Perry Changes University Funding Statewide
Incitves For Critical Fields And Early Graduation Could Affect Students

By Marika Stepankiw
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

Starting in 2009, students across the state could be affected by a change in governmental funding of universities that will shift focus from enrollment numbers to the quality of education according to a statement released by Governor Perry.

The change will include new incentives for graduating students in critical fields such as science, math, and engineering and for institutions that accelerate the time-to-degree and transfers for community colleges and four-year institutions. Colleges and universities will also have to produce more graduates and higher-graduation rates for at-risk students.

In January, Governor Rick Perry established the Task Force on Higher Education Incentive-Funding. According to Perry, the Task Force will help further Texas’ goal of “having institutions of higher education prepare states for the demands and opportunities of the 21st century marketplace.” The Task Force will re-examine how Texas allocates the $100 million it dedicates to higher education initiatives.

Governor Perry states his goal is to “change the paradigm from funding institutions solely based on [the number of] students enrolled to funding based on the quality of students produced.”

The five-member Task Force will make recommendations to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker concerning the strategy for implementing higher education incentive funding programs to public colleges and universities. The Task Force will look at various uses for higher education funds and make their recommendations to Perry for 2009 no later than July 15, 2008.

The Task Force consists of the Commissioner of Education, Robert Scott, the presiding officer of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and five appointees, two of which were appointed by Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst and House Speaker Tom Craddick. Perry appointed Kern Wildenthal, president of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, to chair the Task Force. “The goal is to increase competition within the marketplace,” said Krista Pifer, a spokeswoman for Perry. “Colleges and universities deserve to be rewarded for not only graduating students, but for graduating more qualified students.”

Youth Voice: Why Does Promise Of ‘Change’ Entice Young Voters?

By Various Writers
UWIRE FEATURE

“The Youth Voice” is a periodic opinions feature where top student columnists from around the nation take a stand on a topical issue.

Sens. Barack Obama and John McCain find themselves the frontrunners for their respective party’s nominee. Throughout the primaries, both largely enjoyed solid youth support. But what is it about these (what some call) anti-establishment candidates — Obama vs. Washington and McCain vs. conservatives — that has energized the youth? And why is the promise of “change” so enticing to young voters?

Top student columnists from around the nation give their perspectives.

Cosmetic change
By Daniel Barbero. Harvard Crimson

The first mistake we make when we talk about the “youth” is ignoring the lines that cut across us just as they do all Americans. Huckabee — not McCain — swept the youth vote in Iowa. The fact is youth are defined by the institutions they associate most with and are growing in. For some, the crucible is the church, and those, Huckabee won handily. For others, the crucible is college, and they are the ones who fall for Obama and McCain.

It’s not that college youth are so independent; in a way, our longing for Obama and McCain is also based on an almost religious desire. The sad truth is that in our time, presidents have not been very presidential. The typical student has lived under Bush, whose image of idiocy and greed has tarred most Republicans, and Clinton, whose own foibles tie down Hillary to an all-too-human past. Students want a heroic figure, so we turn to the candidates who offer the most gravitas and purity. On the left, Obama seduces with his charisma and his freshness. On the right, McCain has his halo of honesty and honor, and is known as the enemy of the fashionable right that repulses students.

Of course the generational impulse for revolution is there, but none of the radical candidates, whether Paul, Kucinich, or perhaps Edwards, made any headway. No, the call for “change” does not encompass a drastic shift in our government.
Student Profile
Thuylieu Lieu (Lulu)

What do you want to do, ultimately, with your degree?
I’m not sure. I wanted to go further and get my master’s or my Ph.D. but I’m questioning whether or not I want to stay in psychology. I’m rethinking things right now.

Do you plan on getting your masters?
I’m still thinking about it. I question whether or not I want to go further or just start working somewhere and begin my life.

Where do you work right now?
Financial Aid office here at the university. It’s not a great job but I like the people I work with and I make just enough to pay for what I need to every month.

How long have you worked there?
see LULU on page 7

Student Profile
Kim Khong

What is something about you people wouldn’t know just by looking at you?
I love football! Most of my friends think girls don’t know anything about sports. At first, I hated football. I felt that there was no point in watching it. But then I started to watch Indiana play, and I like their QB. From that point on, I hardly missed a game. Of course, my favorite team is Indiana – sorry, Texans.

Did someone get you interested in football, or did you find the interest on your own?
Actually the person who got me interested in football was a college professor. I went to San Jacinto College during my high school years. My government professor loved football. During the football season, our assignment was to go home, watch football and prepare to discuss it for the next class meeting. Every time his team won the game, he always gave us 5 extra points on the test. Since it was a mandatory assignment, I went home and started to watch football. At first I hated it, but then I started to love it. It was a fun and exciting class; sometimes I wonder if that class should be called “US Government” or “US Football!”

Was the Criminal Justice major your first choice?
I started at UH Central as a Political Science major. I found it wasn’t right for me, so I transferred to UHD for Criminal Justice. The interesting cases and numerous laws made me realize that this major was right for me. My professors have also provided me much insight in this field, see KIM on page 7

Faculty Profile: Jesus Auturo Avila-Escavilla
UHD Alumn Helps Students In Writing Center

Up on the 9th floor in the Writing Center, Jesus Auturo Avila-Escavilla is one of the many alumni tutors that help students on a daily basis. Pretty much everyone has to eventually go to the Writing Center to get help with classes, mid-terms, or papers. But what most people don’t know is that the lab is run by a bunch of pretty cool people, and Jesus is no exception.

Jesus Auturo Avila-Escavilla, from Piedras Negras, Coahuila in Mexico, is an alumni student tutor on the 9th floor Writing Center. He teaches English 1105 tutors up in the lab. The English Department has offered him opportunities to teach fresh men level courses, but because of the strange influx of teachers he has been unable to do so. He is currently teaching creative writing classes at Allen Elementary School and looks forward to furthering his education in grad school with an MFA in Creative Writing.

Jesus moved to the States shortly after his birth and lived in a few small towns like Eagle Pass and Richmond, as well as Fort Worth. He now calls north side Houston his home.

Mexican Jesus has a history of traveling around Texas and Mexico with his old school Spanish Rock band Desgracia de Inez. When Desgracia de Inez separated, Jesus created a hip hop group called Revolt of the Sun and continued to travel but not as much as Desgracia. His bandmate in Revolt of the Sun now lives in San Antonio and has moved on to his own personal side project. Jesus plans to have new music out soon for the public to enjoy.

Some other cool facts about him are that he wants to play baseball all day and all night. He also knows an entire slew of interments such as guitar, bass and keyboard. Jesus can also play in both classical and jazz styles.

His consumption of food and drink is now limited, not because he’s old but because of his family medical history. Something he wants to do before he dies is travel, maybe have kids and get his music and writing published.

When you go up to the lab say hello to Jesus and, as he would say, remember to punctuate your sentences properly.
Author To Speak On Minorities In Higher Education

By Megan Murray-McDonald

Despite the progress minority students have made, African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans are less than half as prevalent on the campuses of selective colleges as they are in society. Peter Schmidt, the author of “Color and Money: How Rich White Kids are Winning the War Over College Affirmative Action” is the second guest speaker in a series of success in education forums on March 10th at 2pm at the University of Houston-Downtown in the 3rd floor Special Events Room. Schmidt will discuss the legal and political struggles over affirmative action on college campuses and the issues of class and education. A book signing will follow the event.

Peter Schmidt is a senior writer at The Chronicle of Higher Education; he covers affirmative action, state and federal higher-education policy, education research, historically black colleges and universities, and connections between schools and colleges. His work has won awards from the Society of Professional Journalists, the Education Writers Association, the Virginia Press Association, and the National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

The sponsor of this event is the UHD chapter of Achieving the Dream. Achieving the Dream is a national initiative to help more college students succeed. The initiative is particularly concerned about the needs of low-income and minority students.

Students Government ELECTIONS!!!

How to run for office:
1. Get an application from Student Activities (S-204).
2. Collect student signatures.
3. Campaign for a position:
   - President
   - Vice President
   - Treasurer
   - Executive Secretary
   - Senator

Deadline for Applications – March 31st!

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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YOUTh

Continued from page 1

ment, but a yearning for moral reawakening. What we want is for everything to run more smoothly, and with a saintly leader at the helm.

A catchy theme, not a likely occurrence

By Phil Aubart. The Dartmouth

It seems to be a tradition of each generation of youth to rebel against the status quo and push for change. Despite our characterization as the “quiet generation,” today’s youths are no different. Barack Obama and John McCain decisively winning the youth vote in this year’s election cycle is evidence of this, as both can be considered anti-establishment candidates. President Clinton was our parents’ President; none of us could vote 12 years ago. We don’t want another Clinton. My dad listens to talk radio, not me. We don’t care that McCain is routinely bashed over the airwaves. The fact that McCain angers the conservative right even pleases us because Bush is their man. We need someone different.

The above is merely my observation though. I, myself am disenchanted with the idea of change in politics. Change is the buzzword of this election. Change is a catchy theme, not a likely occurrence, especially when this change will be driven by one man, albeit President. Change is consistently promised and rarely delivered. We should
Tired of being stuck indoors for classes or behind a computer finishing assignments? Now that spring weekends are finally here and summer is around the corner, visit one of Houston’s finest and most relaxing attractions, Hermann Park. Located south of downtown and surrounded by the Texas Medical Center, Museum District and Rice University, the 445-acre park has lots to offer for Houstonians looking to have a great time. The main entrance is at the intersection where Montrose Boulevard and Main and Fannin Streets meet, just look for the Sam Houston Monument.

The park was given to the city of Houston in 1914 by native oilman George H. Hermann, who also donated Hermann Hospital. By 1922, the park grew in size to 133 acres due to the addition of a golf course that is still open and popular with the public. A miniature train was built on park grounds in 1957 to provide visitors with a new way to enjoy the scenery. Since then, more attractions have made Hermann Park a must-see for visitors and native Houstonians.

The Houston Zoo is next to the park and is a great place to view over 4,500 different animals from around the world in exhibits that are similar to their natural habitats. Visitors can also enjoy the Children’s Zoo which has playgrounds, more child-friendly exhibits and a petting zoo with farm animals.

McGovern Lake is a man-made feature that includes bird and fish wetland habitats and three islands. You can rent a paddleboat that seats up to four people and take a closer look at nature. At night, lighting around the lake and string lights on the paddleboats themselves provide for a nice romantic escape on date night.

The Japanese Garden is a nice place to relax and see plants and trees native to Japan in a calm and serene environment. In this section of the park, Asian craftsmen have recreated what life in some parts of Japan is like using waterfalls, fauna and a teahouse.

While Hermann Park also contains several playgrounds and jogging trails, one of its more vibrant attractions is the Miller Outdoor Theatre. The venue has free performances during the week and on weekends beginning in March. There is seating available for 1,500 people, but hundreds more can picnic on a hill facing the stage. This season, there will be new shows along with old favorites scheduled. On Saturday, March 29, the Diaz Music Institute will present Noche Caliente, featuring salsa music. The HITS Theatre will present Peter Pan several evenings during the month of April. One of the most popular shows, “Dancin’ in the Street…Motown & More Revue” presented by the Midtown Arts Center, also returns the evenings of May 22-25. For a more detailed list of scheduled performances, visit www.milleroutdoortheatre.com

Now that we get a well-deserved break and we can see the light at the end of the tunnel for this semester, get out and take some time for yourself and your loved ones.
Enjoy An Off The Beaten Path Spring Break!
Hot Springs Arkansas Offers Fun On A Budget

By Tamara Wise
dateLine downtown

Everyone wants to get away for Spring Break, but many of us don’t have the time or money to spend a week in a luxurious vacation place like Cancun. However, relaxation, adventure, and fun—on a budget—can be found 7 hours away from Houston in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Nestled in the Diamond Lakes Region and surrounded by the Ouachita Mountains, Hot Springs offers the comfort of an extravagant vacation at an affordable price.

Just as its namesake, Hot Springs has 47 naturally flowing thermal springs that produces 700,000 gallons of hot water (143 degrees) a day. These natural wonders made Hot Springs one of the most exotic places to visit in the US during the early 1900s. Locals created bathhouses and spas utilizing the natural hot waters which attracted the rich and famous from around the country and even the world.

Today, the old bathhouses have been remodeled and turned into a tourist attraction called Bathhouse Row. Located on Central Ave. in the heart of Hot Springs, the Row includes spas, hotels, restaurants, and shops; and it features Fordyce Bathhouse Museum & Hot Springs National Park Visitor Center where you can tour the refurbished bathhouse and learn more about the bathhouse era and park history.

Not only did the natural springs create a spa haven, but the landscape in which it is situated made for the perfect spot for Hot Springs National Park, the smallest and oldest national park system, and various State Parks. Here you can fish bass and trout on either Ouachita or Hamilton Lakes, enjoy water sports, or take a scenic lunch/dinner ride on the Belle of Hot Springs Riverboat. Other activities you can enjoy at the parks are camping, hiking, biking, horse-back riding, and birding along various scenic mountain trails.

One exciting adventure in Hot Springs is mining for quartz crystals. There are mines all over the area. For a small fee you can go in and search through rocks and dirt for crystals that you can take home at no charge. It is recommended that you search the internet for the different mines to check rates, dress in old clothes, and take a small shovel and bucket with you.

Additional attractions include Garvan Woodland Gardens and live horse racing and complete simulcasts of coast-to-coast tracks. Also, Hot Springs has go-karts, miniature golf, wax museums, historic monuments, and numerous dining experiences throughout the city and around the lakes.

If you decide to go during the first half of Break, the city is hosting two entertaining events. First is The Valley of the Vapors Independent Music Festival, March 12-17, showcasing nearly 150 musicians from around the globe. The music will encompass modern rock, punk, hardcore, and experimental groups. Second is The First Ever 5th Annual World’s Shortest St. Patrick’s Day Parade on March 17 featuring Discovery Channel’s Dirty Jobs host Mike Rowe as Grand Marshal.

If you’re looking for a closer adventure this Spring Break, there are numerous State and National Parks closer to home that offer camping, fishing, boating, hiking, and biking. Some of these include Lake Livingston, Lake Somerville, Martin Dies, Jr. State Park, and Big Thicket National Park. Whatever you decide to do this Spring Break be safe and enjoy your vacation!

Catch Some Waves This Spring Break
South Padre Offers Clear Water & Good Breaks
By Jacob Benavides
dateLine downtown

Don’t let anyone tell you there is no surf in Texas because I am here to tell you, there is. You just have to find it. The Gulf of Mexico will never measure up to some of the top surf spots in the world such as the North Shore in Hawaii or Mavericks in Cali but you can definitely get some satisfying rides here in the Lone Star State.

South Padre Island is just four hours south of here (depending on how fast you drive) and has some of the best surf in Texas. The water and sand in Padre is clear and white, a real change from the less than stellar conditions down in G-Town, and the waves are insanely more consistent the closer you get to the border.

Aside from surfing, Padre is the second to Panama City Beach, Florida as the party capitol for Spring Break. You can surf and chill on the beach all day and party it up at night and trust me, you will have the time of your life.

If you looking for some great surf and an tremendous place to party, hop in the car and travel down to Padre next week. I promise you won’t regret it.
Semi-pro
Not Ferrell’s Best, But Still Good

By Kristi Seidel
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

Will Farrell makes a comeback with his recent film Semi-Pro where he plays Jackie Moon, a one hit wonder who uses his fame and fortune to buy the Michigan Flint Tropics and promote himself to owner-coach-player and hotshot extraordinaire.

If you enjoy Farrell’s sense of humor and disturbing antics then Semi-Pro will be sure to top your list of favorite comedies. If the afro and short boy shorts Farrell sports throughout the film don’t make you want to jump up and go see the film right away, the half-time show Jackie Moon forces his team members to participate in will. Not to mention Farrell’s caged bear fight gone wrong.

The movie puts the audience back in the 1970’s where the American Basketball Association makes a merger with the National Basketball Association taking four teams from the ABA to the NBA. What does that mean for Jackie Moon’s washed up team, the Flint Tropics? They must make it to the top four in the ABA.

The film is yet another sports spoof similar to all of Farrell’s other spoofs such as Blades of Glory, and Talladega Nights.

Even though Farrell fails to top his previous box office success, Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby, the film landed number one for sales in the box offices its first week out. There aren’t as many quotes one can draw on during conversation after seeing the film, unlike Talladega Nights and Anchorman, but if you want a good laugh go see Semi-Pro.

French Film Fest

By Regina Panis
DATELINE DOWNTOWN

Paris, Je T’aime
(Paris, I Love You) 2006

Directors and filmmakers: The Coen brothers, Gus Van Sant, Wes Craven, Alexander Payne, along with additional international directors.

Features: Natalie Portman, Steve Buscemi, Marianne Faithfull, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Juliette Binoche, Nick Nolte, Willem Dafoe, Emily Mortimer, Miranda Richardson, And more...

Paris, Je T’aime is an anthology of film bits, running under 10 minutes each, sharing the common themes that ties them together: Paris and love. Twenty different directors and filmmakers contributed to the film, adding their personal touch.

Set in different neighborhoods, the film takes the viewer on a tour of the City of Love through different scenarios, in which star American, British, French, and other international actors.

The movie begins with a parking situation in Montmartre. After fighting for a parking spot, a man tells another who is trying to haggle for his spot to “Shove off, butt-face,” which sounds tasteful and sophisticated in French.

Sitting in his car, he watches women walk by, mumbling that the good ones are all taken. A woman passes and he doesn’t see her walk off in his rearview mirror because she has collapsed next to his car. He helps her up and they instantly connect.

Le Marais by Gus Van Sant, involves a Frenchman, Gaspard, who translates his boss’s English to French for a man at a store. The minute his boss and the man leave the room, he pours his heart and soul out, speaking French, to the man’s assistant, without knowing that the assistant doesn’t know French very well and has no idea what Gaspard is saying.

Most notably, Tuileries, by Joel and Ethan Coen, takes place at the Tuileries subway station. Steve Buscemi plays a tourist, who is reading his guidebook, sitting at the station. While sitting there, minding his own business, he catches himself in the middle of a lover’s spat between a woman and her boyfriend, who is extremely jealous.

The next thing he knows, the woman is next to him, kissing him to enraged her boyfriend more. The situation gets out of hand, and Buscemi, who doesn’t say a single word the entire time, has absolutely no control over what happens next.

Paris, Je T’aime’s additional bits include a young American actress (Natalie Portman) in a relationship with a French student who is blind, a grieving mother (Juliette Binoche), whose little son’s death has left her heartbroken, and a little boy who tells the story how his parents, both mimes, met sitting in his car, watching a Frenchwoman, mumbling to him, kissing him to enraged her boyfriend more. The situation gets out of hand, and Buscemi, who doesn’t say a single word the entire time, has absolutely no control over what happens next.

UHD French Film Festival, March 2008 Remaining Shows

7 PM in the Wilhelmina Cullen Robertson Auditorium, 3rd fl. of the UHD Academic Building.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Film</th>
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<td>Wednesday, March 12</td>
<td>Nathalie</td>
<td>(France, Spain) 2003</td>
<td>105 min.</td>
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<td>Tuesday, March 25</td>
<td>L’Enfant</td>
<td>(Belgium, France) 2005</td>
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<td>Special Time: 9 PM</td>
<td>Quand La Mer Monte</td>
<td>(Belgium, France) 2004</td>
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All movies are free and open to the public, and are shown with English subtitles.

Contact: Dr. Antonio Garcia garciaant@uhd.edu (713) 222-5316
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About four years now. It’s on and off since I’ve worked other places during the summer. I’ve found other jobs that paid more but they were full time positions and they wouldn’t compromise and let me work part time so I could go to school.

How do you juggle school and work and social life?

Not too well. I spend most of my time working on school stuff in class and at work. I don’t go out all too often so I guess I don’t have much of a social life. I just hang out with a small circle of friends here at school. I guess you could call me boring because I don’t go out and do much at all.

What are your hobbies?

I like to paint, enjoy playing pool, and just hanging out with good friends.

What are your favorite hangouts in Houston?

Good times are where your friends are, so it could be nearly anywhere. If I happen to have some time and my friends invite me to hang out somewhere I just tag along. I don’t know of any places myself.

What is your favorite place to grab a cheap bite to eat?

Les Givral’s. It’s a little Vietnamese restaurant that has good food that is not too harsh on the wallet. It’s in walking distance from the school too.

Who or what inspires you the most, and why?

The thing that inspires me the most is positive people. I really look up to people who are very confident, outspoken and aggressive. I’m not much of an aggressive person unless I have to be. But on a regular basis, I’m myself and I’m inspired to be more outgoing when I see people with strong personalities.

Last but not least, what are your plans for Spring Break?

I’m going out of town to San Antonio to go camping!

KIM

Continued from page 2

KIM

Who or what inspires you the most, and why?

I have wanted to be a defense attorney since I was 13 years old, and the person who inspired me the most is a teacher in my junior high school. He was a retired Marine. He believed in everything I did.

I remember one day, when I told him that it would be hard for me to be a lawyer because English was my second language, he told me, “Always have a positive attitude. That is how you will get through the day no matter how difficult it is.” From that point on, he sat with me one-on-one every day after school to teach me English. He is the one who helped me receive many awards and medals. As time passed, my English improved and we connected more. He was like a mentor to me. He saw me walk across stages and receive many medals and awards.

He told me one day, “I want to see you walk on that stage for Junior High graduation, and I will be down here to celebrate with you.” But you don’t always get what you want. He passed away with a heart attack the day before I graduated from Junior High.

What are you currently listening to on your iPod or mp3 player?

I don’t listen to music from an iPod or mp3 player because I’m listening from my cell phone. Carrying an iPod and cell phone at same time is not good for me. I have to keep track of both things (not counting my school items), so I only carry my cell phone with memory of 5 GB. I’m mostly listening to Vietnamese music. Sometimes I listen to 50 Cent; I love his 21 questions song! Believe it or not, I’m still listening to NSYNC! I think they have a great group and it’s sad they split up! I’m currently listening to Alvin and the Chipmunks songs!! I love that movie! I’ve watched it 5 times and it’s still funny to me!

South By Southwest Film Festival Preview 2008

By Will Chinchilla

DATELINE DOWNTOWN

Filmmakers from around the country will be gathering this week at the South by Southwest (SXSW) film convention to debut their new works. An astounding 9 regional premiere’s will be taking place at the film festival. All of these premieres are early screenings of mainstream movies, and their reception here will most definitely define how the rest of America will react to the films. And unlike the Tribeca or Aspen film fests, fans at SXSW will have a major opportunity to see the stars of the films at the actual screenings and events.

The movie premieres are all battling for the coveted time slot of 9:00pm. The hardest decision is decided whether to go see Harold & Kumar: Escape from Guantanamo Bay or watch the very independently directed movie Explicit Ill’s. Every movie that will be coming out this year will be premiering at SXSW. The film festival will be a competition of selected films by a compila­tion of judges appointed by the SXSW film committee. The two nominated independent movies that have grabbed attention are Rainbow Around the Sun; a sadistic musical with original music revolving around a songwriter that creates vivid carnival themed musical fantasies in order to avoid dealing with his alcoholism. The second movie is Here’s Johnny!, a British documentary that allows the viewer to experience the world of artist Johnny Hickleton (created drawings for Judge Dredd) and his battle against Multiple Sclerosis.

The sponsors of SXSW will not just be signing checks but providing media rooms and their own creative material for distribution. One of the sponsors, VHI, will be premiering their rockDoc titled; The Night James Brown Saved Boston. Dell, also sponsoring the event, created an interactive Dell Lounge where a Guitar Hero contest will be taking place. There will also be panels and conversation scheduled with Helen Hunt, an acting workshop with Jeffrey Tambour (Arrested Development), and a panel discussion with the whole cast of Harold and Kumar, even NPH himself (Neil Patrick Harris).

The official kickoff of the SXSW festival in Austin is Friday March 7, 2008. The festival will begin with the film and interactive portion continuing with the music festival until March 18th. SXSW is one of the major cultural events that take place in Texas every year. If you don’t have money to spend $600 dollars on a gold or platinum pass, Perez Hilton will be allowing people to RSVP his music venue taking place on Saturday March 15.

For more information and to RSVP go to www.perezhilton.com/austin
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focus on who will handle the Presidency best, rather than who will change politics the most. II

Internet forums energize youth movement
By Abid H. Mujtaba. The Battalion
Although every new generation fights the status quo, for rebellion is in youth's nature, this fact isn't enough to account for the extra-ordinary support the youth is lending to anti-establishment presidential candidates. It is fueled in part by the unusual unpopularity of the current administration but what has really given the youth movement inertia has been the use of electronic means of getting together and discussing politics. The role that Facebook and similar Internet discussion forums are playing in the process cannot be stressed enough. These Web-based applications unite unrivalled peer pressure delivery systems with an ease of use which has gripped the youth's attention. With an outlook unbiased by experience they are demanding straightforward solutions to clearly evident problems.

Couple this with the phenomenon that is Barrack Obama and you have all the ingredients of a self-fulfilling prophesy. Sen. Obama has single-handedly fuelled the imagination of college students everywhere. His speeches pushed the students out of apathy and in to the voting booths. Once he mobilized the youth in the early primaries the process snow-balled and you now have young voters lining up in record numbers across the U.S.

Minds only vaguely concerned with concepts like practicality and compromise are generating a tide of idealism that is sweeping other candidates away. The political naiveté of Sen. Obama and his youthful supporters may be exactly what is needed to accomplish the seemingly impossible changes that they are demanding. Here is a force that doesn't think but does.