221-2741 or LiP@uhd.edu for more information. Refreshments will be served.

Prof Protests Student "Witch Hunt"

October 19 - October 29, 2009

Dateline : Downtown

Dateline Staff Report

DOWNTOWN, Oct. 14, 2009- Calling a recent Dateline op-ed piece that encouraged student input on faculty members currently going up for tenure a "witch hunt," a UHD professor has sought to resign her membership on the Student Publications Advisory Committee (SPAC) because Dateline staff "allowed" the item to be published without a byline. In Dateline's previous issue, an anonymous contributing writer had called on students to express their opinions of tenure-track faculty in letters to the editor, and indicated that such students' "privacy and anonymity, will be protected."

In an email on Monday, Oct. 12, Dr. Marilyn McShane asked to be permitted to resign her committee service, saying her "time is completely wasted" as a member of SPAC, because that committee is "obviously not consulted on matters relevant to good journalism and university goals." Calling the article a "witch hunt ... and akin to a grade-school 'slam-book,'" McShane also criticized the Dateline faculty advisor for the "the decision to allow an anonymous person to generate an invitation for anonymous students to witchhunt faculty." Slam books are the latest trend in juvenile peer pressure, in which students use the Internet to post critical and sometimes - brutal online criticisms of fellow students. Student publications policy at UHD does not permit faculty approval or censorship of

Dateline:Downtown's editorial content.

Dateline faculty advisor Dr. Anthony Chiaviello acknowledged that the unnamed author of the piece had made some "unfortunate errors," and claimed that the "main problems were the misrepresentation of tenure as a 'try-and-try-again' process and the implication that students can affect the process by expressing their opinions in letters to the Dateline editor. The avenue for student input in the tenure process lies in the instructor evaluations they do for each class." The advisor concluded that "the editorial decision to run it anonymously is really irrelevant: in the final analysis, the editor is

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GAYMER

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"frequently" 31.4 percent, and "sometimes" 32.5 percent of the time they play online games according to the gaymer survery. Microsoft and Sony currently do not provide an option to distinguish sexuality for user's screen names for either online service. A spark to this debate began last year with an Xbox Live (XBL) gamertag, "theGAYERgamer," which was tacked as offensive to the Xbox community and needed to be changed. The XBL Policy was changed to no gamer using the words "gay" or "lesbian" in accounts because these words were used as pejoratives 98 percent of the time online.

In 2008, Sony's social virtual community Playstation Home denied an 18-year-old straight gamer from forming a gay/ straight alliance club in the free virtual world on the Playstation Network. Sony along with gaming software companies like Bioware and Blizzard faced the issue of LGBT word bans. Gaymers ultimately won the war on taboo against both software companies; a war the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) doesn't intend to dismiss. On July 18th, GLAAD held a panel to introduce its new project on Homophobia & Virtual Communities, headed by Justin Cole, Director of Digital Media

He states that "in most cases, the policies devised by these companies were done so to stop defamation. Unfortunately, the unintended consequence of this is the creation of a virtual closet, where LGBT people cannot live, game, or interact openly. Our aim here is to work with all the players to develop sustainable policy solutions that address the rampant homophobia, provide



In 2006, 80 percent of the 10,204 surveyed identified themselves as LGBT in the Gaymer Survery. This survey was conducted in 2006. Gaygaymer is a news and community website targeting this "untapped" market, as Rockwood

safe spaces for LGBT people, and make the experience fun for all."

Progression and Celebration

Jimmy Hopkins is a fifteen year old boy that can kiss other boys (or girls). As a pixilated protagonist, Jimmy can define his virtual sexuality in the video game Bully where players can decide if he will be gay or straight. Players can also take on same sex marriages that can be performed in video games like Fable 2 and The Sims 3, allowing same sex couples the right to marry; a variable not yet determined in the real world. The Sims 3 contains more possibilities for virtual same sex couples than other games because players can plan an entire virtual wedding. Other games like World of Warcraft have been home to gaymer guilds since its fodder in 2006 when Blizzard Entertainment reversed its ruling on LGBT friendly guilds. Now there is an annual gay pride parade assembled in the virtual World of Warcraft.

According to Jason Rockwood, the LGBT community has "momentum building and developers want

to be able include people because it's a market; it's just always a question of how do we do this. Rockstar has been really great because they cause controversy. It's funny/ironic to me that it is probably going to be the 'bad boys' that are going to be responsible for bringing gay issues into the spotlight." Rockstar's newest add-on coming for Grand Theft Auto IV (GTAIV) is a episode titled "GTA: The Ballad of Gay Tony." With the advancement in technology and gaming culture, many video games allowing sexual orientation as an option help everyone choose whether to stray away from the origins of the shirtless-speedo wearing sprites called "himbos" in SimCopter or not. As gamer Dylan Wilkenson states, "as far as games and gaymers, I don't care. I could care less, as long as they bring the game that's awesome."

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Page 10 October 19 – October 29, 2009 Dateline : Downtown Introduction to College, or CSP

Amanda White CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Most new students enter college with feelings of excitement and anxiety. Now that students are in college, they have more freedom to make their own decisions. Some decisions are easy to make, such as having burgers or pizza for lunch. Other decisions such as finding the right time and place to study are harder to make. There is no need for students to worry.

Adjusting to college is a learning experience for everyone and UHD haves a program to make the process easier. College Success Program, or CSP, is a one hour credit course designed to help students adjust to college life. According to Michelle Falcon, the course instructor, "CSP has been a course at UHD for over twenty years, and originally started off as a special services

grant program." In the 1990s the grant was renewed and was turned into an actual course.

Any student is welcome to enroll in CSP, however the course is strongly recommended for freshmen and returning students. Time management skills, study skills, stress management, and critical thinking skills are just a few of the topics that are taught in CSP. CSP also provides information to students on how to use university resources such as the library and Academic Support Center. Of course, CSP does not only help students survive academically in college, but also gives students the scoop on current events and happenings around campus. You'll pretty much know about what's happening next at UHD before other students if you're enrolled in CSP. CSP is also a great course to learn how to become a well rounded student. Professor Falcon states,

"Students who get involved on campus are more likely to stay in school, have higher GPA's, and feel a sense of belonging to their school over students who only go to class." Professor Falcon also states, "A well rounded student takes advantage of opportunities that the university has to offer, meet new people, and are more likely to finish college." Jared Lum, a freshman currently in CSP said, "I've learned to appreciate the culture of UHD. I've also learned to like some of the fun activities that UHD has to offer." CSP can't stress enough how important it is for students to get involved on campus.

CSP will often have guest speakers from organizations and activities to speak to students about how to join an organization on campus, or just provide more information to students. CSP also has guest

speakers from the Academic Support Center and the library to talk to students about tips and tricks to using resources



Image via Google Images

provided by UHD to their advantage. Be prepared for anyone to speak to a CSP class. from the president of UHD, to a math professor, and maybe even someone outside the university like a well known author. When asked how CSP has been helpful in transitioning from high school to college, Jared responded, "CSP has helped me learn how to be responsible in college. I've also

learned other things such as time management, study skills, and how to shape my college experience."

Jared was also asked if he would recommend this course to incoming freshmen. He answered, "Yes, because CSP can help new students deal with college situations." The Professor Falcon was asked what are two goals that she has for CSP for the Fall 2009 semester, and she replied, "To see all students graduate from UHD and for all students to succeed in the classroom and in extracurricular activities." CSP is for students who want to get to know UHD, the people who attend UHD, and for those who want to make the most out of their college experience. If that sounds like you, and you're interested in enrolling in this exciting course after reading what Jared and Professor Falcon have to say about CSP, then you should log on to www. uhd.edu/e-services and click on class schedule and see if CSP is available for the next semester.

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responsible for all editorial content.

"Possibly, the writer, identified only as 'A Dateliner,' unduly feared retribution for expressing his or her opinion on tenure," Chiaviello pointed out, "a hesitation to publicly express unpopular opinions that is not unknown even to untenured professors." Dateline Editor Wilbert Chinchilla acknowledged some factual and layout errors in the article. and admitted it carried an unintentional "negative tone." However, he defended the

piece as an exercise of free

speech based on confirmed information from the UHD Provost's office, and said he had already received letters-to-theeditor in support of one or more of the tenure-track professors mentioned in the article's sidebar. Chinchilla added that, "the caption to the sidebar was inadvertently omitted in the published story, which may have been misleading. Dateline regrets the error."

Associate Editor Christina Rodriguez contacted Dr. McShane on October 14 regarding news of her resignation from SPAC, asking if she would describe her initial response to the article. She stated, "I think that while it is appropriate to discuss tenure and teaching quality, doing so as anonymous entities

Second Annual Hispanic Heritage Concert Location: Willow Street Pump Station at the University of Houston-Downtown (811 North San Jacinto) Free. Open to the public.Contact Yvonne Kendall, Associate Professor of Arts & Humanities at 713.226.5237 or kendally@uhd.edu for more info.

Is Texas Economy Sinking or Floating?

Jong Hyun Koh CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Last week. Governor Rick Perry insisted in a Washington D.C. meeting that Texas is one of the leading states that will save the United States from the current economic crisis. About 1,000 people are coming to Texas everyday throughout the country in order to find jobs, and he encouraged other state governors to adopt the financial policy of Texas. On the other hand, Kay Bailey Hutchison, the senior Texas Senator and a Republican candidate for the 2010 Texas gubernatorial election, argued that the governor pretends ignorance about the pain of the Texas residents.

Beyond those political issues and exaggerated interpretations, how is the actual current economic condition of Texas? Is it on the way of recovery? Many experts believe that the U.S. economy has already hit the bottom and shows clear signs of economic recovery. Unfortunately, the economic indicators in Texas give contradicting explanations. It is true that the economic condition of Texas is far better than any other states so far.



However, there is an important thing that the governor didn't mention in the meeting. Last month, Texas reached the highest job loss in the U.S. According to the statistical report of the federal government from July to August, 62,200 jobs disappeared in Texas. This rate exceeds Michigan,

which previously had the highest unemployment rate in the country. In 2008, the unemployment rate was below 5% in Texas. The majority of the states in the U.S. had 60 percent unemployment increase in 2009, and Texas was among them.

Considering the current major economic indicators, it is hard to deny that Texas is facing a great economic downturn. More than one out of four people don't carry medical insurance in Texas. Furthermore, there are huge disparities between the success of cities of Texas. Whereas the cities on the Gulf Coast area are experiencing the business recession, other cities like Austin are showing signs of prosperity. We should always remember that many Texas residents are experiencing pressure from the current economic crisis and are not yet fully out of a swamp of stagnation.

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Greener Gators: Etiquette

Greener Gators

This question remains, "how can we make UHD students more eco-conscious?" Since we have to begin from somewhere, why don't we start with computer use. If you use computers in an evening class or work in a computer lab, please remember to turn off the CPU's at the end of the day. Not all labs take advantage of the remote shut-down feature to turn the computers off; therefore, it sometimes is required that the computers be manually shut down (pressing on/off button on the CPU once shuts down most computers). In a related matter to computers, when printing Powerpoint slides for your classes, please be mindful of how much paper you use; you should be aware to only print a few slides per page.

There are numerous areas of improvement that fall under the category of "restroom etiquette." First and foremost, be mindful of water use. Do not keep the tap running at full if you are still rolling up your sleeves, or brushing your teeth after lunch. Just remember that in other parts of the world, people wish for safe, drinking water to be available in their homes. As far as paper towels are concerned, we have a long-term vision of convincing administration in implementing the use of hand-dryers in the restrooms

For those of you who like to use paper towels for opening the doors due to sanitary reasons, we have a recommendation for your concern, as well. With the removal of paper towels, you would still be able to open the restroom door using the foot pulls that we would like to have installed behind every door.. Of course let's not forget recycling etiquette. The blue plastic recycling receptacles have been conveniently placed near most trash cans. We believe that no



Photography by Greener Gators

Recently, the Greener Gators lent a helping hand to the Holthouse Boys and Girls Club in the restoration, removal, and building of their vegetable gardens. At the end of the day, all volunteers were allowed to take home some of the sweet potatoes that had been harvested that day.

students should be careless enough to not hold on to their plastic bottle or container until they find the closest blue bin.

A survey of the amount of plastic and aluminum that had been thrown into the trash cans was conducted by the Greener



Gators, and we regret to report that although the amount of trash in the blue bins has greatly diminished, there are still numerous plastic bottles in the classroom trash cans. Students, be a hero for a day and remind your friends to recycle their plastic bottles. On the issue of paper, please remember to place all of your unwanted paper into the paper recycling. containers that are conveniently placed near most printers and copiers on campus. So, here's a quick wrap of what some of these great habits that we ask you to put into practice are: turning off computers (as well as lights and other unessential electronics) in the evenings, printing several slides per page, being mindful of water use. recycling each and every plastic container as well as disposing of unwanted paper products in the paper receptacles. Work on making these practices part of your daily routine, until out suggestions next time.

Last issue, we also discussed the parking issue and suggested the implementation of a carpooling network. Between then and now we have done our homework. Based on our observations, between 10:30 and 11:45 are the times when the Daly 500 lot becomes completely full. By this point in the semester, many students have found alternatives to parking there; however, during peak hours we found there to be as many as 50 or more vehicles circling in the lot, waiting to find parking. Yes, we understand the pain and have had to experience wait times as much as 40 minutes. We still believe that the see GATORS on page 12

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carpooling idea is an effective way of alleviating some of the congestion. We ask that you not worry for now if there are any people near where you live, or if their schedule fits yours, etc. Leave all of those issues to us. We will work our best to pair you with compatible student(s). What we need from you is your contact information. If you wish to participate in our carpooling network, e-mail us at GreenerGators@gmail.com Live Green, Greener Gators

Green Tip

Remember to rinse out your plastics when recycling. Also, keep paper products that are sufficiently contaminated with food particles (e.g. pizza boxes) out of the paper eceptacles.

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WORDSEARCH by Rebecka Black

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