With only two months left before the conclusion of the 82nd Texas Legislature Session, members of the University of Houston-Downtown (UHD) Student Government Association (SGA) took a road trip to Austin to do battle over House Bill 1 (HB1) and Senate Bill 1 (SB1).

These documents are legislatively equivalent bills that announce a reduction of education funding by $10 million dollars for UHD. Less funding from the state predestines more money directly from the students’ pockets and a significant decrease in the amount of money spent by the university.

Because of the national economic downturn, Texas suffered a $15 billion shortfall and to make up for this devastating loss, state legislators plan to slash funding left and right for various programs, including higher education.

According to Marian Wallace, legislative assistant to Sen. Dan Patrick (R), all state programs will be seeing cuts and merit will become a deciding factor when distributing need-based financial aid.

But, by essentially transforming these need-based aids into merit-based aids, will Texas have an adequate output of well-educated scholars to qualify for these grants, or is the Texas Legislature making these financial aid programs merit-based because they know that many students will not otherwise qualify for them?

The 5th edition of Texas on the Brink, a report from the Texas Legislative Study Group, notes that our state “is dead last in the percentage of residents with their high school diploma and near last in SAT scores.” Texas is 43rd of 50 in a country ranking for high school graduation rates, graduating only 62.6 percent of its students. Of that 62.6 percent graduating, only 55.4 percent of those students got to college, and even more disturbing, 50 percent of college freshmen are enrolled in remedial courses.
Editor for UHD student newspaper needed for 2011-12 academic year (August to May).

The Student Publications Advisory Committee is seeking applicants for the position of editor for Dateline:Downtown, the student-run, bi-weekly newspaper at UHD. Position begins in later summer to prepare an edition for the beginning of the Fall 2011 semester, and candidates are expected to commit to the job for the entire 2011-12 academic year. Duties include working cooperatively with student business manager and faculty adviser, developing and managing a stable of day and evening student freelance writers to cover news and events on campus and in the campus neighborhood of NoDo and Washington St. Must know page-making software program Adobe InDesign and have the skills to post the newspaper and articles online and to maintain the Dateline:Downtown web site. The paper needs stories written both in advance of, and as follow-up to, events of interest to students, including student activities and organizations, academics, athletics and lifestyle, university administration, and student government, as well as cultural coverage of theatre, film, music, sports, and the arts. Typical commitment is 20 hours/week; pay is $450 per issue for a scheduled 14 issues. Qualifications include at least sophomore standing; at least one semester in residence at UHD; successful completion of basic writing and/or lifestyle courses; and the maintenance of at least a 3.0 GPA. Applications are sought immediately and will be accepted until the position is filled. To apply, download application and forward with writing samples via email to Dateline adviser, Dr. Anthony Chiaviello, at Chiavielloa@uhd.edu.

Business/Sales Manager for UHD student newspaper needed for 2011-12 academic year (August to May).

The Student Publications Advisory Committee is seeking applicants for the position of business/sales manager for Dateline:Downtown, the student-run bi-weekly newspaper at UHD. Flexible beginning date, but candidates are expected to commit to the job for the entire 2011-12 academic year. Job emphasis is on budget accounting and advertising sales, and successful candidate will have a strong orientation toward personal selling and developing advertising revenue to permit the growth of the paper. Duties include managing business and financial matters for the paper, in cooperation with the student editor and adviser, and expanding the sales of advertising space in the paper, including to businesses in the campus neighborhoods of NoDo and Washington St. Successful candidate will train on PeopleSoft accounting system for payroll and accounts. Typical commitment is 20 hours/week; salary is $750 per month, plus 15% commission on ad sales. Qualifications include at least sophomore standing; at least one semester at UHD; successful completion of basic business courses; and the maintenance of at least a 2.5 GPA. Applications are sought immediately and will be accepted until March 31 or until the position is filled. To apply, download application and forward with letter detailing qualifications via email to Dateline adviser, Dr. Anthony Chiaviello, at Chiavielloa@uhd.edu.
Economy places strangle-hold on education

DYLAN OSBORNE
Columnist

The state of Texas is in an economic mess and it would appear the current ruling class only has one solution: cut services to the bone. This is important to students in a number of ways, but one of the worst side-effects of this approach will be the slashing of the state’s education budget. No one has really thrown out the numbers yet, but rest assured, your tuition will be going up soon and it will probably be a large increase.

Texas is in the same boat a lot of states find themselves in, broke and unwilling to raise revenue. These states do not want to raise taxes, because that has become a political death sentence. No politician wants to be the one that champions a tax increase in the current environment. When governments do not have any money they can do two things, shrink the budget or increase revenue through taxes. Texas is facing up to a $30 billion shortage so some combination of the two is needed, but only looking at one side of the equation is going to cause massive problems, and that is just what the lawmakers in Austin plan to do.

What kind of cuts can we expect to see? Education and healthcare are two of the largest items on the state’s budget. Both of these areas will see major reductions and those are two areas you cannot really afford to cut. Healthcare has obvious ramifications. Simply put, needy people will go without the healthcare they need. Some people will have to forgo eye exams and other health maintenance, but other people will die from these cuts.

Arizona is a perfect example of what happens when the healthcare budget is cut too far. Patients are missing out on life-saving organ transplants because the program was defunded. There have been rumblings about recalling their governor, Jan Brewer, but that may come too late for a number of people.

Cutting education may save money in the short term, and in reality it may be a necessity, but in the long-term it can have crippling side effects.

By cutting education now, the states young people will not be as prepared for the workforce down the road. Class sizes will go up as teachers get fired, other services like after school care will be cut, and more kids will be lost in the shuffle to be left behind. Higher ed cuts will force schools to raise tuition to make up the difference. I will admit higher education funding is much more of a luxury than K-12, but deep cuts to the state’s university system will lead to a less educated population. More students will not be able to afford school. Given the cuts to education funds at the federal level this is a time for the state to kick in more money, not less.

At this time, America needs to better its education system in order to keep up with the rest of the world. With the cuts coming at the local, state and federal level that is not going to happen, instead we will fall a little further behind.

If Texas, or the U.S. for that matter, does not have enough money coming in to continue popular programs it is time to raise taxes and cut other benefits.

Cutting corporate welfare is the first place to start. At the national level more money is spent on corporate tax breaks and subsidies than on personal welfare programs. Texas is one of the lowest tax states in the nation, and is considered to be very business friendly. Before destroying the educational system and healthcare programs in place that people need and want, it is time to raise revenue to pay for them. At the very least, all options should be considered before serious damage is done to Texas’ future.

Contact your state and federal representatives and let them know you are worried about cuts to education.

No one else will stand up for your education.

Dateline:Downtown

is looking for:

◆ Advertising Sales
◆ Writers
◆ Photographers

If interested, please email information to CoxJa@uhd.edu or call 713-221-8569 to schedule an appointment.
Construction continues to hamper parking, tardies

HASSAN SHAHEED
Contributing Writer

It has been about six months since the construction for the Metro light rail began and students, staff, faculty and other Houstonians have been adjusting to the heavily congested Main St.

Main wasn’t exactly the best street to travel on in the downtown area prior to construction, but now its condition has worsened as the city prepares for the extension of Houston’s Metro Light Rail service.

The construction begins on the intersection of Main St. and Wood, St., and ends next to the Daly Street Parking Lot where many of the University of Houston-Downtown (UHD) park and cross to the Shea Street Building.

Traffic has become a major problem, especially since Main St. has been reduced from a two-lane to a one-lane street, making it difficult for students to avoid tardies, professors late for important lectures and the flow of traffic to be more fluid.

“I think UHD and Houston should have established a secondary route for student motorists to arrive to campus, and a safe secondary route for student pedestrians to travel between campus buildings and parking areas. Now, it’s all messed up, and only going to get worse. That said, I still approve of the light rail being built,” said Aaron Herridge, a freshman at UHD.

Going north of Main Street, you can see the gravel and dirt that has been dug up from the street. The worst construction times range from the mornings between the hours of 8am until 5pm. There are few alternative routes and commuters are doing the best they can to cope with the construction.

“So far it doesn’t affect me all that much. I mean, trying to get to the parking lot is a bit congested on the streets, but outside of that I’m not too much inconvenienced; its just a pain because it shouldn’t be going all the time,” said UHD student Clarence McQueen.

There are practically hundreds of students who travel between buildings during the day and park in the Daly Street Parking Lot or in the Shea Street Garage. The visible alternative routes are narrow and hard to travel, especially with so many vehicles traveling one way.

The students that use the UHD shuttle buses are often late for their destinations because of the heavy congestion.

“Well in my opinion, the current construction that is underway downtown adversely affects students and their timely arrival to their classes,” said Anthony Holcombe, a junior at UHD. “The roads that many students travel on to arrive and park at school are often congested due to not only the sheer volume of faculty and staff attempting to park, but also due to the current construction in the area.”

Construction is expected to end either later this year or early 2012.

Capitol
(Cont’d from page 1)

The Texas State Legislature is well aware of its dilapidated public education; the legislators are so well informed that they consciously provide only 32 percent of the actual financial need for higher education while the most lavishing states supply 89 percent of need-based financial aid.

As students watch this process unfold, the little amount of money that they do receive will continue to dwindle.

In addition to the increase in tuition and decrease in financial aid, the $10 million budget cut will also reshape UHD’s faculty/staff as it requires a reduction in salaries, benefits, and positions.

UHD President, Bill Flores, has declared that there are “29 positions identified for elimination.”

Although the Board of Regents insists that student success be funded by new tuition and fee revenue, cutbacks in faculty/staff salaries and positions could possibly lead to the demise of student education.

Evelyn Mendez, a senior at UHD, feels these changes will lead to less funding for extracurricular programs, but teacher quality and motivation will, likewise, be affected.

Even using tuition revenue to fund student success, how will UHD develop flourishing students without a well-developed faculty and staff?

Yet Bill Flores understands that “state support—and likely indirect federal support through grants and financial aid programs—will continue to diminish over time,” and “to succeed in this new environment, universities will need to find ways to deliver higher quality educational experiences with fewer resources.”

Four members of SGA—Sen. Emanuel Castillo, Sen. Alex Eiley, Rep. Melissa Alvarez and Rep. Kristin Robinson—spent the night camping in tents and went to the Texas State Capitol to lobby against these budgets cuts and to find out what students can do about this issue.

Legislators made the following suggestions to the SGA members:

1) Vote and elect officials that will represent and push for your initiatives;
2) Call, email and write your personal senators and representatives;
3) Contact the legislators of the Houston district;
4) Contact those who are on the Legislative Higher Education Committee;
5) Take part in the walkouts against budgets;
6) Take a road trip and protest with all higher education students at the Texas State Capitol.

For more information on the key issues or student involvement, contact the UHD SGA at 713-221-8551 or stop by Room N-210.
The prankster’s holiday

Who is keeping the “fools” tradition

SHELLY SKREHOT  
Staff Writer

On April 1 many people dread the unpleasant jokes that may come their way, but for those who cannot get enough of a good joke, and just really love the day are those who keep the tradition going. However, it is still unclear where April fool’s Day originated.

According to Graeme Stemp-Morlock, writer for the Daily News on national-geographic.com, it is believed to have come from France in the 150’s. It is theory that the French changed the start of their calendar year so that it would be aligned with the Roman calendar, and have their New Year start in January instead of the End of March or beginning of April. The change on the calendar traveled quite slowly, therefore many of the people that occupied the more rural areas continued to have their New Year celebrations on April 1. These people developed the nickname of “April fools”. By the 18th century the tradition had spread into Scotland and Britain, and is now known worldwide.

In different parts of the world the holiday has evolved. In Scotland the holiday has transformed into a day where the pranks and jokes are centered on the buttocks, and because the jokes focus on the human behind the people of Scotland call the day “Taily Day”. In England jokes are only done in the morning, because it is considered bad luck to play a joke on someone after noon. In Portugal the celebration of April fools is held after lent, and it is very common for many to throw flour at their friends, reported April-fools.us.

The day of April fools in the United States is becoming less and less celebrated in the home and in the corporate world, but is becoming something that the media like to participate in.

The avid fans of this holiday are the ones that keep it from dying.

UHD now offers additional parking at San Jacinto Parking Lot

Skyline News - In response to student requests, UHD has arranged for additional downtown parking for UHD students, faculty and staff.

Additional parking is now available for students, faculty and staff at North San Jacinto Street and Allen Street.

There are 84 parking spaces in the far northeast corner of the AMPCO Parking Lot set aside for UHD. Spaces reserved for UHD have the word “RESERVED” painted in each space. Parking Enforcement and the UHD Police patrol the lot to provide safety and security.

The shuttle bus service also picks-up and drops-off from this location. Shuttles run from the Daly Street Lot, to the One Main Building, to the Commerce Street Building, corner of Franklin Street and Fannin Street, to the San Jacinto Lot, to the Shea Street Building and back to the Daly Street Lot.

The UHD Police patrol streets and parking lots near the University 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
Careers & Coffee 2011

Networking/Recruiting Event

Two networking events connecting registered & qualified students* to employers, specific to their fields of interest or major. This is a smaller, more intimate setting so students will get more face time with employers. You will be able to visit with representatives, ask questions, get insight into their businesses, & find out about positions and internships. This is your chance to sell yourself to get an interview!

Wednesday, March 30th

Business-Analytical, Science & Technology Careers
Accounting, Finance, CIS, Math, Supply Chain Mgmt., Risk Management Engineering, Technical, IT, Math and Science

Thursday, March 31st

Business-Relationship-Centered, Public Service Careers
Marketing, Management, HR, Communications, Public Relations, Teaching, Law Enforcement, Humanities, Social & Support Services

Sessions are from 2pm to 4pm each day in Special Events Room, 300A

*Pre-registration required - through jobs4gators
(Please register early, attend workshops & have your resume prepared/reviewed prior to March 24th)

*Approved resume required – through jobs4gators prior to event
(Please note: only those students who physically attend the session will have their resume forwarded to the employers.)

*Professional dress required, suits preferred.
(Please see samples of appropriate dress under Resource Library on jobs4gators homepage.)

To register for an event: visit www.uhd.edu/jobs4gators; click "career events" on your homepage

To register for a resume or interview workshop: contact us @ UHDCareer@uhd.edu or 713-221-8980.
‘Riding Hood’ transforms fairy tale into horror flick

Uwire - Catherine Hardwicke, director of “Twilight” and the just-released “Red Riding Hood,” seems to have found her go-to movie ingredients. Voice narration by troubled young female protagonist? Check. Obsessive love triangle? Check. A general lack of character emotion considering the dark nature of the storyline? Definite check. Add a stunningly attractive cast whose ability to actually act isn’t an important part of their résumés and you are pretty much set.

Even the best parts of Hardwicke’s new film are basically the same pros that you can pull out of “Twilight.” Beautiful landscape shots dominate the film, and the set designer definitely went the extra mile. Fever Ray offers up a great new single to the movie’s original soundtrack. Music and visuals are fantastic — including the up-close-and-personal shots of Amanda Seyfried (“Dear John”), Shiloh Fernandez (“Deadgirl”) and Max Irons (“Dorian Gray”), the eye candy making up the main love triangle. Unfortunately, you can’t build a great movie around the pretty.

Veteran actor Gary Oldman (“The Dark Knight”) seemed to promise substance when he first came on the scene, but he quickly fell into the clichéd villain’s role, down to his obscurely convoluted? European accent and tiny graying goatee. Julie Christie (“Finding Neverland”) was another colorful cast member who, in fact, didn’t disappoint — she kept up her personality and charm despite the painful writing apparently designed to stifle it.

Perhaps the film’s biggest weakness was its failed attempt to bring out the gritty interior of Red Riding Hood. After all, the well-known story involves some seriously dark stuff — grandmothers being eaten and then pulled out of stomachs again, not to mention the creepy “All the better to eat you with” conversation, to which the movie played due homage in one of the best scenes of its 100 minutes.

However, the movie seemed to take only the blood and gore of the story, not its potentially complex plot ideas. We are told the villagers of our little setting live in fear of the wolf, but they actually seem fairly nonchalant as they go through their lives, even when loved ones get killed off. Plus, the movie does nothing with the potential conflict that lies in being a human for most of the month and a murdering wolf for three days of it.

Essentially, if you wanted to see one of your favorite and most chilling childhood tales dumbed down to bad horror movie material, complete with the meaningless gore, the virgin’s survival and the instant death of any characters who happen to be minorities, this might be just your ticket. Or, if you were a fan of “Twilight” and you’re just in it for the pretty, Hardwicke has definitely delivered again. Otherwise, skip it altogether or wait for the lamest Friday night of your life and Redbox it. I’m not kidding about the pretty.

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Opening night for newest production in O’Kane Theater April 1

DAVID MELENDEZ
Staff Writer

The O’Kane Theater and University of Houston-Downtown (UHD) drama department will soon hit the stage, with a production of, “You Can’t Take it With You”.

Written by George S. Kaufmen and Moss Hart, the play is performed in three acts and centers around the quirky Sycamore family and a cast of memorable and unique supporting characters.

At first glance, it would appear that the Sycamore family is crazy, but if they are, then the rest of the world is even crazier. In contrast to the delightful Sycamores, is the quite unhappy Kirby family.

The story begins to pick up when Tony, the young, attractive son of the Kirbys, falls in love with Alice Sycamore and brings his family over for dinner at the Sycamore house on the wrong evening.

Play director, Rachel Dickson says that she has seen the play previously at the Alley Theater and was asked by Dr. Thomas Lyttle to direct the play. Rachel feels the play touches everyone on a personal level and that it is not money but rather another object, personal to every individual. She recommends that all people find their it and the money will come.

“I was a drama major and although I told myself I wouldn’t do it, I felt the bite of the acting bug and had to come to try-outs for the play.”

–Theresa Hunt

During rehearsal, student-actors Theresa Hunt and Justin Jenkins we’re on hand to add a bit of perspective from an actor’s standpoint.

Jenkins admits that he is a bit nervous about the upcoming play, despite the fact that he is already a veteran actor and has starred in previous UHD productions.

“Once you are bitten by the acting bug, you are drawn to it and can’t ignore the call,” said Jenkins.

Hunt agrees with her castmate.

“I was a drama major and although I told myself I wouldn’t do it, I felt the bite of the acting bug and had to come to try-outs for the play,” said Hunt.

Hunt and Jenkins both agree that the process of learning lines can be tedious and requires a good amount of thought but is worth the effort.

The two offered a bit of advice for any UHD students who are interested in joining the cast and crew for future productions. Jenkins recommends just trying it out and get involved, and Hunt added that you will never know what can happen until you try, and there really is nothing to lose. The opportunity to become something great is there, if only there exists the courage to take advantage of it.

The production will run April 1 through 9, with special student matinee performances on the 3, 6 and 8. Ticket prices for the show are set at $3 each and may be purchased at the theater box office during normal business hours or 30 minutes prior to each performance at the door. For more information on O’Kane Theater Productions as well as ticket reservations, call (713)-221-8042 or visit the O’Kane Theater on the Web at http://www.datelinedowntown.com/academic/colleges/humanities/arts_humanities/drama/okane_theatre/index.html.
Sports

March 21-April 4, 2011
Dateline: Downtown
www.datelinedowntown.com

Friday, March 25
Women’s Basketball vs University of Phoenix
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Location: Student Life Center

Friday, March 25
Men’s Basketball vs University of Phoenix
8:30 PM - 10:00 PM
Location: Student Life Center

Saturday, March 26
Men’s Basketball at Rice University
2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
Location: Rice University

Friday, April 1
Women’s Basketball vs Lee College
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Location: Student Life Center

Friday, April 1
Men’s Basketball vs Lee College
8:30 PM - 10:00 PM
Location: Student Life Center

Saturday, April 2
Men’s Baseball vs Rice University
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Location: TBA

Sunday, April 3
Men’s Baseball vs Rice University
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Location: TBA

Other Fitness

Thursday & Friday, March 24-25
CPR/AED Certification
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Location: TBD
Cost: $5 UHD, $15 Public
You have a greater probability of using this training on someone you love versus a complete stranger. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn what to do in case of an emergency situation.
Participation is limited to the first 15 people who prepay for the class. To reserve a spot for this training, stop by the Student Life Center.

Friday, March 25
Sit and Be Fit! - Healthy Workshop
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Location: 1099N
We love to see UHD students, staff, and faculty utilize the facilities in Sports & Fitness but during those busy times when your schedule makes it challenging for you to workout with us, sit down! Yes, you can exercise sitting in your seat! Let us show you how. Everything will be done from a seated position and you don’t even have to change into your workout gear! All participants will receive a complimentary “gym-on-the-go” resistance band and have the opportunity to learn a workout routine that can be done in 10-15 minutes.

MASSESS AT UHD

DON'T STRESS OUT, COME IN AND RELAX

Offered by Sports & Fitness

45 Minute Massage
- $25 Students
- $35 Faculty, Staff and S&F Alumni

Massages take place in the Student Life Center. To make an appointment, please visit the 3rd floor office.
Moderately Confused
by Jeff Stahler

GOOD MORNING, ALEX. GOOD MORNING, MR. HUGE COFFEE STAIN.

@ The Dateline Downtown

@ The Dateline

Pearls Before Swine by Stephan Pastis

YOU EVER HAD A FRIEND AS CLOSE AS RAT IS TO ME WHO ONE DAY JUST THREW YOU UNDER THE BUS?

OH, PIG... DID RAT BETRAY YOU?

NO.

WHAT'D HE DO?

HE THREW ME UNDER THE BUS.

WHAT'S THIS BETRAYAL THING?

Dilbert by Scott Adams

OUR POINTY-HAIRED BOSS PUT ME IN CHARGE WHILE HE'S GONE.

THAT'S PROOF THAT I'M BETTER THAN YOU... AND YOU... AND YOU... AND YOU.

OH LOOK; THAT'S THE ONLY THING ON MY AGENDA!

SUDOKU

HOW TO PLAY:
Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

Look for the solution in the next issue of Dateline:Downtown

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Check the April 5 edition of Dateline:Downtown for the solution to this week’s puzzle.
GATOR GO-TOs

March 24-26
The Houston International Model United Nations Conference
The Houston Model United Nations at the University of Houston-Downtown will hold the 2011 conference at the UHD campus. Students of all disciplines can join the team and participate ($15/person).
Please contact HOUMUN at houmun.help@gmail.com or visit the office in room N-1096 for time and location information.

Thursday, March 24, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in Room A-300
Karaoke With the Greeks
The University of Houston-Downtown sororities and fraternities are hosting a Karaoke Day and invite all UHD community members to participate.

Monday, March 28, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. in Room A-300
4th Annual UHD Gender Conference - “Framing Gender”
UHD students from all disciplines will present their research on gender to small panels of their peers. Everyone is invited to attend.

Tuesday, March 29, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Room N-420
Buffalo Bayou Review - Open Mic Night: Voices from the Bayou
UHD’s literary and visual arts magazine, The Bayou Review, invites you to read your poetry at the open mic event.

April 1-9, Times Vary. O’Kane Theater
O’Kane Theatre Production of “You Can’t Take It With You”
The University of Houston-Downtown Theater will present eight performances of “You Can’t Take It With You,” in the O’Kane Theatre, One Main Building. The cost is $3 and reservations are not required. Tickets can be purchased at the theater box office during normal business hours or 30 minutes prior to each performance at the door.

2011 Hispanic Film Series
Location: Mondays - Shea Street Building, Second Floor, Room 221
Thursdays - One Main Street, Academic Building, Fourth Floor, Room 405
This film series honors Hispanic films that were nominated for or received an Academy Award. Feature films include “La historia oficial,” “El Norte,” “Camila,” and “Volver.”

All films are shown in Spanish with English subtitles unless otherwise noted.

All films are free and open to the public!

Series Dates:
Monday, Mar 21, 1:00 p.m.
Monday, April 4, 1:00 p.m.
Monday, April 18, 1:00 p.m.
Monday, April 25, 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 28, 7:00 p.m.

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