Managing Editor
By Cody Roberts

UHD Recycling Program Needs Your Help

By Cody Roberts
Managing Editor

Recycling Receptacles Need Your Plastics

Recycle

Textbook Mayhem

Legislative Help for Rising Textbook Costs

By Sean Augabright
Staff Writer

Executive Editor
By Jay D. Judge

Most college students recognize that the environment is in dire need of help. At the recent MTV Video Music Awards, musician turned award-winning actress Queen Latifah presented a brief soliloquy on the state of nature before introducing former Vice President Al Gore to the throngs of screaming fans. It was a quiet respite from the rest of the evening’s riotous performances by MTV over the course of the 2004 election. The question posed was what issue young people of the MTV generation—our generation—felt would most affect our future. The answer was surprising, as it did not pertain to the election of trustworthy leadership, civil liberties, the war in Iraq, nor homeland security.

It was not the Social Security or Medicare issues, and it was not the immigration debate. The answer was the environment. Young people feel that this is the biggest issue, the issue that would most affect our future, and the issue that they feel is being paid the least attention.

Granted, with the current state of global affairs, one can easily overlook such paltry issues as the reduction of greenhouse gases, legislation on emissions and pollutants, global warming, vanishing species of plants and animals...until it all comes crashing down in the form of tsunamis, hurricanes, and the rapid depletion in the health of what should really be the first priority

Photo by Juan Ortiz

The specific poll was taken by MTV over the course of the Rock the Vote festivities of the 2004 election. The question posed was what issue young people of the MTV generation—our generation—felt would most affect our future. The answer was surprising, as it did not pertain to the election of trustworthy leadership, civil liberties, the war in Iraq, nor homeland security.

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See MAYHEM pg 7

By now, you may have recovered from the sticker shock of your textbook-buying experience. Perhaps you are already eyeing apprehensively at next semester’s hardbound, new-edition bloodletting. If so, you are not the only one concerned about the rising cost of college textbooks.

Texas State Representative Scott Hochberg, along with some of his Democratic colleagues, announced a legislative proposal late last month that intends to reduce the cost of student textbooks. Hochberg, from Southwest Houston’s District 137, outlined six specific steps to his plan:

1) Require books to be used for at least three years whenever possible.
2) Make it easier to shop around for better prices.
3) Don’t require students to buy extra materials like CDs and workbooks, etc. that the professor does not expect the class to use.
4) Use state purchasing power to lower prices.
5) Create a pilot program for rental textbooks.
6) Prohibit gifts or payments from publishers that could influence book selection.

In his press release, Hochberg states, “College textbook costs are rising much faster than inflation,” Hochberg said, “and students have no choice but to pay those prices. Students have told me that they often end up sharing books, copying necessary pages, using older editions, and doing whatever they can to save money.”

A study conducted in 2005 by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) supports his claim. It concluded that over the past 20 years, textbook costs have outpaced the rate of inflation by two hundred percent. The GAO estimated that the yearly cost of books and supplies for a full-time student was $898 at a typical four-year public institution.

The reasons for the rising costs are caused, in part, by the business strategies of the publishers. Hochberg remarked, “… [P]ublishers are changing editions every year and forcing students to buy extra materials like CDs and workbooks that they don’t need. Those practices must stop.”

While it may make sound business sense to publish a new edition every time the leaves change, it seems like the only thing “new” about the new edition is the price. Some courses, by their very subject matter, should need little, if any, updating. How much has College Algebra changed since Robert Recorde invented the ‘=’ sign in the 16th century? US History to 1877 is another good example. It’s history. Are we even supposed to update it? The addition of the twenty-seven 8”x10” color, glossy pictures with captions and cross-references and a paragraph on the back of each one, explaining what each one was; is a nice touch, but hardly worth an extra 26 percent price hike.

‘Bundling’ is another tactic...
Kinky Concluded...

By Peter Carlson

Washington Post

Part 3 of 3

The Second Career

Kinky Friedman has lived a life that could, and soon might, inspire the world’s most entertaining political attack ad.

“I’ve been stoned a lot of times,” he says. “And I’ve been involved with a lot of beautiful women. And I don’t regret any of it.”

He was born Richard Friedman in 1945 in Chicago, but his parents soon moved to Texas. His mother was a speech therapist, his father a professor of educational psychology at the University of Texas. In 1952, they founded Echo Hill, a Jewish summer camp in the Texas Hill Country, where Kinky worked as a counselor and began performing with Jef ward, singing old folk songs and a new one that Kinky wrote at age 11: “Old Ben Lucas, had a lot of mucus coming right out of his nose…”

“He was energetic, he was pushing the envelope and he was doing things to irritate people,” Jewford recalls. “He was pretty much the same as he is now.”

At the University of Texas, he was nicknamed Kinky -- a reference to his hair, not, alas, to anything more risqué. After graduating in 1966, he joined the Peace Corps and was sent to Benin in S260. All submissions become property of University of Houston-Downtown or its administration or students. EDITORIAL POLICY: The opinions and commentaries expressed within reflect the views of the contributing writers. No opinions expressed in the Dateline Downtown viewpoints of the University of Houston-Downtown or its administration or students. Dateline Downtown reserves the right to edit or modify submissions for the sake of clarity, content, grammar or space limitations. Electronic submissions should be sent to the editor and all other submissions, which must include a signed copy on a floppy disc, should be sent to the Dateline Office in S260. All submissions become property of Dateline Downtown and may not be returned. If you have any questions, please call (713) 221-8569.

...UH’s proposal could go against civil rights agreement over the last 25 years that pressures Texas to strengthen and enhance campuses and academic programs at historically black institutions.

-George Wright, President of Prairie View A&M-

The letter written by Ms. Maranville is not correct, and is misinformed. Dr. Molly Wood, VP of Academic Affairs and Provost at the University of Houston-Downtown issued the following statement in response to the letter:

“The College of Business at the University of Houston-Downtown (UHD) has developed a MBA degree that is currently in the approval process within the University of Houston System. The proposed degree was approved by the various levels at UHD and by the U of H System Provosts’ Council during the 2004-2005 academic year. The last two steps in the process are approval by the U of H System Board of Regents and finally the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. UHD’s College of Business (COB) has the largest number of majors and graduates in the university and many of these graduates are eagerly awaiting the approval of this degree. The approval of the MBA was recently identified as the highest goal of the COB faculty during their Strategic Long Range Planning Retreat.”

Clearly, the university has not made a decision to stop pursuing the MBA program at the University of Houston-Downtown.

WANT TO ADVERTISE?

Contact our Business Manager
Tayvis Dunnahoe
(713) 221-8192
tayvis@gmail.com

Kinky had some success -- he played the Grand Ole Opry, joined Bob Dylan’s Rolling Thunder Revue and toured with Willie Nelson -- but by the early 80’s, his career was tanking. His longtime girlfriend had died in a car crash and he was doing way too much dope.

“He was high on 27 different herbs and spices,” says Jimmie “Ratso” Silman, a Washington TV cameraman who has played backup guitar for Kinky off and on since the 70s. “He was a different person back then, definitely fairly repellent as a human being.”

“I quit doing cocaine,” Kinky says, “when Bob Marley fell out of my left nostril.”

Actually, he quit doing cocaine when he moved into a trailer on the grounds of his parents’ camp and began a second career writing comic mystery novels. The novels -- he wrote 17 -- feature a country singer-turned-detective named Kinky Friedman, who smokes cigars, cracks a lot of jokes and occasionally solves a case.

“The point wasn’t the mystery, it was the voice,” says Evan Smith. “The guy has got one of the most extraordinary authorial voices.”

When Smith became editor of Texas Monthly in 2000, he hired Kinky as a columnist. The column was funny and very popular, but editing the Kinkster wasn’t always easy. Once he did a column about . . . well, we can’t say what it was about, for the same reason that Smith wouldn’t run it.

“Kinky is 60 going on 12,” Smith says.

A few years ago, Kinky called Smith at 7 in the morning, grumbling that he couldn’t think of an idea for a column. Smith burst out a suggestion: “Why don’t you run for something?”

So Kinky wrote a column about running for governor. Smith Smith wouldn’t run it.

See KINKY pg 6

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See KINKY pg 6
Textbook Tips

By Sean Augabright
Staff Writer

In a related article in this issue you can read Texas State Representative Scott Hochberg’s proposed legislation for lowering the cost of textbooks. Unfortunately, any help from Austin will come too late to relieve the spring semester book-buying blues. There are ways to beat the bookstore prices, however. With a little effort and planning, you can save hundreds on your textbooks.

The first step is to start early. As soon as the spring class line-up is posted, find the instructor that will be teaching your course. This is easily done through UHD’s student e-services website. From the e-services web page, search for your class by selecting ‘Class Schedule’, ‘Spring 2006’ semester and fill in the appropriate search criteria. The search results will show the instructor’s name in the fourth column from the right. You can then get the instructor’s email by clicking the ‘People/Campus Directory’ link in the top menu bar on the e-services main page.

Politely - very politely – inform the instructor that you’ll be taking the course in the spring and would like to know the ISBN number(s) of the required text(s) for the course, at his convenience. Explain that your early preparation will enable you to find the most economic way to be prepared for that first class. Most instructors will appreciate your diligence and frugality and give you the information you need.

Before you actually purchase your text, ensure that you have the correct 10-digit International Standard Book Number, or ISBN. Look for it above the bar code on the textbook’s back cover or title page. If you are purchasing your text online, the order details page should contain the ISBN along with the book title, author and edition.

Once armed with the ISBN for a used book is $11.50 ($3.49 standard shipping). You can see the savings start to add up if you have five or six books to buy each semester.

There are other options, though less appealing than having your own textbook. Some students are employing book-sharing to beat the high textbook costs. Not having immediate access to your own book can be problematic. Older editions of the textbooks can be used in some courses. Check with the professor to see if the new edition of the textbook being used for the course has substantial changes. If the instructor doesn’t teach the course regularly, he or she may not have this textbook.

A new edition of the textbook often means new page numbers. If you can get your hands on an old syllabus with the old page numbers, you may be able to get away with using a previous edition of the book.

Also, think international. Often the publisher makes an international version that is identical to the U.S. counterpart except it might be a paperback instead of a hardback to cut on shipping costs. The content is usually the same. Buying international versions of textbooks could save in some cases up to 90 percent of the U.S. retail price. To find international textbooks, you can go to www.bestbookbuys.com or www.amazon.co.uk. The ENG 3304 text was available for $27.96, but be mindful of the shipping point.

A little advance planning to find out what books you have to buy can pay off in the long run. Start searching early so you’ll have a chance to buy used books, which often sell out fast once the semester starts. When it comes to shopping for college books, it is a textbook case of the early bird getting the bargain.
Clipse Believe the Hype

By Woodie Stephenson
Staff Writer

After a barrage of setbacks and ceases, the highly anticipated sophomore album by Clipse will at last find a release date in October. Following a lengthy legal battle, the Jive Records release, *Hell Hath No Fury*, is appropriately scheduled for a Halloween debut with two new singles already setting the rap world abuzz.

After finding their label Arista Records absolved into the larger subsidiary Jive Records in 2003, the Virginia based hip-hop duo would find their record temporarily shelved from further development. A large industry merger between BMG and Sony unfortunately left the duo relegated to Jive while the rest of their production team at Star Trak found a new home at Interscope. Known for their alliance with the sharp production team The Neptunes, Clipse, comprised of brothers Pusha-T and Malice, made a strong impression with their debut release in 2001. However, controversy is no stranger to the group; the duo has shared an endless onslaught of setbacks from their inception in 1993 when their first recording attempt *Exclusive Audio Footage* was shelved by Elektra Records. After finding a lack of distribution for their product once again, Clipse released a series of well received underground mix tapes known as the *We Got it 4 Cheap* mix tape series. During the legal battle with Jive, Clipse further solidified their clout by creating their own label imprint, Re-up Records which would eventually reach an agreement with Jive to distribute *Hell Hath No Fury*.

The first single from the forthcoming release, “Mr. Me Too,” is a slick down-tempo track with a deep rattling bass produced by and featuring none-other-than Pharrell Williams of The Neptunes. An almost eerie slow staccato bass emanates over the tight drums as the duo returns to form. The track is already working its way up the charts garnering buzz for the unreleased record. The album’s second massive single features Houston’s own up-and-coming Slim Thug, also a Star Trak Records roster member. The anticipated collaboration, “Wamp Wamp (What it Do),” pairs the deep and authoritative baritone of Slim Thug with the nonchalant lyrics of Clipse to create a track with slick verses and a powerful and catchy chorus. The production work on “Wamp Wamp” rivals the best of The Neptunes’ catalog with precise clarity and a breathy relaxed feel. Additional guest spots on Hell Hath No Fury include R. Kelly, fellow trap-rapper Young Jeezy, Sean Paul, and Young Buck.

To view Clipse page and preview *Hell Hath No Fury*, visit http://www.myspace.com/clipse.

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**LIFE IN HELL**

I’m furious with you.

How do you feel now?

Furious and in love.

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**OLOGS BY MATT GROENING**

PAGE 4
AMA Guest Speaker
Judge Jay D. Hirsch

By Eric Saville
Guest Writer

Come see what we’re all about at this fall’s guest speaker series, hosted by the UHD AMA. The American Marketing Association will be presenting many guest speakers this fall to enlighten us on how different industries employ various marketing and promotion strategies to build a successful business. Our first topic of conversation is marketing in the legal system, with guest speaker Judge Jay D. Hirsch.

Judge Jay D. Hirsch has worn and continues to wear many hats related to the legal profession. He has been a practicing attorney for 40 plus years, served as a Judge in the U.S. Army Reserve, JAG unit, in excess of 10 years, a court-appointed mediator for many years, and an Associate Judge for the Municipal Courts, being appointed by Houston City Council six years ago. He continues to serve as an Adjunct Professor at both South Texas College of Law and Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston teaching professional liability and Insurance Law, and writes the textbook for these courses.

While serving on the bench and teaching law school, he still found time to build an extremely successful and nationally recognized insurance defense firm, Hirsch, Glover, Robinson & Sheinies, which served Texas insurance companies and their insurers throughout Texas for over 28 years. In 2002, he merged his practice with a healthcare group, Kroger, Myers & Frishy, adding his expertise to their professional liability practice and bringing with him an impressive group of lawyers practicing general tort.

Judge Hirsch speaks at State Bar seminars, educating lawyers, has written numerous articles, textbooks, and has made some significant law for the insurance industry in Texas. Although you may appropriately address him as “Judge Hirsch,” or “Colonel Hirsch,” “Professor Hirsch,” or even Mr. Hirsch, he is perhaps best known as “The Junkyard Dog,” a nickname given to him years ago by his son when he watched his Father in trial. His son, an artist, sketched his metaphorical likeness: a bulldog. Hirsch thereafter became “The Junkyard Dog.” This nickname stuck, and he continues to receive calls from clients who need a tenacious and aggressive attorney on their cases. His trial skills have gained him the respect of the plaintiff and defense bar, the judiciary, and clients on a nationwide basis.

Currently, Judge Hirsch heads the firm’s marketing efforts at Kroger, Myers, Frishy & Hirsch, giving seminars to insurance companies and the medical profession. A practicing attorney for more than 40 years, Judge Hirsch has built a lifetime of expertise and experience in the profession of law. He has also represented a multitude of physicians and prominent hospitals, including St. Luke’s and MD Anderson Cancer Center. During his career, he has been involved in several precedent-setting lawsuits which results in a change in the law in Texas.

In a recent interview for Top Attorneys in Houston by Texas magazine editor, he was asked about why he had stayed in teaching so many years. “Teaching is also my passion. If I had to choose between teaching and trying lawsuits in the courtroom, I don’t know if I could ever make a choice,” he said. So, he does both, while also devoting considerable

See JUDGE JAY pg 6
thought he was kidding. So did everybody else. But Kinky -- who, in his only other stab at elective office, ran unsuccessfully for justice of the peace back in the ‘80s -- decided to make a serious run.

“I said, ‘If you’re really serious, you can’t write for us,’” Smith recalls. “‘When you announce officially, I’m going to have to fire you.’”

Early in 2005, Kinky announced his candidacy on the Don Imus radio show and Smith fired him. Now, Smith hopes Kinky will lose so he can start writing the column again. He’s fond of Kinky. In fact, he’s fond of both Kinks.

“There’s definitely the act and the person,” he says. “The person is more insecure and more sweet. He is one of the most genuinely sweet-tempered people I’ve ever met. You see it when he’s with children or animals. . . . “There’s a definite sadness about him. He’s alone. His mother and father are dead -- he was very close to them -- and he’s not married. In a way, this campaign is a way for him to be out with a lot of people.”

Hitting the Jackpot

“I gotta go to Vegas,” Kinky says.

He’s eating lunch at a Mexican restaurant in Fort Worth and longing for a slot machine. His campaign promise to bring casinos to Texas is not mere wonkery. Kinky loves playing the $5 slots. “It’s meditative,” he says. His love was reciprocated last summer, when he won $45,000 playing $5 slots in Louisiana.

“God help the small child who steps between me and a slot machine,” he says, smiling.

His lyrical ruminations on gambling are interrupted when a woman comes to the table to ask for his autograph. A few moments later, a couple stop by to pose for a picture with Kinky.

This happens all over Texas. The previous day, in Houston, a Republican geologist recognized Kinky on the sidewalk and pledged his support. A few hours later, at a Waffle House in rural Ennis, two elderly cowboys said they’ll vote for Kinky, too. Later, a waitress in Fort Worth told Kinky that her coven had voted to endorse him.

Now, in the Mexican restaurant, Kinky’s shaking hands and posing for pictures.

“He’ll get my vote,” says Ray Lopez, 32, an auto technician eating with his family. “I know it’s a cliche, but I like the underdog. And I like the individualism he brings to the campaign.”

Kinky wallows in the love. “I’m predicting landslide,” he says on the way back to the hotel.

As he strolls into the lobby, Kinky is recognized by a retired autoworker named Billy Vann.

“I like your style,” Vann says. “If you get in, it’ll be because of your style.”

Always the Maverick

Chowing down on eggs Benedict, Kinky grumbles about his shirt.

It’s the morning after his speech at the Flying Saucer and he’s still wearing the same black shirt that he’d found a tad too fragrant last night. It’s a problem: He packed only one black shirt, and he can’t very well appear in public out of costume. They need to go to a drugstore, he tells Jewford, to buy some of that Febreze stuff that you spray on shirts to de-funkify them.

It’s crucial to get Febreze today, Kinky says, because tomorrow he’ll be addressing a Dallas convention of the National Association of the Blind.

“They’re blind,” Kinky says. “That means they have a heightened sense of smell.”

Maybe he’s joking. But he looks serious.

Anyway, there’s no time for shopping now. They’ve got to hustle down the highway to join Willie Nelson for a news conference on biodiesel fuels.

A couple of hours later, the news conference begins at Carl’s Corner, a biodiesel gas station off Route 35. But Nelson is a no-show, and a panel of earnest environmentalists drones on about renewable resources.

“This is stupifyingly dull,” Kinky says, watching from the back of the crowd.

But he’s got exciting news: He just thought of a great new line to use in his stump speech. He pauses dramatically, then reveals it: “I’m not like them.”

He’s smiling. He loves this line. He whips out his notebook and writes it down in big block letters: “NOT LIKE THEM.”

He’s right about that. No matter who “them” is, Kinky’s not like them. If Texans want to elect a certified non-them as governor, they’ll know where to find him.

NUCLEAR
continued from page 3

ways have the U.S.’s profoundly negative image abroad facilitated both countries willingness to resist the U.S.’s policy on nuclear arms? How can the U.S. better understand the reasons why North Korea and—according to the Bush Administration’s fears—Iran, are in the process of acquiring nuclear arms? In what ways can the U.S. use that understanding to reach a resolution with North Korea and Iran?

The town hall is part of a broader series called The People Speak, which is building discussions in the U.S. on a wide range of issues, including peace, security, human rights, energy and global climate change, and the Millennium Development Goals. The People Speak series offers a rare opportunity for all Americans to consider topics such as global security, development, and the environment.

For more information on this series, visit www.thepeoplespeak.org. For questions regarding the town hall, contact Chris Graves at si_cgraves@yahoo.com or Debbie Hernandez at brighteyes.debbie@gmail.com. Information on Americans for Informed Democracy is at www.aidemocracy.org.

JUDGE JAY
continued from page 5

time to philanthropic pursuits.

Judge Hirsch is one of the top attorneys in the state and because he is equally as well known as the “guru of law firm marketing.”

Keep your eyes open for future presentations from the UHD AMA.

AMA Event: How Marketing Contributes to a Law Firm’s Success

When: Tuesday Sept. 26th

6:30-7:30pm

Where: Room N1099
of every nation: Earth, our home. Then and only then do those issues cease to be “paltry,” and it looks as if that time has come, if it isn’t already too late.

With a problematic situation so massive, one usually feels the typical American feelings of helplessness and innocuous detachment. After all, what can one person do for a planet so huge? Well, it may not seem you can do much at all except stand by the old maxim of “thinking globally, acting locally.”

Not everyone’s neighborhood in the greater Houston area has a recycling program, and this usually stems from a lack of funding or a simple lack of participation. Which brings me to my next point: Ever notice the large grey Coke bottles that lurk in the corners on every floor on campus? Believe it or not, they’re there for a reason. Those are UHD’s recycling receptacles, and sadly, they aren’t being used. Every individual classroom has some kind of waste receptacle of its own, but those are not for plastic bottles and aluminum cans. Not a day goes by when those same classroom wastebaskets are spilling over with trash that for the most part contains recyclable goods. It only takes a split second to keep from ditching a water bottle, fruit juice, Diet Coke or Sprite, or even the plastic Starbucks cups. Take that Diet Coke or Sprite, or even the ditching a water bottle, fruit juice, takes a split second to keep from doing. Many recycling receptacles are spilling over by when those same classroom wastebaskets are spilling over with trash that hasn’t garnered enough recyclables to fill a quarter of the dumpster provided. The container takes up space and has drawn more insects and odors than recyclables. As Director of Facilities Manager Chris McCall has noted, “I don’t believe the level of participation we are currently experiencing can justify the plastic recycling program.” Sadly, Mr. McCall is correct. So what can be done and what’s up with all those giant Coke bottles?

For one, people have to stop throwing trash and food into the receptacles. That’s not what they’re for, and using them in this fashion only leads to someone else having to pick through the trash to separate your garbage. No food, no trash, and no cardboard or paper. Any hard plastic container (no bags or baggies), such as 20 oz. soft drink bottles, water bottles, or any other plastic bottle or container is acceptable. It is preferable if the container is empty or cleaned. Aluminum cans are acceptable for the Coke receptacles as well. The recycle logo is generally stamped somewhere on appropriate recyclable material, in a corner or on the bottom of the can or bottle. The university itself provides extensive recycling of office materials, corrugated cardboard and wooden pallets; the plastic containers recycled by students only strengthens and supplements the recycling program as a whole. It is important that the UHD community not lose this valuable tool for providing the small service of helping pay the overdue debt we owe to our planet. If you ever feel helpless in the war against the destruction of our natural environment, recycling is a small, but no less valuable tool for the individual that must be practiced properly at UHD. Keep an eye out for signs and reminders from the campus Environmental Club and be sure and stuff those giant Coke bottles full of proper recyclables so we don’t needlessly lose this valuable source of collective social and environmental consciousness.

RECYCLE
continued from page 1
FREE Classified Ads for all students, faculty, and employees. All submissions should include a brief description of what you are advertising (25 words or less) as well as your contact information.

You may submit these as an e-mail to the Dateline Business Manager at tayvis@gmail.com. All ads will remain in print until notification is received that it has been successful. All ads will be published on a first come, first serve basis, so don’t waste any time. Use your campus newspaper to sell your stuff today!

Fall 2006
CAREER EXPO

Wednesday, September 27, 2006
10 AM - 3 PM
Special Events, A300

Bring resumés and dress professionally.

For details and to volunteer contact Career Services, 713-221-8900, 340-N.