the extent of the price gap, why (currently at $900), the average cost to produce those textbooks, spend on textbooks in a year amount of money college students spect issues such as the average Accounting Office (GAO) to in-

This bill called upon the General billion dollar textbook industry. a thorough investigation into the

Why should educated people allow their options to be denied to them? From Oregon to California to Massachusetts and finally to the seats of the United States Congress, advocates of this nation’s students are fighting to have that question answered.

On November 11, 2003 Congressman David Wu (D-Oregon) initiated a bill into the House of Representatives that called for a thorough investigation into the practices of this nation’s multi-billion dollar textbook industry. This bill called upon the General Accounting Office (GAO) to inspect issues such as the average amount of money college students spend on textbooks in a year (currently at $900), the average cost to produce those textbooks, the extent of the price gap, why identical textbooks are 50% cheaper overseas, how often new editions are released and whether or not these releases are actually justified. The GAO was been investigating this issue for nearly a year now. The due date for their report is November 11, 2004. Until next month’s release of that report, here is some insight into what has been discovered.

The truth is bookstores on college campuses only deserve a fragment of the blame for the pillaging of our bank accounts. They are only the gates of the textbook industry. The gatekeepers of the industry are the publishers. They are the ones that set the conditions for buying textbooks. In 2002, The Wall Street Journal announced that three big publishers control 62% of the textbook industry’s sales, up from just 35% in 1990. Publishers make the

rules that textbook vendors must sell by. The tyranny that textbook publishers have over the industry allows them to control book selection and prohibit university bookstores from selling cheaper versions of the books we buy, such as paperbacks or older editions. And because the publishers have not been prudent enough to get into the used book market, they make it as hard as possible for bookstores to sell used books. They do so by constantly releasing new editions to perfectly effective books. Of course these new editions are more expensive and are often only distinguished by a few minor changes that hardly merit their release.

To counteract the onslaught of rising educational expenses, many students have taken lower trade deficit, lower taxes and create millions of new jobs. According to the law of conservation of energy, where energy is constant within one system, it can’t change in form but can’t increase in magnitude. This is impossible to achieve while still having strong intelligence and a prepared military. Someone will have to pay for all of this, no question about that; but who, remains to be seen.

President Bush’s tax breaks on capital equipment did not spur hiring like he had hoped for. In fact, with soaring healthcare costs, businesses continued to buy more machinery and layoff more Americans. And because for every action there’s an opposite reaction, no new jobs were created since this administration took office. In fact, there are 821,000 less jobs now than there were four years ago.

But the most interesting in American politics since President Nixon’s campaign. A lot more people are tuned in, a lot more people are following the race closely and a lot more people are going to vote this time around than the past decades.

As the campaigns were unfolding over the past few months, we have got to learn about each candidate’s agenda and their views on domestic and international issues.

Even though voters care about things like national defense, the war on terror and the candidates’ personal qualities, the majority of them are not likely to meet any of the candidates in person or come in close contact with the war in Iraq, so what they truly care about is the economy. They want to know if the stock they bought has gone up or down, whether they can afford the down payment for a new car, or when exactly they can retire.

Economists agree that things have been challenging for both candidates and whether you are a Kerry advocate or a Bush fan, facts indicate that neither will come even close to delivering their campaign promises.

They both promise to
Guest Editorial

Daniel Wiebel
Dateline Staff Writer

Right in the middle of midterms, here are several desperately important yet remarkably under-asked questions for those of you who don’t already have enough to ponder. Having said that, it may seem more expedient during this busy time to stop reading right here and now, but the amount of serious consideration you give these questions, the conclusions at which you arrive after having considered them, and the resulting decisions you make based on those conclusions carry with them the real and immediate potential to virtually alter the course and quality of the rest of your life.

More on this chilling – but certainly not inevitable – prospect later, but first, the questions:

When did the term liberal become a four-letter word? When did our government’s legendary national and political generosity of spirit and treasure become anathema to patriotic American values? And speaking of patriotic American values, when did we begin to consider it wrong to put government revenues back to work in social programs that enhance the lives of the very people whose taxes provided those revenues in the first place? When did our right to hold accountable those elected to office by the people for whom they work become a matter of, at best, disloyalty, and at worst, treason? When did the Constitutionally guaranteed right of the people to peacefully protest government policy give way to the right of law enforcement to arbitrarily hold the people to peacefully protest government policy?

And, right now, today, in mid-October, 2004, ask yourself the most important questions of all:

Will you vote on November 2, or will you allow apathy, laziness, or even plain obstinacy to prevent your participating in the political process? And if you do participate, will you unwittingly vote against your own self-interests? Consider this: more than ever before in the history of our country, casting your vote for any Presidential candidate from a position of ignorance about the issues we face is accompanied by the potential to literally impair the quality of your life. It is imperative that you know the facts before you vote. Seek them out. Educate yourself.

And, right now, today, in mid-October, 2004, ask yourself the most important questions of all:

Everybody says it’s important to vote. Everybody says it’s our duty to participate in the process. Everybody says it’s the only power you have. Even if you acknowledge the logic of such traditional rhetoric, you may believe – especially given the questionable circumstances surrounding the outcome of the last general election – that your vote doesn’t count; that it won’t make a difference. I’m not going to tell you that you have no compelling evidence for having reached that assessment, based on what may have been your first impression of a Presidential election as a young adult, able to fully comprehend the long-term implications. Now, however, four years later, it should be emphasized repeatedly and made crystal clear: if there was ever a time to put away any lingering doubts and use your one power – your vote – it is now.

Attributing to any single politician or party complete blame for the continuing deterioration of quality of life many middle-income Americans are experiencing would border on foolishness. How ever, it should be quite clear to Democrats, Republicans, and Independents alike that, given the stark evidence, the vast majority of the policies and plans implemented by this administration have not been successful, and in fact, some of the currently active policies have, in truth, worked to the detriment of our ability to lead our lives safely and comfortably. Four more years of the Administration’s narrow and intractable ideology could do irrevocable damage to everything for which this country stands.

Before dismissing this statement as mere partisan dogma, it should be pointed out that a considerable amount of supporting documentation is accessible through a vast number of reliable sources, including official reports published by several governmental agencies. Unquestionably, the individuals who make up the current administration care deeply about America and its people, as do we all; their good intent is not at issue here. But when anyone who has been hired to do a job – be it in corporate America or in Washington, D.C. – fails so dramatically and on so many levels to perform effectively, it is time to reconsider the practicality of allowing that individual to remain in a position to do further harm, regardless of their honorable intent to do otherwise.

I was raised to believe that elected officials work for and by permission of the people, and that when they failed in their prescribed duties, it became my responsibility to work toward change. The tool I had been given to effect this change was my vote. I was encouraged to cast it wisely and to take it very seriously. I intend to do so, with great alacrity, on November 2.

So, to the individual who responded to a recent article I wrote by leaving an epitaph for me on the door of the Dateline office, I respond, no, not “partisan,” though the current leadership’s abominable performance has forced me to take a more defined position. No, my friend, I am behaving like a true patriot. Vocalizing my opinion when necessary. Dissenting against leadership when necessary. Speaking truth to power when necessary. Fulfilling my sacred duty as an involved American, as explicitly mandated by the Constitution of the United States of America, to unabashedly make what little ripples I can toward the creation of a better world for myself, for my contemporaries, and for those who come after. Call me what you like – it does not change the undeniable fact that, above all, I am wholly, completely, and unequivocally American.

Just one of millions, doing my job.

Should the Bush administration be voted out of office November 2, consider its legacy as of today. Look at the record. Compare the state of your life to that of four years ago. The contrast does not paint a pretty picture. And you, as Americans, share the responsibility to send a clear message to Washington that a serious change in the policies that influence the direction of this country is imperative. I urge you – no, I beseech you – learn the facts, make an informed decision, and go vote. It is not inconceivable that the very future of your quality of life may be perilously at stake.

I am wholly, completely, and unequivocally American.

ELI Offers Intensive English and Business Programs

The English Language Institute (ELI) has an Intensive English Program for English majors and has been in existence since 1974 under the direction of Gail Kellersberger. ELI offers four types of English programs; residents who live in the Houston community may choose the English Program or the Business Community Program. Companies who are interested in training employees choose the ELI Business Program and the Programs for the Houston Business Community.

ELI offers seven levels of rapid instruction with rapid advancement for students who would like to graduate in a year or less. The Intensive English Program offers an intensive course of study which consists of 20 hours of in-class instruction, 20 hours of computer time each week, 6 sessions per year, classes that meet 5 days a week from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the use of the computer lab which is open from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. The curriculum for the Intensive English Program focuses on testing, promotion, and graduation. New students are assigned a level based on their placement score and a promotion to a new level is offered every session. ELI graduates enter into the university without taking a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). ELI graduates also receive a Certificate of Graduation and 3 hours of academic credit for ELI English study after finishing 12 university credit hours. They may compete for scholarships in their credit classes. ELI students also receive benefits from the university. While in the ELI, they may compete for a small scholarship, and they may attend 4 hours of free pronunciation and conversation each week. The Business English Program consists of studying grammar, business vocabulary, listening, speaking, pronunciation and cross-cultural communication. Special computers are used to help students gear their utterances to standard American English pronunciation.

Students also use computer programs that are designed to develop business English skills. Students may view special videos prepared by Americans for business professionals who must do business across cultures. Students also study business writing. This segment is designed to demonstrate and give practice in the various forms of written communication typically used in American businesses, as well as to help students write grammatically and correctly. Students work with actual business correspondence and may choose computer writing online. Typical instruction may focus upon accent reduction, comprehension, business writing, or general English.
Many of us have heard flamenco music; others have listened to it, but very few of us have actually experienced it. You hear it in the background at classy parties or in cheesy love films, but how often do any of us actually stop and tune into it? With hectic class and work schedules, it becomes a bit difficult to actually “stop and smell the roses.” However, a handful of people got to do so Thursday evening, September 30 as Francesc de Paula Soler, also known as el poeta de la guitarra (the poet of the guitar), blessed the University of Houston-Downtown with the sounds of his guitar in the Robertson Auditorium.

Soler was born in Barcelona, Spain and began his musical studies on the piano at the age of five. When he turned eleven, he moved on to what poet, Federico García Lorca calls “un polifemo de oro” (a Golden Polyphemus) or just simply “la guitarra” (the guitar). He studied under some big names like Andrés Segovia and Narciso Yepes in his later years. Over the period of his illustrious musical career, he has received several honors and awards in the U.S. and as well as abroad. He has also worked with publishers such as Mel Bay and recorded collections of works.

Soler’s Thursday night performance was a real treat for any admirer of fine classical or flamenco music. Soler’s guitar recital didn’t just consist of flamenco strictly from Spain. Throughout the first part of his recital, he presented a wide array of flamenco styles composed by various Latin-American artists, ranging from Manuel M. Ponce (Mexico) to Eliseo Grenete (Cuba) to Ernesto Nazareth (Brazil). Soler demonstrated his command of all the musical pieces without taking away from their integrity. Every rhythm and melody was executed and delivered well, while maintaining a sort of essences to the sound of each country.

After a very brief intermission, the second part of the recital was underway. This part of the recital—I would say—was the most interesting. Soler certainly demonstrated what his introduction described as “flamenco with a twist.” In this part of the show, Soler played flamenco with an interesting blend of American flavor as he “rockified,” “jazzified” and “bluesified” his performance. Soler certainly made his presence known as a poet by the end of the night.

It isn’t just so much his high acclaim from critics all around the world or his awards that earn him the name, el poeta de la guitarra; it’s Soler’s dedication and love for the universal language that many of recognize as music that earns him this sacred title.

For more information on Francesc de Paula Soler log on to http://fpsoler.eresmas.net.
Cherylynn MacGregor
“Life and Living”

by Briana Pedriza
Dateline Staff Writer

On a pre-interview phone call, Cherylynn MacGregor said, “When you see my office, you’ll know all you need to know about me.” Her comment immediately sparked a flash of curiosity and I just had to meet this UHD professor, who was an interesting choice for our first UHD Professor Spotlight. And she was right; her office, located at S-607, was quite the inviting atmosphere and my inquisitiveness came with ease at our very informal, but certainly profound meeting to discuss people, health, life, and death.

Immediately, I had to know what her favorite course to teach was. “All of them, for different reasons,” she replied without hesitation. “Anthropology is the study of people, past, present, and future and culture is everything. I like teaching that and allowing students opportunities to get to know each other. Health, Medicine and Culture examines how different cultures view health and medicine and also provides students with many opportunities that relate to real life. Death and Dying is a course with a Social Science prefix that cuts across all the Social Science disciplines. It looks at death and dying culturally, psychologically, politically, and economically.”

She further explained the delicate nature of such a course and instantly my mind wondered about how students generally deal with the subject matter of such a serious course. “Because there is such a range of emotional backgrounds that come into the Death and Dying course each semester, I have to be careful to prepare everyone to deal with the subject of death. The way I do this is through several projects. The life-threatening illness project is at mid-term and for the end of the year project my students have to plan their entire funeral. The Death Squad Collages help too. That is where the students document and chart all the death they see, whether in the news, t.v., movies, or anywhere around them over a certain period of time.”

Another thing I knew at once was that I could be forever intrigued by her conversation, so I posed the question of how she would persuade someone who didn’t otherwise have to take one of her courses to take one. Her response was a bit painful, but comforting at the same time: “The courses I teach deal with real life and in the course of the semester, someone will lose somebody that they know, or know someone that has lost someone, that is just the reality of it, but they will be among the greatest support group by being in my class. My one hope is that after 14 weeks of talking about death, I hope they just get a better appreciation of life. In fact, if I were to rename the course, it would be Life and Living and not Death and Dying. That, and the way that I teach (hands-on) would apply to their lives. I firmly believe that the more you practice, the more it sinks in and things become more real. And I tell lots of personal stories so I can make it real.”

Finally, I just had to know why she had chosen to teach these courses. “Much more beyond my academic background, I am a walking miracle. I have had 7 tumors, with more beyond my academic background, I am a walking miracle. I have had 7 tumors, with my first at the age of 16, and I have suffered 2 heart attacks. I have a disorder called Myasthenia gravis, a muscular disorder, and all of this has been each time, a reality check for me. I feel that people can help others through negative experiences only if they decide to turn it into something positive. I just love what I do.”

Our chat went on for almost two hours and I was deeply impressed by her dedication to teaching, her positive outlook on life, and her encouraging approach to difficult subjects. It was a meaningful conversation that left me feeling inspired and grateful to have had the chance to meet and learn from Cherylynn MacGregor.

College Bowl Tournament Results:
29 players on 9 teams and 18 faculty members participated

1st place team (undefeated):
Taylor Landis
Billy Hoya
Tek Williams

2nd place team
Melinda lida
Florencio Armando Gallegos
Iride Gramajo
Minh Lam

1st place individual scorer:
Taylor Landis

2nd place individual scorer:
J.B. Bobbitt
3rd place individual scorer:
Armando Gallegos

* FREE SCREENINGS! *
- Fahrenheit 9/11-

Revolt:
Monday, Oct 25 @ 2 PM & Monday, Nov 1 @ 7 PM
at UHD’s Wilhelmina Cullen Auditorium
Come see Michael Moore’s controversial film and winner of the Cannes Palme d’Or!
APATHY  
continued from page 1

apathetic mass of voters in this country as a steady part of their base. Your silence is considered as a form of consent; it simply says that you are willing to submit to any and all intrusions that this government can enact on your rights. The outcome of the next four years is certainly unknown; however, those of you who choose not to vote must forfeit your right to complain. Your apathy has served to deliver the representation that currently exists.

Imagine if you will the hard-swallowing press conferences that would take place the morning of November 3, 2004 if the nationwide voter turnout soared to 93 percent. Unfortunately, we do not have compulsory voting laws in the United States; unlike Germany or Australia where the voter turnout is consistently above 85 percent. Putting the differences between these political systems aside, the bottom line is that in the U.S. we have more access to government than any nation in the world, and we continually deny ourselves the ability to take control of it.

Without a mass of apathetic individuals who simply refuse to participate, professional politicians would be forced to adhere to a system of true accountability. As it stands today, professional politics remains to be held accountable by innumerable corporations and those individuals who own them maintain the broadest access to the highest offices. Choosing “not to vote” is a noble decision; however, one must realize that in a democracy there is no form of neutrality. A “non-vote” is a choice for the victor. Professional politicians are counting on your apathy this November; when acceptance speeches are being aired next month the victors will be directing their “Thanks!” to you.

The Weight-ing Game: Losing weight the safe way

by Billy Hoya  
Dateline Staff Writer

As more and more Houstonians are tipping the scales a little too far, many are looking for an easy way to lose weight, and many are turning to fad diets like South Beach and Atkins, but do these diets really work?

According to Trina Hawkins, an interning nurse practitioner at the University of Houston Downtown Student Clinic, some of these diets do work, but there may be an easier, safer alternative.

Hawkins says the worst of the fad diets is the Atkins Diet due to its low carbohydrate and high fat and protein intake. Such diets can lead to serious kidney and liver problems. “You have to have carbs to function,” she adds.

The best of the fad diets is the South Beach Diet, because is allows for the intake of more carbohydrates. But even better than the South Beach Diet is the FDA Food Pyramid. Hawkins points to the fact that programs like the Quick Weight Loss System are just gussied up versions of the pyramid.

Though the food pyramid has come under attack in recent years, Hawkins says this is due in part to a misinterpretation of the pyramid’s serving size information. She says that one slice of bread “is equal to one serving from the grain group … by the time someone eats a sandwich, they’ve already had two of the six daily servings from the grains groups.”

The daily serving size for meat, according to the pyramid, is about the size of your palm. One serving of vegetables is about the size of your fist. One serving of fruit would consist of an apple about the size of a baseball. A daily allowance of fats, oils, and sweets would consist of a piece of margarine or butter about the size of the tip of your thumb.

Another integral part of weight loss is exercise. For those just getting started, Hawkins suggests that people start with something light, like a beginners’ Yoga or Tai Chi, both of which are offered at UHD through the Sports & Fitness Department.

A final step in helping you succeed at weight loss is to go on a diet together with someone you know: a group of friends, your husband or wife or your entire family. Hawkins says that this social aspect of dieting is why programs like Weight Watchers are so successful.

If you would like to talk to a Doctor about constructing a diet that is right for you, contact UHD Student Health Services at (713) 221-8137 or to find out more about Tai Chi, Yoga or any other fitness programs offered by the University, contact Sports & Fitness at 713-221-8225.
HURRAH FOR THE TEX REN FEST!

by Shalini Maharaj
Dateline Staff Writer

It’s that time of year again! Yes, my friends, it’s time for the Texas Renaissance Festival (Tex Ren Fest), so grab your special Lord or Lady and head out to Plantersville, Texas, the festival’s home located about 45 minutes north of Houston. The Tex Ren Fest, which is now in its 30th year, kicked off on Oct. 2 and will run on the weekends from 9 am to dusk until Nov. 14. The festival invites you to take a leap back in time to a place where corsets rocked your world and indoor plumbing was no where to be found.

For those of you that have yet to visit it, the Texas Renaissance Festival is a recreation of the European Renaissance. The festival immerses you in as much of the Renaissance culture as marketing and business permits. You can bet that the prices aren’t on a Renaissance scale; admission at the gate is $21 per adult and $10 per child. Information on purchasing discount tickets may also be found online at www.texrenfest.com. Though the prices seem to be the greatest anachronism at the festival they’re worth paying as you’ll find yourself having a merry time.

There are many period characters, which are actors that look and speak like people from the Renaissance Period. One could question the validity of their representations, but they’re so amusing that you end up not caring. There’s a full hierarchy in place. King Henry VIII is apparently, in this day and age, still alive and well. You can find him at the festival as he makes frequent appearances at various jousts and public meals. Under the royals, there is the working class, and then after is the peasant class, the most amusing of all. I pray you do not run into a wench, a Renaissance prostitute, as they seem to be the most boisterous characters of the festival.

Aside from the characters, with over 200 shows daily there are lots of things to do and see at the Tex Ren Fest. If your idea of comedy is watching a Shakespearean clad skeleton puppet tell jokes, then you’ll have a roaring good time at “The Ded Bob Show”. If it is action you seek, then look no further than “Hanlon Lees Action Theatre” at The Arena. There you’ll find knights competing for top bragging rights while their trash-talking maidens back them up.

Without a doubt, there are various opportunities to spend your money at an assortment of shops where you can purchase Renaissance outfits, jewelry, swords and other items. You can buy a complete Renaissance noblewoman costume with a bodice, corset, chemise and skirt for around $200 or you can rent a costume for about $20-$40. Costume rentals can be found in front of the festival’s entrance on the left side.

As we are one of the fattest cities in America there are plenty of opportunities to consume food at the festival. A typical meal, consisting of a drink and entree, will cost about $15.00. You can also attend The King’s Feast for a fee of $90 per person, where you’ll enjoy an all you can eat 6-course Prime Rib meal and a 2-hr variety show. And, of course, there’s always plenty of available alcohol. You can try an assortment of wines, mead, or beer from around the world at the Prince of Wales Pub.

Lastly, for those of you that will attend the festival, I recommend purchasing a Renaissance Booklet at the entrance for $2. This booklet contains information about the shops and shows at the festival, and it will insure the safety of your day.

For more information you can visit www.texrenfest.com or call 936-894-2516.

UDH Professor

My first morning in Japan. I had a chat with my host’s kids - son Colin, home from Cornell University, and Anna, a high school student. Both were charming, well-read American young people, fluent both in reading and writing Japanese.

I read a bit, studied some Japanese and did some origami, the calming Japanese art of paper folding. Turns out I shared this interest with Colin. We compared patterns, making geodesic domes, swans and boxes. Brunch was served by Anna and housekeeper Etsuyo. Since Anna’s mom had received a fully paid sabbatical from her university (did you hear that UHD administrators! Sabbatical?) and was going to Wales for a year. Anna was going with her to improve her English writing skills and had decided it was time to learn to cook.

In the afternoon, one of Pam’s friends came to introduce me to Hayama. Keiko Tohya and Colin drove around in a spick and span Toyota. This was not a model I had ever seen before, but many major automakers make different models in different countries. Keiko-san has been to Houston, but felt a bit insecure with her English. We were both in the same boat encouraging each other to give it a go. As the day passed she spoke more and more, while I tried my few practiced Japanese sentences and she even understood me!

Our first stop was a museum dedicated to Emperor Hirohito’s marine animal collection. I had not realized he was a highly-respected scientist. He had catalogued marine species from all over, which was fascinating in itself, but what was so truly Japa-
The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Houston released their annual report on banned books in the State of Texas from last year. Saturday October 2, was the final day of “Banned Books Week” [Sept. 25-Oct. 2], which is sponsored by the ACLU to raise awareness about censorship and literature within the state of Texas.

As an effort to display a cross-section of the books that have been banned within our state over the past year, the ACLU sponsored a reading that was held from 6-8 p.m. at Quarter Price Books, 3820 S. Shepherd. The spectrum of readings included a section from James Joyce’s Ulysses, C.S. Lewis’s The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, as well as John Stenbeck’s Of Mice and Men, just to name a few.

Vice President Mike Oeser, who also coordinated this event, has been on the Board of Directors of the Houston Chapter of the ACLU for over a year. Responding to questions after the event, Mr. Oeser stated, “Censorship is not something of the past. Books are continuously being banned throughout the state. The importance of raising awareness about these books is paramount. Within our society there are many different perspectives; even if you do not agree with the contents of one of these examples, being exposed to it will cause you to grow.”

Larry Turk, owner and operator of Quarter Price Books, housed this event. This was the first time he had been involved with this awareness program. He has been at this location for seven years, and in response to questions about the reading, he said, “It has been fun…and important. This is a great way of reminding everyone of the purpose of literature and its importance as a form of expression.”

This event has occurred annually throughout the Houston community, and the organizers from the ACLU are planning to spend more time publicizing the event next year. If you are interested in learning more about the ACLU in Houston or would like to obtain a copy of the Annual Report on Banned and Challenged Books in Texas, 2003-2004, you can go online at www.bannedbooks.info.

**POLITICS**

*continued from page 1*

Don’t bet on Senator Kerry just yet. His promises to reduce employers’ healthcare costs and reduce trade deficits completely contradict each other. And his tax cuts for small businesses and those healthcare costs and reduce trade deficit yet. His promises to reduce employers’

for factory workers. A content that reflects the business where the trainee is employed is used to promote language competence into the trainee’s profession.

The English Language Institute custom-designs training programs for both groups and individuals in the Houston business community. Companies may send their trainee(s) to the university or request an on-site program. A content that reflects the business where the trainee is employed is used to promote language competence in the trainee’s profession. Prospective business clients may ask for our list of companies for whom we have delivered training.

The cost of all of the four English programs depends on the program that the student chooses. For more information, please contact Gail Killersberger by phone at (713) 221-8047, by fax at (713) 221-8457 or by email at eli@uhd.edu. International students can contact Nosa M. Ioyha by phone at (713) 221-8677, by fax at (713) 221-8157 or by email iyoha@uhd.edu.

**Actions, Vitrines, Environments Joseph Beuys on Exhibit at the Menil**

*by Billy Hoya*

*Dateline Staff Writer*

For the first time since 1979, Joseph Beuys’ work will be exhibited in America at the Menil. Beuys, who was born in 1921 and died in 1986, is cited as wielding enormous influence over many of the sculptors of the 20th century, including Alberto Giacometti and Eva Hesse.

Many of his works may seem at first confusing or pointless to the average viewer, but on further examination they possess a special meaning. For example, Ausfigen [Sweeping Up] is a somewhat plain diorama containing a large pile of trash with a push broom laying on top. A small speaker in the display plays the gentle sounds of a broom being pushed over a floor. The trash was collected by the artist himself from the streets of East Berlin, and is said to represent the artist molding “chaos into a state of order.”

The End of the Twentieth Century, one of Beuys environmental works, consists of a room filled with long pillars of basalt that would look more at home in a construction site off of the Katy Freeway. But on further inspection, the viewer notices circular grooves cut into the pillars and filled with clay and felt, as if to suggest the possibility of new life or growth even within the toxic environment. Perhaps it represents a chance for a new start in the toxic environment known as the 20th Century.

If you are the type of person that does not find the abstract attractive or you grimace at the thought of walking through the Twombly Gallery, then this exhibit is not for you. But if you enjoy a good challenge, and enjoys trying to find the hidden meaning of a piece to not only the artist, but the viewer as well, this exhibit is right for you.

Joseph Beuys: Action, Vitrines, Environments will be on exhibit at the Menil till January 2. On November 8th, Professor Charles W. Haxthausen will be giving the a lecture on Beuys work entitled “Allegorical Spaces: Thoughts on the Installations of Joseph Beuys.”

For more information about either, visit the Menil web site at http://www.menil.org/.