Texas constitutional amendments

Top three mayoral candidates, Texas constitutional amendments

LUCHA MORALES
Managing Editor

Houstonians can vote early for mayoral candidates and ten constitutional amendments on early voting ballot, including one amendment that could benefit college students.

Democrat incumbent Annise Parker is once again running for mayor. Parker was the first openly gay elected mayor in Houston. Parker took office in 2009 when she won a runoff election against Gene Locke. Parker was the Houston's City Controller for six years before she became the mayor. According to Parker's blog, "Houston added 65,600 non-farm jobs in the past year, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. That's the biggest increase in any major metro area in the country." Parker was criticized after opting to keep the red-light cameras on in Houston after Proposition Three was rejected by voters. While the controversy over the cameras continues, Parker's mayoral campaign for jobs and a stronger community has remained unchanged.

Republican Fernando Herrera, currently Deputy Chief of the Houston Fire Department, officially announced his candidacy for mayor on May 12, 2011. Herrera's "Leadership For a New Era" campaign includes responsible government, essential city services and advanced economic development. Herrera also opposed the drainage tax implemented in Houston last November. Herrera is focused on the will of the people and not a political agenda.

"Decisions will be made based on doing what's right for the citizens of Houston, not political favors, paybacks, or getting reelected," said Herrera.

Dave Wilson, a Houston Business owner, is also running for mayor and continues to openly challenge Parker's mayoral candidacy. In 2009, Wilson sent out over 30,000 fliers to Houstonians that stated his opposition for Parker's mayoral candidacy due to her sexual orientation. Wilson's campaign against Parker continues in 2011 with fundraising letters sent to his campaign donors claiming that Parker is using her sexual orientation to promote homosexual agenda. Herrera is focused on the will of the people and not a political agenda. Here is an excerpt of the letter:

"Being homosexual is one thing, but using your position of power to promote the homosexual agenda is quite another. In her first term as mayor, Ms. Parker has appointed a transvestite to be a municipal judge (Phyllis Frye). She has signed an executive order that allows men dressed as women to use the women's restroom (#1-8 Revised). She has carved out a new council district for homosexuals (District "C"). I have family members and friends who have been ensnared and trapped in homosexual behavior, and I know firsthand of the incredible pain and sorrow it has brought to them and their families. Religious freedom will be stifled and millions more will be trapped as the demand for legal and political approval for homosexual behavior increases." If elected as mayor Wilson claims he will make some much needed changes starting with the municipal offices.

"For starters, as your mayor, I will cut the mayor's salary in half; cut the mayor's staff in half and cut city council's staff in half," said Wilson.

Among the other mayoral candidates is Amanda Ulman, a Republican. Ulman, who is running as an independent, says she will cut the mayor's salary in half, cut the mayor's staff in half, cut city council's staff in half, and cut the number of council members from 13 to 5.

Proposition 2: "The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of additional general obligation bonds by the Texas Water Development Board to fund student loans to college students." What it means: This would allow the Texas Water Development Board to fund public projects by issuing bonds, and limit outstanding debt to $6 billion at any given time.

Proposition 3: "The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of general obligation bonds of the State of Texas to finance educational loans to students." What it means: This would allow the Higher Education Coordinating Board to fund student loans to college students. In light of recent budget cuts, students would be given much needed low-interest loans that could make up for lost financial aid.

Proposition 4: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit a county to issue bonds or notes to finance the development or redevelopment of an underdeveloped, underdeveloped, or blighted area and to pledge for repayment of the bonds or notes increases in ad valorem taxes imposed by the county on property in the area. The amendment does not provide authority for increasing ad valorem tax rates." What it means: Counties in the state would have authority to issue bonds that finance the economic development of underdeveloped areas. Bonds would have to be repaid with revenue generated through property taxes of the area.

Proposition 5: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to allow cities or counties to enter into interlocal contracts with other cities or counties without the imposition of a tax or the provision of a sinking fund." What it means: Cities and counties within Texas could enter into contract with each other and not have worry about property taxes.

Proposition 6: "The constitutional amendment clarifying references to the permanent school fund, allowing the General Land Office to distribute revenue from permanent school fund land or other properties to the available school fund for the purpose of allowing increased distributions from the available school fund." What it means: The Permanent School Fund (PSF) would be allowed to include in the market value of their funds for the State Board of Education the property values from owned property of the PSF. So, more money would be available to schools for the purchase of textbooks and technology.

Proposition 7: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities." What it means: The constitutional amendment providing for the appraisal for ad valorem tax purposes of open-space land devoted to water-stewardship purposes on the basis of its productive capacity.

Proposition 8: "The constitutional amendment providing for the appraisal for ad valorem tax purposes of open-space land devoted to water-stewardship purposes on the basis of its productive capacity." What it means: The constitutional amendment authorizing the governor to grant a pardon to a person who successfully completes a term of deferred adjudication community supervision.

Proposition 9: "The constitutional amendment to change the length of the unexpired term that causes the automatic resignation of certain elected county or district officials if they become candidates for another office."

To find out where to vote, log on to the Texas Voter Information Website, Find my Polling Place at https://team1.sos.state.tx.us/voterws/viw/faces/SearchSelectionPolling.jsp.
More violence, arrests against Occupiers

Dylan Osborne

Columnist

As I write this column Scott Olsen is in a hospital in Oakland recovering from a fractured skull he sustained at a protest march to reclaim a park the protesters had previously been removed from. The Oakland police came out in riot gear Tuesday, Oct. 25 and cleared the park the protestors were in at 4:30 in the morning. That night, the Occupy Oakland protestors came back for the park. The police barricaded the streets and when the crowd refused to disperse, tear gas canisters flew. Olsen was shot in the head at point-blank range with a tear gas canister and the authorities did nothing to help. The police standing five feet away actually tossed a flash-bang grenade into the middle of the group that was trying to help the wounded man. Other protestors carried Olsen away to a medical tent.

Later it was learned Olsen is an Iraq War vet that served two tours overseas. He went to a foreign country to defend freedom and was shot in the face by American police at what had been a peaceful protest.

The next day, Wednesday, New York City saw similar issues. Occupy Wall Street protestors went to the streets in a show of solidarity with their Oakland counterparts. Again, the police came out in riot gear and reacted with violence. Each time the protests have begun peaceful and police have overreacted. Denver has also had major clashes between protestors and police.

Hundreds of arrests have been made since the Occupy movement began in early October and the movement continues to grow. The arrests are going to continue to pile up. The Occupy movement continues to grow because most people can appreciate what they are doing. Calling themselves the 99 percent (because one percent of the population controls three-fourths of the country’s wealth) the group is fighting for a better future for the masses. They are fighting for the American dream.

Unfortunately, the American dream has all but died away for most people. For younger people drowning in student debt, the American dream is a nightmare. The class of 2009 graduated with an average debt of $24,000. That is a huge hole to try to dig yourself out of, more so when you can’t find a job with a livable wage.

Unemployment is bad enough, but underemployment is just as big a problem facing society. Students coming out of school buried in debt resent being convinced to go to school, only to come out with no job prospects and several hundred dollars a month in loan repayments. The cost of a college education has steadily decreased. That leaves the student to pay more for an education than ever before. That might be okay if there were tons of good jobs waiting on recent grads, but that’s not the case.

Student loan debt is a huge problem for the 99%, but that is not the only issue. Wealth and power inequality is a major concern (as outlined in my last column) and the largest problem facing the U.S. Globalization has only worsened the problem, just as large and damaging as the financial gulf between them. Corporations seem to run the government. All of this contributes to much of the population in this country feeling marginalized. It also contributed to Scott Olsen laying in a California street bleeding.

One day after Olsen was shot, the mayor of Oakland backed down. Oakland Mayor Jean Quan, who originally left the Occupiers alone, called for a smaller police presence in the city and said the protestors could have their protest as before the raid. That announcement came one day too late for Olsen, but should be a harbinger of things to come. Cities cannot deny the right to protest. The 99 percent stand for a lot of things and refuse to adopt a clear agenda. They also stand for a lot of people. If you are attending the University of Houston-Downtown you may be part of the 99 percent that stand for you. If you must put a word to it, the Occupy groups across the world stand for fairness. And they are not going away. So when you see the videos of anarchists, dirty hippies, and soccer moms marching in the streets, know that they are marching for you.

They are the 99 percent, and so are we.
Spotify offers low prices and no ads

Elfego Chavez
Staff Writer

Spotify, a free digital music service, offers users more freedom and less ads than similar music services all for a low price.

The European based digital music service allows listeners to stream virtually all their favorite jams to a desktop, and even create their own playlists.

Long gone are the days of music radio stations like Pandora and Slacker. After downloading the Spotify program to a computer, users can listen to anything they want. Instead of typing in the name of a favorite artist and listening to their tracks every few songs without being able to skip songs, Spotify lets users listen to any song and make a playlist for free.

While the free version of Spotify allows users to listen to music from anywhere, they can sign up for a premium account for only $9.99 a month, compared to Rhapsody's $14.99. Spotify is also accessible on a cell phone through a phone application. Unlike many other digital music services, the Spotify phone application allows users to access saved playlists in an offline mode. Users can refrain from running up data usage on cell phone plans.

The premium account contains no advertisements, but the free desktop version requires them. One drawback to the premium account is that only one mobile device at a time is allowed access at one time to the service, compared to Rhapsody's premium account where up to three different mobile devices are allowed access at one time.

Spotify began in Sweden in 2008 and came to America this past July. The service has 10 million members with 1 million paying subscribers. This service is perfect for those who have a hard time of keeping track of mp3’s and CD’s.

Despite all the anticipation, some feel the digital music service will force small bands to opt of its services due to minimal payouts from Spotify.

To sign up for Spotify, or to find out more information about the digital music service visit http://www.spotify.com/us/

Xbox: Good for games and maybe for banking

Aaron Stommel
Staff Writer

A Lithuanian company, Etronika, recently unveiled an application at the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA) conference that would allow Xbox Kinect users to do a large amount of their banking in front of their televisions.

The Kinect was developed by Microsoft to allow users to control video games and other applications with body movements of the user, and Etronika’s application takes advantage of this technology.

As of right now Microsoft does not allow third party developers to run Kinect applications for commercial use, although Microsoft did release a package in June that allowed hobbyists to build their own Kinect apps if they had a PC running Windows 7. Hobbyists can use the package to build their own apps, as long as the apps are for non-commercial use.

According to Nancy Gohring, a writer for International Data Group a global source for technology publications, the interface of the application created by Etronika has two rows of icons that spin as if on a carousel. If you wave an arm to the left it rotates the top row, if you wave an arm to the right it rotates the bottom row. Users are able to select an icon by bringing their hands together in front of them.

Andrius Kusas, a system architect at Etronika, demonstrated how a user might pay a bill using hand gestures at the CTIA conference. Afterwards, he showed how a copy of the bill paid on the Kinect could be sent to a mobile phone just by waving a hand to the left.

Etronika specializes in offering different types of software that banks use for services that can be linked to online banking.

While impressive, the Kinect application is still in the development stage and has not yet been sold to any banks. It is possible that the lack of a sale could be due to Microsoft not allowing commercial applications. Microsoft does have plans to allow such applications in the future.

Sharon Ruiz, a University of Houston-Downtown student, expressed concern about using such an application.

“My concern would be how safe [the application] would be as far as facial recognition. Would a login be included?”

Such fears are not unfounded as no documentation has been provided about how Etronika’s application would work in a secure environment, something no demonstration has touched on either.
**Couch Theater**

By Sam Strackhoff

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** DVDs reviewed in this column will be available in stores the week of Nov. 14, 2011.

**PICKS OF THE WEEK**

“Larry Crowne” (PG-13) -- This movie strives for sweetness. It pursues it the way reality TV people strive to be actual celebrities, the way that overprivileged trophy wives strive to be 20 years younger. This movie tries so hard to be sweet that it becomes a delusional crusade for feel-good moments.

Tom Hanks is let go from his beloved job at a department store because he doesn’t have a college degree. Stay with me, now. Hanks has no choice but to enroll in community college, bond with other misfits, buy a second-hand scooter, woo his professor (Julia Roberts) and keep smiling with those apple cheeks. It’s hard to despise a movie that wants so badly to make people feel good, so “Larry Crowne” manages to charm its way out of a failing grade.

*PHOTO: Julia Roberts, Tom Hanks star in “Larry Crowne”*

“Beginners” (R) -- Oliver (Ewan McGregor) is a introspective young man whose notions about life and love are seasoned by his experience with his late father (Christopher Plummer.) Oliver’s father, you see, came out as a gay man at the age of 75 and proceeded to live his new life to the fullest. When Oliver meets and falls in love with a beautiful, eccentric foreigner (Melanie Laurent), the memories of his father rush back to form new insights.

Yep, it’s melancholy and cutesy and the same time, but there is something to be found. There are some truly funny moments and a few interesting turns of event, but it’s all interspersed with quite a bit of navel-gazing.

“Superheroes” (NR) -- This HBO documentary looks into the world of the “real-life superheroes.” Ordinary people wearing homemade costumes have started patrolling the streets in cities across America with the mission to do good. It’s hard not to watch. Because of the director’s approach, these people can’t be simply dismissed as loonies -- they are trying to do something good, after all -- but the reality of a security guard who, by night, calls himself director’s approach, these people can’t be simply dismissed as loonies -- they are trying to be heroes.”

Ordinary people wearing homemade costumes have started patrolling the streets in cities across America with the mission to do good. It’s hard not to watch. Because of the director’s approach, these people can’t be simply dismissed as loonies -- they are trying to do something good, after all -- but the reality of a security guard who, by night, calls himself director’s approach, these people can’t be simply dismissed as loonies -- they are trying to be heroes.”

Remote control: (R) -- “Evil Dead” (25th Anniversary Edition) (R) [Blu-ray] -- This is possibly the funniest and absolutely the most insane horror movie ever seen by man. It’s not a sequel, but a remake, done by the same director (Sam Raimi) with the same leading star, just with a bigger budget and wilder ideas. The film has a unique sensibility, i.e. when demons possess your hand, replace that hand with a chainsaw. By the time you finish the movie, you’ll be wondering why all films can’t be this ludicrous and exciting.

**TV RELEASES**

“IT Takes a Thief: The Complete Series”

“Being Human: The Complete First Season” [Blu-ray]

“American Restoration: Volume 1”

“Gene Autry -- Collection 1”

(c) 2011 King Features Synd., Inc.

---

**Living archives series at UH Central campus**

Uwire - The 15th Annual Living Archives series sponsored by UH Friends of Women Studies welcomed Joanne King Herring as their guest in the M.D. Anderson Memorial Library Oct. 25. Herring, long-time host of KHOU’s “The Joanne King Show,” is a political activist, so her work in television with the “Joanne King Show,” which lasted 15 years.

At the event, she discussed her new memoir, “Diplomacy and Diamonds,” as she answered questions in an interview with Claudia Freeman, a journalist for The Houston Chronicle.

Herring said that her struggles with dyslexia for most of her childhood shook her confidence; she credits her father for giving her the strength to succeed.

“As a child I was very unattractive. I was tall. I was not only the tallest girl in my class, but I was the tallest child in my class,” Herring said. “My father didn’t forgive anybody for being ugly. I couldn’t read and write. My preschool and elementary days were very bad. I know what it’s like to have no one who is like you.”

“One time, I was riding a horse, and a snake got around me. My father told me to kill it and I was scared; I did not know how to kill it. My father told me, ‘Kill it, kill it!’ and I got a stick and hit it until it died. This is what brought me my confidence.”

Herring received her degree at the University of Texas, but said she was not serious about her studies. She never went to her economics class, and made another student, an economics major, take the tests in her place.

“The only way I got through was through memorizing the material,” Herring said.

She married real estate developer Robert King. During the marriage, she began her work in television with the “Joanne King Show,” which lasted 15 years.

“My grandmother started the Women’s Christian Mission, because she wanted a shelter for women — at the time there were only shelters for men,” she said.

“I went to the KHOU-TV station and told them stories about what had happened to some of the women, and they asked, ‘Would you like to come back?’”

Herring’s work extends far past television. She has had meetings with well-known figures ranging from the Duke of Windsor to former President Ronald Reagan. She has also received honors and awards for her dedication and involvement to and in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Morocco. She spoke about her life in international politics, describing her time as an honorary consul member in Morocco and a roaming ambassador in Pakistan.

She ended the interview by answering audience questions and autographing her memoir for students and members of the public.

---

**Layaway vs credit cards**

BY David Uffington

It’s time for merchants to go into high gear with their enticements to spend money. After all, their holiday decorations have been up for at least a month now.

But are you ready?

Even if you’ve saved and are ready to pay cash for your purchases, new tricks by banks could add expenses in the form of debit-card fees unless you keep a high account balance, and you won’t want to carry cash while you shop. (Be sure to read the literature from your bank to be forewarned about changes to your account.)

If there are must-have items on your children’s lists this year, chances are those items also are on other children’s lists. If you don’t have all your cash handy, by putting merchandise on layaway, you guarantee that those items will be held for you.

Walmart has brought back its holiday layaway program. You’ll be required to pay a $5 fee and put down 10 percent of your purchase. Purchases must total more than $50, and each item must be $15 or more.

Kmart and Sears also have layaway. There’s a $5 fee for the layaway contract, and $15 if you cancel before paying for your merchandise. You’ll need to pay $20 or 20 percent down, whichever is greater.

At Best Buy, your layaway items must total more than $250. You’ll also have to pay 25 percent down as well as a 5 percent fee.

This can still be a good deal if it helps you grab an expensive item when it’s on sale. Do the math.

Toys “R” Us has a layaway plan for eligible merchandise. You’ll pay a $5 fee and put down at least 20 percent. The cancellation fee varies by state.

Beware using online layaway for purchases you make over the Internet. These retailers offer an enticing low fee, but consider the ramifications of putting your banking information online: Money is automatically deducted from your account at regular intervals. If you cancel, they’ll hit your account for $25 or 10 percent of the layaway total. Consider, too, the hassle of merchandise that is delivered late or damaged.

Once the holidays are over, open a Christmas Saver Club account at the bank or credit union. If you make regular deposits, by the time next year rolls around, your holiday spending money will be in hand.

(c) 2011 King Features Synd., Inc.
“Equus” production now at UHD

The University of Houston-Downtown’s (UHD) O’Kane Theatre comes alive once again with “Equus,” a dramatic tale of obsession and attraction.

The play centers around two main characters. A 17-year-old teen named Alan Strang, who takes a job at a local stable and Martin Dysart, a psychiatrist who treats Alan for his strong religious and sexual attraction to horses.

Martin wrestles with his own identity and current place in life as he treats Alan. His treatment of troubled teens leaves him questioning exactly what kind of life such teens will lead after receiving treatment from him, including Alan.

Alan’s sexual fascination and with horses is so extreme that he sees one horse in particular, Nugget, as a god. This obsession, however, goes a bit sour when Alan blinds five of the horses at the stable.

Things are further complicated, when Alan meets a girl named Jill Mason, who he becomes romantically involved with.

While on a date with Jill, Alan takes her to a stable and as they prepare to make love, he finds that he is unable to be intimate with her because the horses are watching. Alan is unable to touch Jill because he sees this as making love in front of a god.

Martin tries to treat Alan, but questions his own passions and what he would do without them.

Award-winning play director and UHD drama instructor, Dr. Thomas Lyttle, describes Equus as a deep and complex psychological experience.

Dr. Lyttle feels the dialogue of the play is quite challenging.

“Two of the actors will be taking the bulk of the lines, nearly 85 percent, a challenging feat in terms of memorization and acting ability,” said Lyttle.

He also feels that the production will be a challenge for the audience, because “it takes careful listening to fully understand the complex dialogue in the story.”

Some of the cast went out to a local horse stable and watched the natural behaviors of horses for inspiration.

The author of Equus, Sir Peter Levin Shaffer, is an English dramatist, playwright and screenwriter.

Equus (written in 1973) was Shaffer’s 12th work and won the 1975 Tony award for best play. Shaffer’s work has won numerous awards and nominations, including the William Inge Award for Distinguished Achievement in the American Theater and appointed Cameron Mackintosh Visiting Professor of Contemporary Theatre at Oxford University.

This is the first time Equus has been performed at UHD and the audience is advised that there will be strong language and nudity, so no one under 18 is allowed. However, there will be a performance where actors will be wearing tight body suits in lieu of nudity; all ages are welcome for that show.

Production of Equus will run from Oct. 28th through Nov. 5th; with the all-age welcome performance set on Nov. 2nd.

The price of admission for Equus is $3 for everyone.

For more information please visit http://www.uhd.edu/academic/colleges/humanities/arts_humanities/drama/okane_theatre/index.htm

“Ubiquity” exhibit intrigues UHD students, staff

The exhibition is free and open to the public. “Ubiquity” will run through Dec. 8.

The horizontal installation, a take on the vertical chair tower, consists of two chairs suspended from the ceiling. There are also with a monitor on the wall displaying images of swans swimming around a pond.

Mark Cervanka, Director of the O’Kane Gallery, feels Benish’s installation offers viewers a chance to look at the cycle of nature from a different point.

“The work offers a chance for viewers to reexamine nature as a cycle that is part of rather than in opposition to human endeavor,” said Cervanka.

Benish spoke at Cervanka’s figure drawing class and the UHD Model United Nations office about her art and her work with Safe Planet, a campaign of the United Nations Environment Program to raise awareness about hazardous chemicals and wastes, being a political statement.

American born Benish participated in the 49th Venice Biennale and is a Fullbright Scholar. Benish is also an upcoming artist-in-residence at La Fragua, Cordoba, Spain.

The exhibition is free and open to the public. “Ubiquity” will run through Dec. 8.

The O’Kane Gallery hours are Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.
7 Oct. 31 - Nov. 14, 2011
Dateline: Downtown
www.datelinedowntown.com

Art & Leisure

Be Kind to Elevators!

Walk one flight up...
Or two flights down!
You’ll burn calories
and save time!

CRYPTOQUIP

I want to be a world-famous plumber someday, but unfortunately it’s only a pipe dream.

CRYPTOQUOTE

Democracy is a form of government that gives every man a right to be his own oppressor. - James Russell Lowell

STRANGE BUT TRUE

¥ It was British writer and humorist Jerome K. Jerome who made the following sage observation: “It is impossible to enjoy idling thoroughly unless one has plenty of work to do. There is no fun in doing nothing when you have nothing to do. Wasting time is merely an occupation then, and a most exhausting one. Idleness, like kisses, must be sweet and stolen.”

¥ Sharks can live for a century or more.

¥ Velcro came to market in 1957, after a Swiss inventor named George De Mestral spent nearly 10 years developing the idea. His inspiration came to him in 1948 on a hike, when he had difficulty removing tenacious little burrs from his clothes. He reasoned that if he could create synthetic burrs, they could be used as fasteners.

¥ The Parker Brothers game Monopoly is the best-selling game in history. It's available for purchase in 28 countries, and it can be played in 19 different languages.

¥ If you speak some French, you might know that the phrase “toute l’heure” means “see you later.” You might not realize, though, that that phrase is the origin of the English term “toodle-oo.”

¥ Chances are, there's a Park Street in your town. It's the most common street name in the United States.

¥ Europe is the only continent without a desert. Even icy Antarctica has deserts -- including the world’s largest cold desert.

Thought for the Day: “We need anything politically important rationed out like Pez: small, sweet, and coming out of a funny, plastic head.” -- Dennis Miller

(c) 2011 King Features Synd., Inc.
Write Now!

English Majors Week
November 7 - 10, 2011

Monday November 7 7:00 – 8:30 pm  N-1099
CAREERS FOR LIBERAL ARTS MAJORS
(English, History, Philosophy, Arts & Humanities)
Sponsored by the Cultural Enrichment Center
Company Artistic Director & Houston ISD Teacher

Tuesday November 8 12:00 – 1:00 pm  3rd Floor Atrium
INTERACTIVE MINI-WORKSHOPS
Code-a-thon, Hot or Not Design & Lost in Translation
Featuring: Professional Writing faculty
Refreshments provided

Tuesday November 8 4:00 – 5:00 pm  10th Floor East Lounge
THE BAYOU REVIEW PRESENTS
The Creative Writing Minor
Featuring: Student work from Fall 2011 Creative Writing courses
Refreshments provided

Wednesday November 9 12:00 – 1:00 pm  S-1099
APPLICATION MATERIALS WORKSHOP
Writing an effective resume, application letter and purpose statement
Featuring: Professional Writing faculty
Refreshments provided

Wednesday November 9 4:00 – 5:00 pm  10th Floor East Lounge
WHY STUDY LITERATURE & CULTURE @ UHD?
A Faculty Roundtable on the BA in ENGLISH
Featuring: Drs. Vida Robertson, Neil Sullivan, Tammis Thomas, and current students
Refreshments provided

Thursday November 10 12:00 – 2:00 pm  10th Floor East Lounge
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT MEET, GREET & EAT
Featuring: Course previews of Spring 2012 upper-division courses presented by the UHD English Faculty
FREE PIZZA!!

For more information contact Sucheta Choudhuri: choudhuris@uhd.edu
STRANGE BUT TRUE
by Samantha Weaver

• It was way back in the 17th century when noted Scottish scholar Patrick Young made the following sage observation: “The trouble with weather forecasting is that it’s right too often for us to ignore it and wrong too often for us to rely on it.”

• About once a week, a frog will shed its skin. Then eat it.

• If you’ve watched many old Westerns, you’ve doubtless seen Native Americans scalping their enemies. You probably don’t realize, though, that the brutal practice didn’t originate with the Indians. When the Dutch and English settlers were trying to clear out the natives, they were paid a bounty for each scalp they brought back. The Native Americans adopted the practice only after the Europeans’ arrival on the continent.

• The country’s first pizzeria opened in 1895 in, unsurprisingly, New York City.

• Those who study such things say that 70 percent of Americans have visited either Disneyland, in California, or Disney World, in Florida.

• If you want to have an especially memorable -- and chilly -- vacation, consider heading to Finnish Lapland. There, more than 150 miles north of the Arctic Circle, you can stay at the Kakslauttanen Hotel. The quarters aren’t luxurious, but the sights are amazing. All the accommodations are geodesic glass igloos, offering amazing views of the aurora borealis.

• Are you a snollygoster? If so, you’re shrewd, which isn’t a bad thing, but you’re also rather lacking in principles.

• When Andrew Jackson was running for president in 1828, his opponents called him a stubborn jackass. Jackson was proud that he was known for obstinately sticking to his guns, so he started using the image of a donkey on his campaign materials. The Democrats have been using that symbol ever since.

***

Thought for the Day: “Everyone, in some small sacred sanctuary of the self, is nuts.” -- Leo Rosten

(c) 2011 King Features Synd., Inc.
Amber Waves
by Dave T. Phipps

SO KID, YOU’VE GOT YOUR GRANDPA ALL TO YOURSELF. ANY QUESTIONS FOR ME?
ONE GOOD THING ABOUT GETTING OLDER...YOU BECOME A “VAULT OF INFORMATION”.
THAT’S OK, ANYTHING I WANT TO KNOW I CAN ALWAYS FIND OUT ON THE “INTERNET”.
YEAH, WELL, THAT GIZMO DOESN’T KNOW THE SUBTLE ART OF “SUGARCOATING.”

Sitter Needed
On campus. Monday through Thursday 2 PM to 4 PM. Pay is $60 per week. Experience and references required. Call 832-563-5783.

Regional Mystery Shopper
You will be hired to conduct surveys and evaluation exercises on behalf of BANNEST and earn $350.00 per survey. All expenses regarding surveys and evaluations are paid. Email James Colt at j.col14@gmail.com.

Sell your stuff
To place an ad, send an email with ad details to dateline@gator.uhd.edu
Ads are FREE!!!!