

Dateline: DOWNTOWN

S T U D E N T - R U N S I N C E V O L U M E O N E

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Students Voice Concerns At Town Hall Meeting

Open Q&a With Administration Gives Students A Chance To Be Heard

By James Philpot
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

A panel of UHD Administration answered student's concerns on Wednesday, Feb 20 in a Town Hall Q&A forum covering issues such as UHD's accreditation status, campus security, and the perils of crossing Main Street

One of the biggest issues that the panel addressed was UHD's accreditation. There was a scare among students that UHD could lose its college accreditation after the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools requested a status report from the

University in January.

President Castillo was quick to point out that this report is a regular, routine follow up that all accredited universities must go through every 5 years. The purpose of the report, he explained, is to demonstrate that UHD instills a quality of education and "a culture of learning".

"We are accredited... We've been accredited this whole time, this is just a part of the process." When asked what the consequences would be if the report is deemed unacceptable, President Castillo replied, without a moment's hesitation, "It won't... I just don't see that



UHD Administration panel answers audience's questions at the Town Hall Meeting

happening. I don't see that as an issue."

Another major concern among students was a quick response system for emergen-

cies. With the events that took place at Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois, students were wondering what UHD was doing to implement a

Rapid Response System like the one used to alert N. Illinois students via text messages, emails, and web updates.

The panel said that a system was in the works, and they were trying to figure out exactly how it would work. Although UHD cannot require that a student provide their cell phone number, the panel did discuss an option using e-services where students could opt-in to use the response system.

Based on the system discussed at the forum, students who register through e-services, which is 95% of UHD see **TOWN** on page 3

Barack Obama Packs The Toyota Center

Houstonians Don't Mind Long Lines To Hear Presidential Candidate

By Gloria Reisman
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

Hope filled the Toyota Center on Tuesday, Feb 19. On this day, however, the crowd wasn't hoping for Yao Ming to dominate the visiting team, or for Tracy McGrady to stay uninjured yet another game. Instead, the crowd was there to hear Democratic Presidential Candidate Barack Obama, and what they were hoping for was Change.

News helicopters hovered in the sky all afternoon as thousands of people formed lines that wrapped around city blocks and police barricades. Campaign volunteers, with

their special blue tickets, had one line. Another was for people who had gotten their ticket through email registration, and yet another for those waiting for a standby ticket. While all tickets were free, some people made a profit by selling some for up to \$25 each. Others just gave away extras when they realized their friends or loved ones wouldn't be able to attend.

Houstonians of every age and ethnic group were represented at the rally, from college students, to veterans in military uniforms. Many people holding "Republicans for Obama" signs could be seen also. Tanya Makany, policy

director for City of Houston Council Member Adrian Garcia, said, "It's going to be an interesting election season. I'm excited to find out what's going to happen." HISD second grade teacher Deborah Allen-White was encouraged that Obama discussed teachers need to be appreciated more and paid better. She commented she was "glad I waited in line and stood for hours to be a part of history."

The Obama campaign has been booking large sports venues across the country—and filling them up. The announcement that Barack Obama was coming to Houston had been known for



Obama speaks to a crowd of 19,000 at the Toyota Center

two weeks, but the Toyota Center hadn't been booked until the Saturday before Tuesday night's rally. Still, there were 10,000 people on

standby online who couldn't get tickets.

Obama greeted the more than 19,000 supporters cheering see **OBAMA** on page 5

CAMPUS NEWS

Survey Of Faculty Highlights Issues With Administration

Despite Some Frustrations, Definite Feeling Of Improvement

By Marika Stepankiw
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

Just as we students reserve the right to evaluate our professors and our learning experience, UHD professors reserve the right to evaluate the administration and their own working conditions. The faculty, in this most recent survey, voiced their concerns about the lack of scholarly research, heavy workloads, and frustrations with UHD Administration, but they also said that things are improving.

Since 2003, the university has administered a Faculty Climate Survey every other year that assesses the faculty's professional satisfaction and overall satisfaction with the administration.

In 2007, the third in this series of the surveys was administered, and the results are in.

In general, the faculty feels the administration does not support research and scholarship, but the faculty was split on whether or not UHD's policies assure high professional standards, and one third would not take a position either way. The majority of respondents feel that their workload is not reasonable and two thirds felt their compensation was not sufficient for their workload.

On a positive note, almost two thirds of the faculty members felt the general academic climate at UHD has improved since the last climate survey that was administered in

2005. Moreover, almost 60 percent of the respondents felt that the Faculty Senate is good to excellent. "Overall the faculty feels the general climate is more positive than it has been before," stated Dr. Anjoo Sikka, President of the Faculty Senate and Associate Professor in Urban Education.

The faculty is split on whether or not the UHD Administration takes the advice and expertise of faculty when it comes to hiring new faculty members. Most respondents disagreed with the statement that the UHD Administration makes decisions congruent with shared governance. Shared governance can be interpreted two ways. One interpretation implies that the decisions made to run the univer-

sity are shared between the faculty and the administration. However, given the results of the Faculty Climate Survey, it is more likely that the UHD administration interprets shared governance to mean the administration makes decisions and then proceed to share those decisions with the faculty only after they are made.

Most faculty members spend between 20 to 29 hours a week teaching and teaching activities (grading, creating handouts, and so forth). In addition, they spend between five and 14 hours a week on scholarly and creative activities and another five to 14 hours a week on service activities. "The faculty workload is very high right

see **SURVEY** on page 8

Student Profile

Karina Blomquist

By Regina Panis
DATELINE DOWNTOWN



Photo by Regina Panis
Karina Blomquist

Age: 21

Hometown:

Virginia Beach, Virginia

UHD Gator Pride:

I love going to school downtown and whenever someone asks, "Oh, you go to U of H?" I correct them and say no, I am a gator, not a lowly cougar.

What is your major?

Early Childhood - 4th Grade Education. I have loved teach-

ing and have thought of being a teacher since I was in 4th grade, so here I am in school getting ready to start student teaching in the fall.

Do you plan on getting a Master's?

The first two years of teaching is hard enough so I'll have to put it off. But eventually, I'll take night classes, and get my Master's.

Karina would like to teach somewhere in Houston, probably closer to southwest, "any elementary school that will have me," but prefers upper-level grades because "when they're in 4th grade, for example, you can actually discuss books with them."

Karina has been surrounded by teachers all her life, and her desire to teach comes from her family.

"Well, it's "kind of" the family profession. My mom is a Sunday school teacher, and

practically everyone on my dad's side is teaches. Everyone in my family is a teacher of some sort. Also, I have been teaching Sunday school at my synagogue for the past 4 years."

She is only 21 but already has experience in teaching kids, using what she learns at UHD. "My mom was the kindergarten teacher, and I was the receptionist (at the synagogue). It was the only job that I could have in high school. My mom needed an assistant, and when she retired, I kind of became the teacher. It's a great experience because what I learn here at UHD I can use in Sunday school."

"I teach kindergarteners the Hebrew alphabet and basics about the (Jewish) holidays. I don't speak Hebrew fluently, but conversational somewhat."

Learning and teaching languages can be confus-

ing, though. "I have a bunch of Israeli friends that are always trying to teach me. But they end up making fun of me because I speak Hebrew 'kinda' with a Spanish accent. It became like a new language hybrid, like...span-brew."

It is more confusing when visiting the actual places the languages are spoken. "When I visited Israel, they asked me something in Hebrew, I'd end up replying in Spanish, and when I went to Argentina, it was the opposite. They'd ask me something in Spanish and I'd answer in Hebrew."

She was able to go to Argentina last Spring Break through a Jewish organization called Hillel, the same organization where she met her fiancé.

"I went with about 30 others to help the Jewish community there. They are still in need a lot of financial help."

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Faculty Profile: Professor Matveeva

From Russia With... A Business and Technical Writing Degree

By Frank Raia
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

After the stunning successes of the Westfall interview I was told that I should continue this noble and great tradition. So I went looking for a great English teacher by the name of Dr. Strange, unfortunately he couldn't be interviewed due to his need to fight evil. Yes, English teachers can fight evil. Dr. Strange has been extremely devoted to his battle with a slue of Marvel-like villains. Fortunately he spoke to me using his massively badass abilities, and sent me down the hall to Natalia Matveeva.

Natalia Matveeva is a new English teacher from Kazan in the state of Tatarstan, around five hundred miles from Moscow. What's cool about her is she has a Ph.D. in Technical Communication and Rhetoric from Texas Tech University.

She currently teaches English 3304 Advanced Business and Technical Writing and English 3326 Proposal Writing. She's new, so she hasn't had much time to teach many different things. She has taught at another school, Texas Tech, where she

taught more or less the same stuff.

This young Russian vixen is happily engaged and plans to have two kids. She came to America in 2000 and earned her master's from Pittsburgh State in Kansas – it's a small school a few hours from Kansans City.

When asked about UHD's students she said she hated them all and wished them a most terrible and painful death. No wait that was something else — she likes the students. She likes that UHD students are very eager to learn and are extremely diverse in population.

Another interesting fact about Matveeva is she is young to remember what she was doing when the Berlin Wall came crashing down in the late 1980s. She likes figure skating and will eat anything organic and listens to European Techno, Electronic and Disco.

Matveeva has traveled all over Europe, and she wishes to travel all over this fine planet to destinations such as Central and South America, Africa and Asia. So when you see her in the halls say "hi" because she is really nice and has a killer Russian accent.

TOWN

Continued from page 1



Angelee Kumar addresses the panel

students, would be able to provide a "text number" and could choose to receive announcements about campus events and organizations as well as any emergency announcements.

Students were also concerned about the dangers of crossing Main Street to get to the Shay St. Building. David

Bradley, Vice President of Administration and Finance, said, "The city says it'll never design an intersection like that again...but that doesn't really help us here."

Unfortunately, the city says that the crosswalk is where it is supposed to be, and with six streets all coming together on one spot, there is little the city can do to alleviate the problem. It seems there also are no plans for the city to improve the condition of the cracked, pot-hole ridden street. Not at least until Metro begins their rail expansion project, which includes a new transit center across from the Shay St. Building and a rail line continuing down Main Street.

When will that happen? Who knows says Bradley. "Every date that Metro gives us...they're not going to make it. They're just going to change

the deadline later. They do it all the time."

He did say though that whenever they build the new Metro line, they will most likely improve the road and build a crosswalk for students. Until then, Bradley said, if students really want the city to do something they should probably call 311 and let the city know about their concerns.

Students should also know that they don't have to wait until the next Town Hall Meeting to voice their concerns. Students are always welcome to visit the Student Government office in S244 and let your representatives know about any issue any time during the year. It's your campus, and you get a say in what happens here.

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

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STUDENT LIFE

Celebrating Black History Month

More Than a Month

By Reggie Plummer
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

Paul Robeson (1898-1976)
Athlete, Entertainer, Activist and American Hero.

Paul Robeson was an athlete, actor, author, attorney, a scholar and concert singer. Born in Princeton, New Jersey on April 9, 1898, Robeson was one of the most gifted men in the history of the world. His 296 performances as Othello on Broadway netted him international recognition as a

famous singer; he performed on concert stages throughout the world. His abilities to speak and perform in over twenty languages and dialects were his vehicle to be a spokesman throughout the world against exploitation, injustice, and racism. His activism did not come without a price. In 1950, after tirelessly exposing injustice and racism in the United States, Robeson's passport was revoked by the U.S. State Department, and President Truman signed an

executive order which forbade him to leave the United States under penalty of five years in prison and a \$500 fine. Ever defiant, Robeson left the U.S. in 1958 for England and did not return until 1963, whereupon he continued his fight against all forms of racism and oppression perpetuated on African Americans in the United States until his death in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on January 23, 1976.

Black History with a Local Twist

April 2, 1984, **John Thompson** became the first African American college coach to win the NCAA college championship as head coach of the Georgetown Hoyas by defeating the Houston Cougars 84-75.

On August 11, 1984, **Carl Lewis**, a University of Houston Cougar, duplicated Jesse Owens' remarkable record of winning four gold medals at the Olympics. Twelve years later he won his fourth consecutive gold medal in the long jump at the 1996 Olympics.

AIDS Walk Houston 2008: Participate!

By Regina Panis
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

Registration is now open for the Chevron-sponsored 19th Annual AIDS Walk Houston 2008, which is to take place Sunday, March 9, at Sam Houston Park.

According to the AIDS Walk Houston website, the event is a "non-

competitive 5k (3.1 miles) walk" that raises money for a fight for the cure, and "benefits local AIDS Service Organizations striving to make an impact."

AIDS Foundation Houston, which produces the walk, notes that "one Houstonian is infected with HIV/AIDS every eight hours." AIDS Foundation Houston's mission is to "provide vital

social services to Houstonians living with the virus, and increase community awareness and education to Houstonians about HIV/AIDS."

UHD students, faculty, and staff can find out more information and can pledge any amount through the AIDS Walk Houston website at www.AIDSWalkHouston.org

Did You Know?

An estimated one million people currently live with HIV in the United States; about 40,000 new infections occur each year.

Half of all new infections in the United States occur in people 25 years of age or younger.

Thirty percent of new infections occur in women

Seventy-five percent of new infections in women are heterosexually transmitted.

Fifty-four percent of new infections in the United States occur among African Americans.

Sixty-four percent of new African American infections occur in women.

For more HIV/AIDS statistics, visit the "Until There's A Cure" website at www.until.org.

How to Donate

1. Go to AIDSWalkHouston.org
2. Click on "Donate to a Walker"
3. Click on "Search for Participant"
4. Enter the participant's name (if you don't know anyone put me, Regina Panis)
5. Select the right name that comes up
6. Click on "Make a Gift!" to pledge



Donate Your Art: Get Recognized For A Cause

Prior to the AIDS Walk, the 4th Annual Starbucks Art Auction and AIDS Walk Celebration will take place on Friday, February 29. The silent auction, which will be open all day, will be held at the Starbucks located at 3407 Montrose at Hawthorne. There will also be a party from 5 – 9 p.m. later that evening.

If you or someone you know would like to donate to the 4th Annual Starbucks Art Auction, contact Angela Lara at 713.521.7278. Starbucks currently accepts art of any medium; donations must be received by February 25.

All proceeds raised through the auction will go directly to the AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc.

Troop Recall, Tax Credits Among Sen. Clinton's Key Issues

By Ana McKenzie
DAILY TEXAN (U. TEXAS)

(U-WIRE) Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton will square off against Sen. Barack Obama in tonight's Democratic debate at the Recreational Sports Center. The following is a list of platforms Clinton has focused on in her campaign.

Higher education

-Make college affordable by creating a new \$3,500 college tax credit.

-Lower college costs and hold colleges accountable for results through an online college-cost calculator, a college-graduation and employment-rate index and truth in tuition disclosure.

-Create a graduation fund to increase college graduation

rates.

Energy & the environment

-A \$50 billion Strategic Energy Fund, paid in part by oil companies, to fund investments in alternative energy. The fund will finance one-third of the \$150 billion, 10-year investment in a new energy future contained in this plan.

-An increase in fuel-efficiency standards to 55 miles per gallon by 2030 and \$20 billion of "Green Vehicle Bonds" to help U.S. automakers retool their plants to meet the standards.

-Create energy-efficiency agenda to reduce electricity consumption 20 percent from projected levels by 2020.

Family

-Extend middle-class tax

cuts, including child tax credit and marriage penalty relief; offer new tax cuts for health care, college and retirement.

-Harness the power of innovation to create high-wage jobs.

-Offer matching tax cuts of up to \$500 and \$1,000 to help middle-class and working families save.

-Pro-choice.

Health care

-If a person has a plan he or she likes, keep it.

-If a person wants to change plans or is not covered, he or she can choose from dozens of the same plans available to members of Congress or can opt into a public-plan option like Medicare.

-Working families will get tax credits to help pay their



Clinton addresses the audience in Hidalgo, Texas

premiums.

Homeland security and the conflict in Iraq

-Would begin to bring troops home within the first 60 days of her administration.

-Expand the Materials Protection, Control and Accounting program to lock down nuclear material and invest in forensic measures, which advance the country's ability to discover the origins of a nuclear weapon in the event of an attack.

-"Amidst the global transfor-

mation to an interdependent world, our nation confronts possibilities of promise and peril," she said in June, "We know the current security policy with its excessive reliance on unilateral force, its rejection of international agreements of all kinds and its preference for policymaking based on ideology, not evidence, has to change."

Source: <http://www.hillary-clinton.com> - Hillary Clinton's campaign Web site

Obama

Continued from page 1

ing him on saying, "We're here tonight because we still believe that change is possible. We're here because we know that we've never needed it more than we do right now." Obama challenged critics who claim that his platform is based only on wishful dreams. "The problem we face in America today is not the lack of good ideas. It's that Washington has become a place where good ideas go to die," he said.

Obama also admitted that there were also opponents that attacked him for his youth and questioned why he is running this election year. He responded, "I'm not running because of some long-held ambition, I'm not running because I think it's somehow owed to me. I'm running because of the fierce urgency of now," in dealing with issues like the



Obama pauses during his speech at the Toyota Center

war in Iraq, the economy and predatory mortgage loans. In addressing the rising cost of gas prices, he said, "When I talked about lowering fuel efficiency standards, I didn't do it in front of some environmental group. I did it in Detroit, in front of the automakers. I told them they had to change their ways, and when I said that, the room was really quiet. Nobody clapped."

During his speech, which lasted almost 45 minutes,

Obama also pledged to help college students with financial aid to avoid the high cost of getting student loans. "It's time we made college affordable for every-

one. I want a \$4,000 tuition credit for every student, every year," he said. In exchange, students "will have to give something back in return: participate in community service, work in schools, a nursing home or homeless shelter," Obama added. Lilly Lira, a former UHD student who graduated with a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies last summer, was happy about that possibility because it would help her in returning for a master's degree.

In this year of wild and crazy politics, nothing has gone as expected, and nothing is for sure. However, in that crowd, on that night, there was no doubt that Obama is the candidate who can turn hope into reality.

Anyone who is interested in voting should visit the Declare

Yourself non-partisan webpage at www.declareyourself.com to find out more about registering in your area. Later this semester, the Dateline will be sponsoring a voter registration drive on campus to encourage students to register and vote-so stay tuned!

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Saddle Up It's Rodeo Time!

By Tamara Wise
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

Slide on your boots and tip your cowboy hat, the 2008 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is finally here, running March 3-22 at Reliant Park. At 11 a.m. on February 26 Mayor Bill White and Harris County Judge Ed Emmett will announce the official kickoff of the 2008 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. This *Rodeo Roundup*, to be held on the steps of Houston's City Hall, will launch the yearly extravaganza.

Opening the big event, Feb. 28 with a Texas-sized picnic at Reliant Park, is the World's Championship Bar-B-Que Contest. The three day even will host several hundred participants and about 200,000 tasters. The Contest includes cooking, competition, dancing, and live music. The opening ceremonies continue downtown on Saturday March 1 at 9:40 a.m. with the 21st annual ConocoPhillips Rodeo Run and followed by the Downtown Rodeo Parade at 10 a.m. The Grand Marshall of this year's parade will be Houston Astro's legend, Craig Biggio.

This year the Rodeo is introducing some new and interesting attractions, while continuing to enlarge the longstanding ones. New attractions include the Sky Ride, a gondola ride that reaches 58 feet in the air while carrying passengers across the carnival, a polo exhibition featuring the collegiate polo teams of UT and A&M, and a wine bar featuring award-winning wines from around the world, Vintners Corral. As always, the Rodeo will contain a multitude

of horse and livestock shows, pig races, agriculture exhibits, and multiple rodeo events.

Many of these attractions will include new breeds of animals and fresh exhibits.

Numerous other attractions can be experienced at the Rodeo: Dance the night away at The Hideout, Located in the legendary Reliant stadium, where adults over 21 can dance to Texas country bands and DJs; Shop till you drop at the huge one-of-a-kind Western shopping mall, where patrons can purchase a multitude of items such as Western apparel and crafts; Eat your heart out in Rodeo Plaza, the newly expanded food court featuring a multitude of foods from almost every variety; Appreciate art at the Hayloft Gallery and Carruth Plaza; And experience the Carnival featuring numerous games, rides, snacks, and the largest portable Ferris wheel in the Western Hemisphere, La Grande Wheel.

With approximately 400 exhibitors, around 30,000 livestock and horse show entries, a \$1.3 million rodeo purse, and entertainment including musical talents Tim McGraw, Faith Hill, Hannah Montana/Miley Cyrus, John Legend, Duelo, John Fogerty, and various other artists, this year's rodeo is sure to be the biggest and best ever. Additional information such as parking, ticket pricing, and event schedules can be found at the Rodeo's official website: www.hlsr.com.

In Bruges Where Else Would You Be?

By Regina Panis
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

Directed by: Martin McDonagh
Cast: Colin Farrell, Brendan Gleeson, Ralph Fiennes, Clemence Poesy, Jeremie Renier, Jordan Prentice
Rating: R
Opening Date: February 15 2008

The first half of this movie can be summed up in four sentences:

Two hitmen, Ray and Ken (Farrell and Gleeson), are sent to a city in Belgium called Bruges (pronounced "brooghz") to lay low after a hit gone bad in London. It was Ray's first hit assignment, and although he hit his target (a priest in a confessional booth)

he also shot a bystander, a little boy praying in the church, who died.

Ken finds out from their boss, Harry (Ralph Fiennes), that they are sent to Bruges because it is a "fucking fairytale" and is a city everyone should see before they die. Ken's assignment from Harry is to kill Ray for the death of the little boy.

Aside from Farrell's comedic attempt (not to be confused with Will Farrell, who is a comedian), the second half of the movie picks up when Ralph Fiennes finally makes his appearance onscreen. He is an exciting breath of fresh air compared to the dull beginning of the movie, even while dropping "F-bombs" left and right.

Harry, who is both a hit



man and committed family man, has to leave his family in England to go to Bruges to finish the job that Ken has trouble finishing. To top it off, Ray is suicidal from the entire ordeal, and Harry must kill both Ken and Ray to make everything even. The movie builds towards an inevitable, violent conclusion.

Comedian Pablo Francisco

Are You Ready? This Spring, One Man, One Interview

By Wil Chinchilla
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

Pablo Francisco has been doing stand-up since he was 17 when he entered his first comedy contest in Tucson, Arizona. His comedy has been dispensable through the internet with recent remakes of his “preview man” voice jokes. He states, “I want them to do more. More of the Chinese animation is hilarious with the preview jokes”. For those of you students who are going to England this summer, Pablo has some tips. “You must go to the London Eye and get there early. Make sure you ask for your pizza to get cut. They don’t cut your pizza.”

Pablo Francisco wants to do this forever. He states “I will find anywhere to do this; I will play coffee houses, churches, anywhere”. Even though he is willing and able to play those locations, he has been in many other venues such as Mad TV, Tonight Show with Jay Leno, and the Houston Improv.

DL: How was it growing up and being influenced so early by comedy?

Pablo: Steve Martin, Richard Pryor, and Benny Hill who is an English comedian, go to any video store and rent Benny Hill.

DL: So having your DVD on the internet is so you can hopefully influence millions?

Pablo: Umm, it’s just cause they have it on there, because we always change up the material a little bit. There is nothing you can do right now, you can get paid for and get letter of assists and stuff like that. We just let it rock and roll, if it’s on the internet it’s on the internet, there is nothing I can do but there is always little extras that

people can’t see.

DL: How did your parents take it when you told them you were going to be a comedian?

Pablo: They didn’t [take it] too well. They thought I was dealing drugs and that I was hanging out going crazy. But umm, other than that, they enjoy it now and they know there is a business in it. They are really positive now but they weren’t in the beginning, they wanted me to go to school to be a film director. It just didn’t work out; I just got caught up into the lifestyle of comedy.

DL: In the beginning there were more Latino Jokes in your act. Now I think your show is more universal. Do you feel your comedy has evolved?

Pablo: Oh yeah! Look I can do Eskimos; I can do politicians, so it really doesn’t matter. I am happy where I am at. So it evolves sometimes.

DL: What is your favorite celebrity impression?

Pablo: Movie previews guy, [in character] Are you ready this summer, one man! He is really easy, I met him, he is really nice, and we hang out once in a while. He was on Frank TV with me, if you youtube Frank TV Pablo, you can see all three of us doing the movie preview voice.

DL: How did the impressions come about, I read that you beat-boxed when you were younger?

Pablo: I beat boxed a little bit. I was nine years old, my brother had a tape recorder and I would take it to school. Messing around with my friend’s, they would ask “how do you do a heartbeat” and I would just do it. I would say about third grade nine years old and up, I had help with a tape recorder until it got lost somewhere. I would say that’s when it all started. Sometimes

I had other friends that can do voices, and they would teach me how to do it.

DL: What would happen if you found an old tape?

Pablo: I do have an old tape and I played in my kitchen for my friend, it was back when I was in third grade. It actually sounded kind of cheesy.

DL: You wrote on a Myspace Blog, your sweaty DVD, did you realize that after the shoot or while you were

performing (That you were sweating during the whole performance)?

Pablo: Yeah I did not know I was sweating that much. We did two shows back to back. Each show was an hour and a half. They spliced the show together, so you will see me dry and all of a sudden I turn really sweaty and I’m like, oh, ga, god! I don’t like it to much when I see performers sweating like crazy. I think I was

wearing a black shirt so it soaked in right, but during the show you see me sweat and I was having a good time and of course the DVD is really funny. They showed some close ups and the drops, blah!

DL: Why is 30 the magic number for comedians to get their breaks and become professional?

Pablo: It’s a good starting point because

they got a brother helping them out and they party together and they get hoes together. Yeah thirty is a good point because a bunch of comedians go through divorces and they go through a lot of their relationship problems in their twenties. They get out and they say “I wanna be a comic now”. So thirty is a good time because they have gone through the hardships in their twenties.

DL: Have you made anyone laugh to death?

Pablo: I had someone laugh hard enough till their drink came out of their nose. That was kind of a nuisance. George Lopez made someone laugh so hard they died. They died in the showroom that was kind of crazy.

DL: What would that mean if you did that?

Pablo: I don’t know— go ask George, he’s playing Downtown.



Photo by Wil Chinchilla

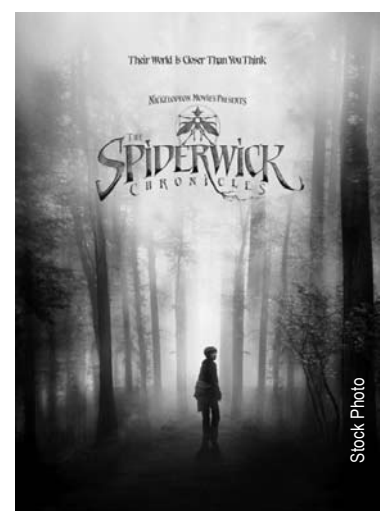
The Spiderwick Chronicles

By Kristi Siedel
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

The *Spiderwick Chronicles* is a movie everyone should put on their must see list. However, I did find myself comparing the film to *The Chronicles of Narnia* the entire length of the film. Why? The films are about dual worlds that collide. The *Spiderwick Chronicles* has comedy and suspense that *The Chronicles of Narnia* lacked. The special effects are as over the top as in *Narnia*, but *Spiderwick* has enough to satisfy the youngest and oldest audience members. I found myself on the edge of my seat holding tight to my four year old as we laughed and wondered what was going to happen next. The

middle-age couple to the left of us was able to laugh and hold tight to each others hands as the plot thickened. The PG rating and the action, mystery, comedy, and suspense, makes for a great children’s movie that even the grown-ups will enjoy. The imaginative characters are every child’s dream and nightmare with their cute appearances gone awry and their diverse personalities. As a woman, I feel what made the film more enjoyable than *Narnia* was the ending. I am not one to cry, but when a film can draw a tear to my eye in front of my children I know it is a good film. If you’re a horror and terror film buff, like my husband, you probably won’t enjoy the film simply

because blood is substituted for green slime, but you do get to see a Hob-Goblin spit at the children’s faces. It’s quite a disturbingly funny film – you and your children will come home with nothing else to talk about for the next two weeks.



COMICS & CONTINUATIONS

SURVEY

Continued from page 2

now; it shows a lot of commitment on their part to the school," observes Dr. Sikka. "They want to do a good job." The respondents were equally split on their overall level of professional satisfaction.

At the time of the survey, almost two thirds of the respondents felt that they were not adequately compensated for their responsibilities. However, faculty members may respond differently if asked the same question now. The 2007 Climate Faculty Survey was administered while the university was undergoing a salary adjustment for faculty members. Salaries were low for many faculty members who had been there for a long time, while new hires received the going market rate. After the survey, faculty members who were employed by the university for a long time received a raise.

Soon students may have to meet higher standards as only 34 percent

of faculty members felt the current standards were adequate. In addition, students may have to get used to a name other than the University of Houston Downtown. The debate continues on whether or not UHD should change its name. Although the University of Houston Main Campus and Downtown Campus share the first the words—University of Houston—they have separate budgets, separate admission requirements, separate programs, and so forth. Some faculty and administration believe that name change would help define UHD's identity and separate it as a distinct, independent university. Nearly half of the respondents were opposed to a name change; one quarter favors a name change, and one quarter did not say either way. "At best, there are mixed opinions about the name change," Dr. Sikka comments. "I suspect a lot depends on what the name changes to."

Half of the respondents were faculty without tenure, and half of the respondents were tenured professors. Of the

faculty members who chose to respond to the survey, two thirds were white. Gender was divided almost evenly among the respondents. Of the respondents, 66 percent have been employed at UHD for 12 or less years. This is in part due to the fact that UHD loses a lot of its faculty members to other universities once they have gained teaching experience at UHD. Yet this still leaves the question of why senior faculty members did not respond.

Over the past three administrations of the Faculty Climate Survey, the return rate declined from 79 percent in 2001, to 60 percent in 2003, and finally to 55 percent in 2007. Only 116 out of 210 faculty members responded to the 2007 survey. The overall response rate was in the 50 percent range for each college within the university. The College of Science and Technology had the highest return rate at 57 percent, followed closely by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at 56 percent. There is no clear cause for the poor return rate for the 2007 Faculty Climate Survey. Faculty members may

be increasingly more satisfied with their working conditions and feel no need to reply, or they may believe that the survey has no effect. They could simply be too busy to respond to the survey. "It would be a good idea at some point to find out why [the return rate has been declining]," speculates Dr. Sikka.

The survey was administered to tenure and tenure-track faculty in April of 2007. The Faculty Senate officers distributed the survey in envelopes to specific faculty members, and the faculty had two weeks to turn in the survey to any of the three officers. The surveys were completed anonymously, and then they were analyzed by Dr. Sikka, the Senate President. Dr. Sikka feels the faculty needs to be listened to, because "they know a lot of what is going on in the institution." The Faculty Senate is bringing some of the issues from the survey into light during their meetings. The results of the survey will be posted online after they have been analyzed completely by the Senate.

