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STUDENT RUN SINCE VOLUME ONE

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FEBRUARY 14, 2011

Department of Health announces new plan to extend coverage to college students

Uwire - The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced a new plan to extend coverage to an additional three million college students through the Affordable Healthcare Act of 2010 by adding additional benefits to the student health care plans.

In a conference call with college media outlets Wednesday, the HHS discussed the effect of new provisions in health care reform legislation.

HHS Division Director Steve Larsen opened the discussion by saying the new proposal provides extra protection to college students not currently protected by the national health care law.

"One of the most vulnerable groups in our old healthcare system was young adults, especially those in college," said Larsen. "When our young people graduated from college they not only looked for a job, but they were also looking for a job with benefits."

Jessica Moore, spokeswoman for HHS said as of Jan. 1, 2012, pre-existing conditions and medication exclusion policies would be discontinued. The ban on lifetime benefit caps will take effect on Jan.1, 2014.

"In addition to the restrictions being lifted on medications like insulin, the proposal requires that college and universities health care plans meet an 80 cents per dollar ratio with 80 cents going to pay for healthcare, not for administration costs," Moore said.

According to HHS statistics, Larsen says he felt like college students were ignored and often fell through the cracks of the old health care system.

"America's young people are more than 20 percent more likely to go without health insurance," Larsen said. "This means that there are thousands of young people wondering about how they are going to pay for their next doctor's visit, who do have the medicines they need. This new proposal will provide coverage and answers to those students."

Larsen pointed out students impacted by the new proposal are those who receive health insurance through their university's student health care plans.

"Nationwide, 1,500 to 2,000 colleges and universities offer their students a student healthcare plan," Larsen said. "The Affordable Health Care Act did nothing to impact these students. This proposal will allow those 3 million students who participate in student healthcare plans to receive coverage that every other American receives through the new health care law."

Aaron Smith, of Young Invincibles, a Washington D.C. lobbyist firm for young Americans, says this is not a new issue, or even a win-lose issue, but a win-win for all young Americans.

"As a whole this debate over universal health care is nothing new, this is not a debate where one side has to win and another has to lose," Smith said. "Instead this is a win-win,



because this proposal will result in extended coverage for college students."

Larsen said the proposal reinforces the new guidelines about restrictions and makes them applicable to all students with student health care plans.

"For every 20 schools offering coverage, 8 had exclusion principles in place like pre-existing conditions, lifetime benefit caps, medication exclusion, the list goes on and on," Larsen said.

Steve Bloom, of the American Council of Education (ACE), which represents the interests of higher education institutions, says the ACE is extremely pleased with this result.

"Our primary concern for our students is always quality healthcare, access to health care and affordability," Bloom said.

Read more here: http://www.themaneater.com/stories/2011/2/11/department-health-announces-new-planextend-covera/

Editors

Editor-in-Chief Layout and Design

Jamee L Cox CoxJa@uhd.edu 713.221.8569

Christina Rodriguez Assistant Editor

> Tanu Uppal Photo Editor

dateline@gator.uhd.edu

Business Manager

Daniel Almanza almanzaD@uhd.edu 713.221.8192

Advisor

Anthony Chiaviello chiavielloa@uhd.edu 713.221.8520

Staff Writers

Amanda White Bissan Raffe David Melendez Dylan Osborne Lucha Morales Shelly Skrehot Whitney Barrett

Information

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The power of a unified people

As Americans have watched thousands of Egyptian protestors unseat Hosni Mubarak after his one-man governing dominance for nearly 30 years, we are reminded of what our own country was able to overcome with the power and unity of the people. The obstacles crossed and the changes made due the unification of thousands during the Civil Rights Movement may not have been accomplished in 18 days, but the momentous change should not be taken lightly as we celebrate Black History Month.

Just as there were Mubarak supporters that fought against change, Americans too struggled with those who wished to keep segregation as part of this country. There were those who wanted to forever oppress the rights of African Americans, those who considered themselves superior for reasons only they could understand.

The fight for Civil Rights was not a shortlived movement that ended in a number of weeks. This fight lasted decades. The protest in Egypt left 297 people killed, according to CBS News. The fight for Civil Rights is responsible for enough deaths to possibly populate the city of Houston. From lynching to church burning, beatings to bombings, murders and assassinations; there were too many deaths to even attempt to track and too many lives lost in the face of hate.

Of course, the immediate image that comes to mind when one thinks of the Civil Rights Movement is that of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as he delivered the infamous I Have a Dream speech before the Lincoln Memorial after the March on Washington in 1963. The speech echoes in hallways of educational institutions across the country every February as a reminder of the obstacles the nation has overcome. But it is not a speech that should only be remembered in February, but every month, every day, of every year.

How proud Dr. King would be to know that what he struggled so hard to achieve, what he gave his life for, has in some respect come to fruition as the country elected its first African-American president. That is not to say that the country as a whole is entirely happy with this moment in history, but it is a milestone of a movement that continues every year as equal rights are still looking to be achieved by all people of this country.

As we continue to watch the events unfold in Egypt, as they face the undaunted task of building a new, democratic government, let us all be grateful for the milestones that we have made as a nation. Let us look to our neighbors, our classmates, our professors and appreciate the diversity that we are privileged enough to enjoy and be thankful that we can walk equally together, hand in hand.

-Jamee Cox Editor in Chief

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Lucha Morales

Staff Writer

The face of the University of Houston-Downtown (UHD) may change over the next 10 years as enrollment numbers indicate an increasing trend of enrollment for women, and a decrease in enrollment for men.

According to a fact sheet published in April 2010 by The Office of Institutional Research & Planning, the total number of students enrolled at UHD for the Spring 2010 semester was 11,339. The total number of female students enrolled was 7,438, making up 61.8 percent of students enrolled. This was almost a four percent increase from the Spring 2009 semester. The total number of male students enrolled was 4,597, making up 38.2 percent of the total students enrolled for that semester at UHD.

Carol M. Tucker, Director of Institutional

overall national increase in the enrollment of women at institutions of higher education.

"I believe women are simply seeking out higher education," said Tucker.

Fahmida S. Dehlvi, Senior Research Analyst for Institutional Research & Planning at UHD also feels more women are actively seeking higher education. However, neither Tucker or Dehlvi would comment about any projections regarding women or men's enrollment for the current semester.

Since Fall of 2005, there has been an increase of about three percent in the enrollment of women at UHD. While women's enrollment numbers have risen from 59 percent in 2005 to 62 percent in 2010, men's enrollment numbers have seen a 3 percent decrease since 2005 falling from 41 percent to 38 percent in 2010, according to the 2009-2010 Fact Book. If women's enrollment continues to rise at the same rate, by the

percent of the total number of students enrolled. In 20 years, men's enrollment could drop below 20 percent if their enrollment continues to decrease at the current rate.

Such a decrease in men's enrollment numbers didn't seem to alarm UHD Transfer Admission Coordinator, Magadalena "Maggie" Manzano. She believes that UHD is a diverse college that offers equal opportunities to all students who enroll.

"I have found working with students is an extremely fulfilling part of my job and one that I look forward to everyday. This of course includes all students, which come from all different backgrounds and genders," said Manzano.

Manzano feels if women's enrollment at UHD continues to increase that admission policies and recruiting strategies at UHD would remain the same.

"The University of Houston-Downtown

Manzano.

Manzano referred to a memo issued in 2009 by UHD's President William Flores, regarding the Equal Opportunity Policy, section 3.1, which states, "The University of Houston-Downtown is committed to equality of opportunity in all areas of education and employment, and its goal is to achieve a diverse community."

To access information regarding enrollment statistics visit UHD's Office of Institutional Research online at http://www.uhd. edu/about/irp/.

The Office of Institutional Research is located in the main building in room S629.

All data accessed for this story was published online by the Office of Institutional Research and was independently analyzed by UHD Alumni, Miriam Morales, Biostatistician and Manager of Clinical Data Analysis at Memorial Hermann Hospital.

Race and Disaster

CHRISTINA RODRIGUEZ

Assistant Editor

The Center for Public Deliberation held the Race and Katrina Discussion and Ice Cream Social, a continuing discussion group about race relations framed within disaster.

The event, held on Feb. 10 as part of Black History Month, began with a reading by resident artist David Rainey, an actor from the Alley Theatre and instructor in drama at UHD, who read from articles and documentaries that were written based on interviews in and around New Orleans, both from the first year after Katrina and as recent as 2009. These articles described the suffering that occurred in cities and smaller communities, as well as drastic vigilantism that resulted in very high rates of crime that were written off as defense against looters.

The moderator for the event, Assistant Professor Diana Bowen, discussed these readings as well as other topics that were discussed by audience members after they were divided into small groups.

Each group was accompanied by a moderator, and a handout was given to each group with possible discussion questions such as, how the media furthered stereotypes, or whose responsibility it is to take action and improve evacuation and safety measures during natural disasters. The groups also discussed why it is so difficult and so important to talk about race, even in a scholarly setting.

Each group of 6-8 members discussed these questions along with the effect that Katrina had on the city of Houston. After the small groups met, the moderators from each group gathered at the front of the room and spoke to the audience about what each group discussed.

"We were really happy with the event because with the small group format, everybody, especially the students, had plenty of opportunity to talk and engage in these very important topics," said Interim Director of CPD, Dr. Paul Fortunato. "We are trying to provide a place for students and citizens to discuss and debate in a productive way, instead of the often wasteful ways that people talk about these issues on radio and television," he added.

The CEC has been active at UHD since it was formed in the mid nineties by Dr. Michael Dressman and Professor Lorenzo Thomas, a poet, critic and English professor at UHD, who was succeeded by Dr. Jane Creighton, poet and Associate Professor of English. Creighton also earned the Excellence in Teaching award in 2007.

Creighton said the CEC is beneficial to UHD in that it helps members of the campus participate in the arts in a way that is more involving. The CEC also provides the means for speakers to come and participate in events.



Stand-up comedian Maria Falzone give UHD students some sex talk. Photo by David

Talking sex at Date Night

DAVID MELENDEZ

Staff Writer

Stand-up comedian Maria Falzone imparted rules of proper contraceptive use, sexual consent and gender preference through personal and hilarious stories from her own past during University of Houston-Downtown's Date Night.

Raised in a traditional Sicilian household, Falzone was not equipped with the proper knowledge in regards to sex. Sex was a taboo subject and she went without important knowledge about sex throughout adolescence and into her adulthood. Falzone believes that parents shouldn't wait to teach children about sex until they hit puberty; instead, parents should inform them before this happens.

Falzone believes that we are all born sexual and should be properly educated on the topic. She hopes that through her personal stories, students will be wise enough to make the informed decisions that she did not.

The true wake-up call for Falzone came when she hooked up with a friend when she was younger. This friend did not tell her that he had herpes, and thus the virus was passed onto her.

"Know yourself and know what you are comfortable with in regards to dating and sexual activity," Falzone told the audience during her performance on Feb 8.

Falzone also talked about the various types of contraceptives and alternatives for various types of foreplay, as well as which contraceptive works best for particular situations.

The show was followed by a free lasagna and salad dinner in the Coffeehouse area, complete with romantic decorations and candles on the tables for those who participated in Date Night.

For more information on Maria Falzone and her Sex Rules performance, please visit http://www.Sexrules.org.

The Eagle spreads artful wings in theaters

WHITNEY BARRETT

Staff Writer

Rosmary Sutcliff's classic novel, "The Eagle of the Ninth" is brought to the big screen in The Eagle, directed by Kevin Macdonald (The Last King of Scotland) and produced by Duncan Kenworthy.

This historical drama is powerful, moving and so addicting that there is never a dull moment.

The film, which is set in second century Britain, tells the story of two men- master and slave, who go on an epic and dangerous quest that will push them beyond all boundaries, and transform their relationship from distrust to trust and turn them from enemy to friends.

Marcus Aquila (Channing Tatum) arrives in Britain, determined to restore the tarnished reputation of his father, Flavius Aquila, whose legion disappeared 20 years earlier along with the golden emblem, both lost in Caledonia.

Driven to becoming a brilliant soldier, Marcus displays all the qualities of a great leader who is praised for his bravery, but is discharged due to his severe wounds. He impulsively gets a young Briton's life spared in a gladiatorial contest. This young Briton, Esca (Jamie Bell) becomes Marcus' slave, who harbors an intense hatred for all things

Roman, yet vows loyalty to Marcus for saving his life.

Together they embark on a journey

through the vast and savage wilderness and Marcus must rely on Esca to navigate the land, all in pursuit of gaining the emblem

and finding some kind of answer to the question of what became of his father.

The Eagle is a moving, adventurous film that tells a kind of story that is not being told any more on-screen.

It is every bit as brilliant as other movies in the historical drama genre like Gladiator and Braveheart.

The Eagle holds a certain charm and sophistication, showing that blood and gore are not necessary for making a good adventurous film. It also proves that if the storyline is powerful enough, that alone can draw the viewer in.

The real world plot of two men struggling through a rough dangerous land cold, wet and hungry but driven to succeed, is what makes the storyline special, believable and interesting.

The animosity and distrust both characters have for one another in the beginning of the film transforms into something more like trust, despite their immense differences.

Channing Tatum and Jamie Bell take on vastly different roles than in their previous projects, and with their chemistry, pull it off with ease.

The Eagle is a detailed movie that does not overdramatize and hits straight to the point. There is no rush in the plot and everything is accurate.

It simply grabs you from the beginning.

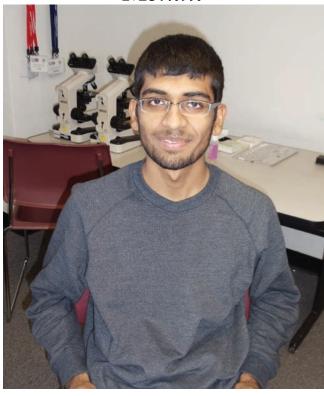
On Campus

(Above) Binh Le, sophomore: Yes, because it is a good reminder to us about the fight for equality between races, especially for those who have a habit of forgetting their history.

(Below) John Waller, freshman: I think it is important, but holding it in February enables separatism. It gives the impression that this month is for "your history," not "our history."



Do you think it is important to celebrate Black History Month?



(Above) Mathew Pulakkavan, freshman: Yes. Black history has impacted other cultures and communities as well. Their history affected us all, so we should all celebrate it.

(Below) Helen Morgenstern, junior: Yes, because black history is an integral part of our country's history and our current population. It is essential for us to understand each other's history.





(Above) Brittany Foster, junior: Yes. Many African Americans have contributed to what we have today, and there should be a month to honor these people.

(Below) Monique Benney, post-baccalaureate: It is important, but designating it to the month of February perpetuates the idea that blacks and African Americans are of a minimal culture. It makes it seem as if we can accept the least, as long as we get something.



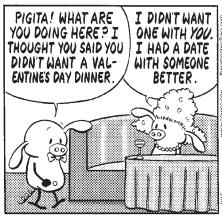
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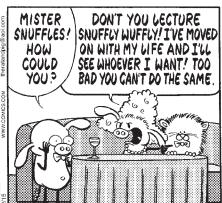
Moderately Confused

by Jeff Stahler



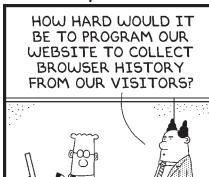
Pearls Before Swine by Stephan Pastis

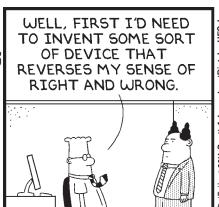






Dilbert by Scott Adams







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Back Page



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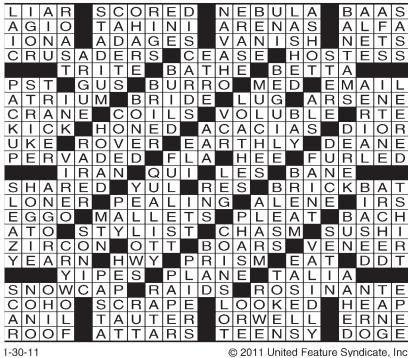


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