Mayor White speaks at Red Rose Ball

Mayor Bill White told Red Rose Ball attendees that UHD is succeeding where others are failing in “leaving no child behind” in education.

Biotechnology and the 21st Century Economy

Article originally published in the March 2007 issue of Feature Focus

By Timika Simmons
Dateline: Downtown

On January 29th The Center for Houston’s Future and BioHouston hosted a fishbowl discussion on “Biotechnology and the 21st Century Economy.” An audience of over 150 members heard distinguished panelists Dr. Mauro Ferrari (President, Alliance for NanoHealth), Dr. Malcolm Gillis (Professor of Economics, Rice University) and Dr. John Mendelsohn (President, UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center), as part of the Center’s Continuing the Dialogue series. Moderated by Ernie Manouse of Houston PBS Channel 8, the event will be televised locally.

The Center’s focus on the region’s long term economic health leads it to emphasize the importance of biotechnology, according to Ann Lents, president and CEO of the Center. She said, “It’s very likely that the industries that have driven our growth for the last 50 years will not be the same ones that drive our growth during the 21st century.”

The purpose of the evening was to hear from community experts about the promise biotechnology holds for our region’s future and where Houston stands in developing the industry. All panelists agreed that Houston is well-positioned in the field because of its entrepreneurial culture and the leading research conducted in the Texas Medical Center.

Dr. Gillis summarized that Houston researchers and clinicians are doing well. We just need a stronger focus on biotechnology by the business, philanthropic, and political communities. “If we start working now, we can be leaders by 2020.” Because of the long lead time in drug development.
Letter to the Editor

RE: The Lure of Sports by Dr. Kendall

In the March 19 – April 1 edition of Dateline: Downtown, I read the above article with interest. The theme of the article seemed to say that the “Black American Dream” is singularly based in the mega-million sports fields. Too bad Dr. Kendall did not consider the successes of such notable Americans as George Washington Carver, Thurgood Marshall and Clarence Thomas. These notable Americans may have had sports aspirations, but thankfully, they chose to serve America in a bolder way.

Not for one minute do I naively think that discrimination is non-existent in our world. Individually, we make daily decisions as to who we want to associate with, do business with, etc. Is all discrimination evil? I think not. On a personal basis, I make decisions each day that determine who I associate with. Some subtle examples of discrimination can be found in the examples of job applicants who are judged to be obese, too old or non-degreed. How do most people act in an effort to overcome such subtle (or not so subtle) discrimination? I suggest that most will grab themselves by the bootstraps and pull upward rather than whine about woulda, shoulda, coulda! I read the biography of Clarence Thomas and did not find one single mention of any discrimination he experienced during his career. Like most really good sales professionals, we all need to indulge in our personal self motivational talks and move on to higher ground.

When Dr. Kendall resorted to discussing candidates from different ethnic backgrounds, there was an obvious failure to review some potential individual differences that are unrelated to skin color. How would readers of Dr. Kendall’s article judge the following issues affect a candidate that is being actively considered for a position?

- An ability communicate well in English and without slang, or
- Attention to personal grooming for the interview, or
- A lack of a personality match (through testing) for a particular position, or
- Personal initiatives in preparing for an interview; e.g., learning about the company’s culture, how the candidate can contribute to the growth of the company, etc.

Dr. Kendall seemed to say that candidates are purely one dimensional – black or white! Education certainly plays a critical role in our individual success. In my opinion, a person with a great personality and a genuine care for others will enjoy more career rewards with his/her education as a strong foundation.

Unless we actively challenge the stereotyping of America being black or white or brown, we will never move forward with America the Beautiful and not a hyphenated America.

Joe Stiles
UHD Class of 1999
Eat Here!

Onion Creek: Latest Student Hangout

By Andre Wocjick
Assistant Editor

I like to eat. I like to eat well. Sometimes this is hard to do, because, being on a student’s budget, I do not have the money to be able to afford to eat that dry-aged steak at Capital Grill. As a result, I am always on the lookout for a place that is student budget friendly and still manages to serve good food and atmosphere. I found such a place at Onion Creek Café, located in the Heights, just a short distance from UHD.

There is a disclaimer on the menu that states: “If you’re looking for a 5-Star, cater to your every whim, caress your aching feet kinda place…this ain’t it. Our kitchen is small, the lines are long, and it may take a while to get your food…so buy a bucket o’ beer, have a seat, and relax.” Sounds like my kinda place.

My friend Juan and I went to Onion Creek this past week, and we both enjoyed it. To start us off, Juan ordered a frozen mimosa ($3) and some popcorn ($2.00), while I ordered a Cuban breve ($3.50). The coffee was great, as was the mimosa. Onion Creek is technically located just outside of the Heights Historic Neighborhood, which is dry, so it is able to sell alcohol.

The layout is impressive, with an Austin, college-friendly vibe to it. Big wooden tables surround the bar on the inside while a couch-lined lounge area sits to the side. TV screens with sports (the World Cup games were shown last summer) can be seen from any seat. The outdoor patio is inviting, well-shaded, and overlooks funky White Oak Blvd.

For lunch, we overindulged in our voracious ordering. We paid at the bar, then found our way to a table outside. We got a Med plate ($6.95) for a starter. The spinach artichoke hummus was awesome, as was the feta salad that came with it. For our entrées, Juan ordered the OC burger ($7.95) with potato salad; I ordered the chicken pizza ($7.75). The pizza was good, consisting of two slices of ciabatta bread with chicken breast, bacon, cheese, and red onion toasted on top. The OC burger was tasty as well. The hamburger was juicy and the white cheddar, bacon, and avocado gave it a nice zing. It was savory and didn’t require any ketchup or mustard, which surprised me, because I always dump a lot of varying accoutrements on my burger to make it easier to swallow. The “baked potato” salad was excellent, giving it a unique taste and texture from the classic potatoe added bacon.

After our meal, Juan ordered another mimosa, while I stuck with my coffee. We both lit up cigarettes and watched the people passing by on White Oak. I threw some popcorn onto the floor and watched some birds peck at the loose kernels. The atmosphere was as relaxing as a Saturday in the park.

Onion Creek is full of activity, without being busy. There are homemade waffles every morning, happy hour between 4 and 7 during the week, steak night on Thursday, and Jamaican beer night on Thursday. On Saturday mornings, you can even check out the Houston Farmers’ Market in the parking lot.

Everything about Onion Creek is casual and welcoming. Finding a place like this in Houston can be a challenge, with the corporate franchise spots being so popular. If you are into having good food and drinks with good friends, bring them to laid-back Onion Creek, where you will have a good time.

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S A N D W I C H E S S E R V E D W I T H
CHOICE OF SALAD OR CHIPS
ON CIABATTA, WHEAT, FOCA-
CIA OR BAGEL WITH BLUE
CHEESE, BALSAMIC VIN-
AGRETTE OR RANCH
-ROAST BEEF
-BLACK FOREST HAM
-B.L.T.
-O.C. POBOY
-TURKEY
-TUNA -
-VEGGIE
-BOCA BURGER
-COUNTRY ASS RUEBEN
-LOX PLATE

P I Z Z A O N C I A B A T T A - N O S U B-
STITIONS, PLEASE.

-PEPPERONI
-VEGGIE
-CHEESE -
-THE O.C.
Ian Bagg, a Vancouver native, has had a prestigious career in entertainment. He has risen through the comedic ranks, and was featured on a “Comedy Central Presents” half-hour special. He gained great success in Canada and has been touring the American comedy circuit for 12 years. Having personal connections to Houston, as well as being a genius with words and hecklers, Ian Bagg is a comic who leaves no sacred cows unwounded.

Last Saturday, Ian Bagg gave a brilliant performance, showing his usual flair for playfulness with the audience. During an Easter-time performance, he urged a young woman to come to the stage and show her tattoo to Ian with, “Come on, it’s for Jesus! Show us your tattoo.” He then said that she had the dumbest tattoo in the world: a sign on her backside that said, “Exit Only.” The following is an excerpt from the interview Dateline conducted following his recent show in Huston.

**DL:** Where did you get started?

**I a n:** I first started stand-up in Vancouver, Canada. Then I went down to New York and I lived there for a while. Now I live in L.A.

**D L:** Did you go to college?

**I a n:** Yes, I did go to college. I wanted to go to college because I was going to become a blasting engineer. I used to work in the mines in Vancouver and I just decided to do stand-up.

**D L:** Do you feel comedians have a role in shaping how Americans feel about national and international events?

**I a n:** I feel that there are things to be addressed, I try to speak out, but I don’t as much. I have a sense of what’s going on, but I don’t talk about the same things because I’m an immigrant. I don’t touch much in other subjects.

**D L:** What inspired you to do stand-up and how do you define your act?

**I a n:** I was inspired to do stand-up ever since I was a kid. My inspiration came from Bill Cosby and Jonathan Winters. Jonathan Winters was Robin Williams’ inspiration for “Mork” so I respect his stand-up a lot and he is my greatest inspiration. I define my act as just being fun stupidity. I do inspiration. I define my act as no sacred cows unwounded. Ian Bagg is a comic who leaves genius with words and hecklers.

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local entrepreneurs have been hesitant to invest, but should not be, said Dr. Mendelsohn. “There is great economic return available during the commercialization process.”

Dr. Mendelsohn emphasized the importance of collaboration among researchers, entrepreneurs, and venture capitalists in creating a biotechnology industry in San Diego beginning in the late 1970’s. Now, almost thirty years later, San Diego has a booming biotechnology industry with over 500 companies. He went on to say, “Houston is moving at a much faster rate.”

Jacqueline Northcut, President and CEO of BioHouston, urged that city, county, and philanthropic dollars should bridge the gap and make it easy for companies to start up as is done in other cities.

The panel identified two concrete steps to foster local development of the biotechnology industry. Dr. Mendelsohn pointed to the need for an incubator facility. “We (MD Anderson) have provided the land and now just need an entrepreneur to come in and build the facility.”

Dr. Gillis emphasized that Houston should give more media attention to recent breakthroughs in local research. He recounted a recent accomplishment by Houston researchers that appeared on the cover of the New York Times but received no attention in local publications.

Dr. Ferrari was warmly applauded when he declared that he and many others have come to Houston because of its promise. He stated, “Houston is a place where no dream is too big, we are not afraid of taking risks and people here do not feel a compulsion to be like somebody else.” He went on to say, “This city will continue to build on its strengths because if no dream is too big, there is no way this city is going to miss out on the biggest dream of them all.”

Nightlife

**By Don Pieper**

Editor

To Kill A Mockingbird may make you think about those old black and white films that we watched in school. Many of us thought these films were boring because we were too young to understand the concepts they addressed. Now is the perfect time to check out this classic, Pulitzer Prize winning story by Harper Lee on stage, just blocks from campus. Named the best novel of the century in 1999, the moving story is a must see. And with student discounts, your theatre experience will not be a burden on your pocketbook.

The Alley Theatre’s presentation of To Kill A Mockingbird is moving. The cast is wonderful, and the acting by all players was spot on. The story centers on young Scout (Jennifer Laporte), her brother Jem (Tommy Waas), and their widower father Atticus (John Felch). But little Dill (Wesley Whitson) really stole the show with his Mississippi drawl and charismatic delivery.

Mr. Finger, a generous patron of the arts in Houston, spoke briefly before the performance about his love of this particular play. This reminded the audience of the power of the story, and of the fact that we as Americans have a tendency to devote far less thought to the subjects addressed. International students may be unfamiliar with this American tale, which can lead to great post-performance conversation.

What struck me most was the relevance of the issues from the 1935 setting in current day America. We, as a society, have made strides, but are not so different from the characters in the play. One central focus is on the seemingly odd behaviors of Boo Radley (Chris Hutchinson), a neighbor. Today, while the medical community has come to recognize mental illnesses as genuine conditions, with causes and treatments, society at large still attaches stigmas to those inflicted. To reveal one’s own mental illness is no wiser in the 21st century than it was seven decades ago. Yet it is Boo who is the “mockingbird,” the hero.

Poverty in America is still widely debated. While our politicians have shied away from an earlier stance to eradicate poverty, all acknowledge the problems associated with poverty. Race and poverty are, of course, as intertwined today as they were at the beginning of the 20th Century. The poorest in society look to blame others for their plight, seeking outlets for anger at their situation. In the early to mid 20th century, many impoverished people took to racist attitudes, promoting themselves above others. Today, racism is much more cun-ning, as it is no longer socially accept-able. The main focus of the story is the lack of justice for blacks in white courts. Since the time of the play, the federal government has enacted civil rights legislation, forced integration, and outlawed discriminatory practices. Still, blacks are overrepresented as criminal defendants, in prison, and on death row. A black man, convicted of committing the same crime as a white man, is much more likely to be executed for it. Indeed, corruption in the process led the state of Illinois to exonerate all death row inmates a few years ago.

To Kill a Mockingbird will be shown nightly until the 29th of April. For more details, go to www.alleytheatre.com.
All of the candidates are eager to await the results of this election. To paraphrase JFK, I implore you; my fellow students, ask not what your university can do for you—ask what you can do for your university. Thus far, this method of voting in a democracy to electing new representatives not only achieves the goal of the Faculty or Administration, but the goals of all inhabitants of this school in unison to ultimately make UHD a success in the present and the future.

Name: Christopher Sharpe
Position: President
I have been Student Government for three years, serving as Senator, Committee Chairman, Vice-President, and as President. As a Regent and the SGA President, I can be more effective in recommending changes that benefit us here at UHD, because I speak directly with the Board of Regents, who make all UH policy. During my tenure, I have worked hard to ensure your experience at UHD is the best one possible.

I am running for re-election because I want to continue to serve you and finish working on our goals that will benefit us and future UHD students. This is why I am asking for your vote.

Name: Jhonathan Herrera-Shaikh
Position: President
I have grown to see and understand many different departments and opportunities that our campus offers in terms of Student Involvement and development. I am also the student Chair of the Career Expo for my University. My experience in all these different areas of our University, leadership skills, my ability to bring people together, hold successful organizational development are qualities that makes me the best candidate for President of the Student Government Association. Everything that we do today, will impact us tomorrow. I am running for President because I know I can bring SGA to new levels of school involvement.

Name: Garrett Gibson
Position: Vice President
As a candidate for Vice President of SGA, my priorities are focused on serving the needs of the student body. As a University that has experienced tremendous growth, I believe that the University needs to continue to work on improving security and parking. It my vision to improve the campus life here at UHD while keeping tuition reasonable and the students safe. I would appreciate your vote for Vice President.

Name: London Flores
Position: Vice President
I am running for the Vice President position to fulfill a great work for the student body at UHD. Currently, I am a member of the Health Professions Organization, the Environmental Club, the American Medical Student Association, Scholars Academy, and the Executive Secretary of the SGA. I know full well the responsibilities and challenges intrinsic to this position As a Hispanic woman, I know that I could accurately represent the voice of the university which is a Hispanic-serving institution. Throughout my years at UHD, I have been a part of government organizations serving as Secretary, Vice President, and President. I have the capabilities, talent, and determination to become the Vice President of SGA. My passion and leadership will be beneficial overall to SGA’s success for UH-D in the upcoming 2007-2008 school year.

Vote Ms. London Flores for Vice President of the Student Government Association

As the current Executive Secretary of the Student Government Association, I, London Flores, have a vision for the upcoming Fall 2007 semester to expand community outreach within SGA to it’s maximum potential, but also to adhere closely to the voice of the student body’s concerns at UHD regarding issues ranging from crime to rising tuition and textbook costs. Join with me in being apart of the change you want to see by voting for me, London Flores, as your new Vice President for SGA.”

This is my Writing Arm. Let's See Yours!

Dateline Downtown
Room 260S | 713-221-8569
RE-ELECT!

Garrett Gibson

for

SGA Vice President

Garrett’s priorities are:

- Improving Campus Security
- Keeping Tuition Reasonable
- Building UHD School Spirit

Vote for Integrity & Hard Work

Vote for Garrett Gibson!

How to vote:
1. Go to uhd.edu/eservices
2. Click “SGA Elections”
3. Follow instructions
4. Vote for Garrett!
Name: Christopher Sharpe  
Current Position: SGA President  
Running For: Re-Election as President

I have represented you in Student Government for three years. I have served you as Senator, Committee Chairman, Vice-President, and currently as your SGA President for the 2006-2007 academic year. I am also a Regent within the UH System. This allows me to work with the Board of Regents who are the main policy makers for all UH campuses. I am able to share your viewpoints and issues with the Regents in real-time, and help the Board make the best decisions as they relate to the student body.

As a Regent and the SGA President, this positions me to be more effective in recommending changes that benefit us here at UHD. During my tenure, I have worked hard to ensure your experience at UHD is the best one possible.

I am running for re-election because I want to continue to serve you and finish working on our goals that will benefit us and future UHD students. This is why I am asking for your vote during the election week of April 16th through the 20th. Thank you for your confidence and continued support!

Consider joining SGA and helping us make UHD all it can be.

Vote Christopher Sharpe for President

Accomplishments
1. With the help of the Senate, SGA helped persuade Metro to extend the availability of the U-Pass until August.
2. SGA worked with the Houston Food Bank to increase donations.
3. Formed a partnership with UHD Student Government and the Buffalo Bayou Partnership to hold Ed's Bayou Cleanup and Trash Bash together.
4. I have worked with the City of Houston and the Mayor’s Office to get the crosswalks and sidewalks on North Main Street fixed for our students.
5. I personally set up meetings with the UHD administrators to make sure the tuition and fees are kept as minimal as possible.
6. I have served as a member of the UHD Quality Enhancement Planning committee who is tasked with increasing the quality of services on campus.
7. Organized a meeting with UHD Police Chief to voice safety concerns of students and ensure the student's safety is top priority.
8. Personally worked with administrators to schedule a time for all the speakers to attend the UHD Town Hall Meeting, and worked to make attendance at this event the best it has been in the past four years.
9. I have served as a member of the UHD Art Acquisition Committee in making sure quality art is acquired at a proper fee for our buildings.
10. I drafted a handbook for SGA so that new members will have an easier time learning the ‘business’ of the organization.
11. I have the best attendance record in SGA for the 2006-2007 academic year.
12. Personally drafted all three student surveys that SGA has put out this academic year.
13. I serve as a member of the UHD Student Publications Advisory Committee, which oversees The Dateline, the student newspaper.
14. I held meetings with UHD’s Executive Leadership to get the Washington Street parking lot repaved and striped.
15. I am a member of the Long Range Facilities Planning Committee who is developing a plan for expanding UH-Downtown over the next several years.
16. Currently working with Administrators to expand, consolidate and relocate the SGA office and senate chamber into one single room, which will allow more student representation, as well as allow other organization to utilize our facilities.
17. I have served on the UHD Student Service Fee Committee which allocates funding for all the departments under the umbrella of Student Services.
18. SGA Member of the Year award for the 2005-2006 academic year.
19. Appointed by the Governor of Texas as Student Regent for the UH System.
20. UHD College of Science & Technology Dean's List – Fall 2006

How To Vote
1. Go to www.uhd.edu/eservices/
2. Click on “SGA Elections”
3. Follow the instructions on the site.
4. Vote for Christopher Sharpe!