

Volume 43, Issue 1,

### AUGUST 24, 2009 - SEPTEMBER 7, 2009

www.uhd.edu/dateline

# Who is This **Guy?**



Photo courtesy of UHD

#### Wilbert Chinchilla MANAGING EDITOR

You are walking into the campus you have ultimately decided to receive headaches for when you started applying, transferring, and (for some) beginning your higher education career at UHD. You pick up this newspaper, read this headline, and realize "I don't know who is in this picture. His picture wasn't in the brochure or catalog I received upon entering school, so why is he news?" That is your new president or administrator; it doesn't matter how address the man who signs your checks and diplomas. Whether you have ultimately

come to terms or still debate how Dr. Bill Flores was chosen to take on Dr. Castillo's tenure, Dr. Flores is UHD's president who has plans and bosses.

Recommend by Chancellor Khator, an "excited" Bill Flores was appointed by the UH System Board of Regents. "I have that policy background. I know how the legal systems operate," says Flores on qualities he brings as new president. After quarrels of 2009, any candidate appointed may have known that there would be opposition from stakeholders and bosses. Directions and stances of UHD's past are going to be pursed because the system and Chancellor have plans that may see WHO on page 6

**Benefits With a Cost** Proposed Improvements with **Tuition Increase** 



Photography by Lisa McKay Sara Hood

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

There was a time when you were able to pay \$1 for a bottle of soda from a vending machine. Now you are lucky if you find it for \$1.25 - many charge \$1.50, and some \$2. Most people are irritated at the idea of paying more for the same thing than they did the last time. It is no surprise then that hackles were raised as the UH Board of Regents announced that UHD would

be increasing tuition and mandatory fees by 4.8% for the fall 2009 semester. Academic unrest increased as the rest of the UH system announced their fall increase percentages - UHD topped the list.

Why are students paying more for 12 credit hours than they did last semester - while in the midst of a recession no less? Are we to blame avaricious university bureaucrats giving themselves raises or poor financial planning that caused UHD's

endowment to shrink, leaving students the bill? It is not due to any of these finger-pointing name-calling reasons at which people can become flustered. UHD's Vice President for Administration and Finance. Mr. David Bradley, led the student hearing on the tuition and fee increase this past July. He stressed that students "must not get bogged down in percentages." While our endowment income has suffered, - we lost about \$5 million, and were not hit see TUTTION on page 1 Dateline : Downtown

# STUDENT LIFE Which Candidate Should Become the New UHD President? Polling Results

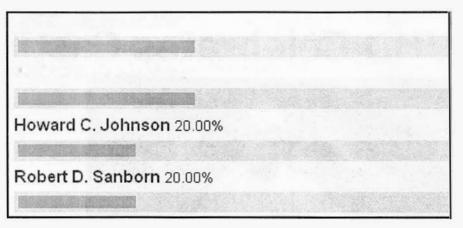
#### By Wilbert Chinchilla MANAGING EDITOR

Over the course of releasing the online copy of the first summer issue, a limited number of students cast their votes on our first online poll. Each vote showcased reasons why a reader would vote for one candidate instead of another. As each mouse click linked to the polling site, we came to understand that they have had a chance to "know-[their] candidates:" and surprisingly, there were two sets of ties for both losers and winners.

The outcome has become clear and Dr. William Flores is the new president of the University of Flouston-Downtown. Here are some of the highlights from the previous article regarding our new president.

#### Flores' Points

- Appointed by Governor Bill Richardson for the New Mexico Higher Education Department
- From 1996 to 2001, Flores was the dean of the College of Social and Bebavioral Science at California State University



As students also dropped off their ballots (located on the back of the last issue) into the Datefine mailwox, the same outcome has occurred. The total votes were tabulated and placed into the online version of the poll. This poil is viewable any time; http://www.acepol/s.com/polls/908165-which-can\_idale-should-become-the-new-uhd-president/results

# **Online Sound-Bites**



#### 54 (Currently)

join the discussion on our fan page to ir questions that could be featured in ateline Downtown.

on 3 /v 3, 2003

The Dateline Downtown wrete

What should the Dateline Downtown ask Dr. Flores?

Marlyn Dav wrete

If he feels he can live up to  ${\rm I\!P}$  . Castillo's past accomplishments like the commetence and shea buildings.



ollowers - 52 (Currently)

iome join the discussion on twitter nd pessilely be featured in The lateline Downtown. Follow #TheDateline or search #UHD

in starting UHD. I started in the Spring e you studying?

s need some senous review by a tech someone.

ng is so scarce @ und

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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### ADVICE Continued from page 2

sign that is on the 9th floor in the Academic building. All the manufacturer had to do was spell a couple of words - no heavy writing or intense skillbut they still messed up. How embarrassing, not only for the company, but also for UHD.

Grammar can get you when its least expected and ruin your good academic name, so take action early:

· Talk with your professor and request feedback and suggestions

· Ask for help to avoid becoming a failure in any writing intensive course.

#### **Contact Us**

**Managing Editor** Wilbert Chinchilla dateline@gator.uhd.edu (713) 221-8569

**Business Manager** Daniel Almanza dateline@gator.uhdedu (713) 221-8192

**Contributing Writers** Sara Hood Rebecka Black **Peyton Davis** 

Contributing Photographers Lisa Mckay Walter Chinchilla

**Faculty Advisor** Anthony Chiaviello chiaviello@uhd.edu (713) 221-8520

· Take a lower level preparation course if you're unsure of your skills

• UHD offers several of these courses as well as one on one writing and reading tutoring in the WRoCk (Writing and Reading Center) in N-925.

· Also, if your skills aren't bad, there are still things you can do to improve.

So again, welcome to UHD! I've no doubts your views of English courses haven't changed much after our little chat, but hopefully you can see the importance in them. Now, freshmen you're informed, prepared, and armed with some advice that will no doubt help you along the way.

Continued from page 1

nearly as hard as UH which was much more heavily invested and lost around \$150 million, our larger percentage increase still amounts to a lesser dollar amount increase UH-Main. UHD students' tuition will be \$101 more for 12 semester credit hours and UH-Main students' tuition will extra tuition money. increase by \$131.

As you register for classes and pay your tuition bill, you might want to discover exactly where this new money is going. To begin with, 2.5-percent of the increase is going to cover the inflation in the Higher Education Price Index for 2009. After covering inflation, the remaining \$3 million raised by the increase will go primarily to hiring eight more college advisors, two transcript evaluators, and a veteran's coordinator. These advisors are being hired with the goal

RAW

of guiding UHD students towards declaring a major more quickly. Zoë Leonpacher, a Junior UHD Marketing major, transferred from her college in Florida for the Fall 2008 semester. She believes that additional transcript evaluators are well worth the

"A transfer student cannot declare a major until their transcripts have been evaluated, and it holds the student in a state of flux -- not being able to take certain courses because they aren't declared, but also running out of possible lower level courses" explains Zoë, whose transcript evaluations were just completed over the summer, allowing her to apply to the School of Business. The Federal Government has recently announced that they will place a time limit on how

long they will fund a student pursuing a Bachelor's degree. so it has become imperative to get students on a course for graduation. UHD currently has between 60 to 70-percent of its students undeclared. Mr. Bradley hopes that the new advisors will help advent pre-majors, in order to point students in a direction - even if they aren't sure which major they will ultimately choose. The Veteran's Affairs Coordinator will be someone who will be able to navigate GI Bill bureaucratic-labyrinth and aid the increasing number of Veterans enrolled at UHD. The pay-rate for adjunct professors is also being raised so that UHD might remain competitive with other area institutions and attract the best adjunct faculty possible. The transcript evaluators are being hired to help handle the large load of transcripts waiting to be evaluated for students who have transferred to UHD from another College or University.

see TUITION on Page 7

O'Kane Gallery University of Houston-Downtown Aug. 27 – Sept. 25 reception, Thursday, August 27, 6-8 pm Light refreshments will be provided.

#### **Benefits**

- \* Part of a national network
- \* Community for Latinos on campus
- ★ Impact local community through outreach
- ★ Academic workshops
- \* Access to Latino professionals as mentors
- \* pen HSF opportunities to your campus
- \* Princeton Review representatives
- \* Stay informed of unique opportunities for college students from organizations such as Goldman Sachs, Management Leadership for Tomorrow and more!

Contact uhd.hsf@gmail.com for more information on how to join. No fees our first meeting will be

HISPANIC SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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## campus news **Impending Merger** College of Business and The WRoCk Collaborating to Help Students

#### Rebecka Black CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The sudden announcement of a "merger" in the business world usually inspires one to brush up the old resume and start cleaning out the desk just in case. Mergers rarely end well for those not in executive positions and for those still trying to get their foot in the door of an organization, the complete overhaul of a company typically leads to much career disappointment. The Fall 2009 merger of UHD's College of Business and the WRoCk (Writing and Reading Center), though, promises success, not the forced emptying of cubicles for UHD's eager business students.

This merger of departments is monumental for UHD. Although the Writing and Reading Center is typically seen as a place for those who need help interpreting difficult poetry or composing lengthy literature essays, the faculty and peer tutors are always available and happy to help writers in any discipline. The varied disciplines within the College of Business expect their students to proficiently and effectively express their ideas in written form just as those disciplines within the Humanities department. Writing for the business world; though, is much different than writing an essay about 19th century British Literature - as many business students come to find out. This is why having tutoring available to Shea Street students is key in helping their success as writers in their chosen discipline. Since they all literature class work!. must successfully pass the core English and Writing courses



then go on to write in their discipline, they need tutors knowledgeable and available to help with their diverse writing

and reading needs. So, what can the UHD WRoCk offer Shea Street's elite bourgeoning execs? For starters, beginning in the fall the WRoCk is planning to set up a new satellite tutoring center in the common area of the Shea Building's second floor. Tutors will be available to business students during peak hours from 4-7:30pm. Business students, from any concentration, will be free to schedule appointments online or simply have a walkin consultation with a writing tutor. The tutors available will be experienced both in tutoring and in business and technical writing skills in order to help meet the needs of the students' unique writing needs, such as proposals, presentations, analyses, and case studies. Along with helping meet the needs of their husiness courses, the WRoCk tutors will certainly be more than happy and willing to also help Shea Street students with their other writing coursework - the dreaded, yet required, composition and sophomore

For any big business deal to go through there must

be something in it for each organization and this deal is no different. The WRoCk and its regular clientele will also benefit from this interdepartment collaboration. With big thanks, to the College of Business marketing professor, Dr. Lucille Pointer and the WRoCk's director, Dagmar Scharold, new and improved resume workshops will be available in the fall to all students. These workshops, co-sponsored by the WRoCK and the College of Business will be held during the American Marketing Association's annual marketing week, which is typically in October or November of each fall. Here, students of all departments and majors will be able to learn valuable resume building techniques and learn how to brush up and improve on career searching skills. So, unlike many business world mergers, this academic collaboration between the College of Business and the WRoCk will help all UHD students know how to better prepare for and possibly institute their own big mergers one day! For more information on the WRoCK, visit their website at www.uhd.edu/ wrock.

Do you have tips? Contact us at Dateline@gator.uhd.edu for any tips, events, or story ideas to cover

## Faculty Member Tested **Positive for H1N1**



Sara Hood CONTRIBUTING WRITER

UHD administrators were notified by a UHD faculty member-whose name and department were not disclosed-on July 13, 2009 that her physician had just confirmed test results, and she had contracted H1N1 flu-or the Swine Flu. The faculty member has since been released to return to work by her doctor. Cases of the flu, which is usually dormant in the summer months, have been popping up all over the U.S. this summer causing hospitalizations and even deaths. This has many experts worried as we round the corner in to fall, and the flu season. Many are saying this could be the worst season in years. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) is not recommending that institutions of higher education cancel or dismiss classes at this time.

The CDC panel for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases met on July 29, 2009 to discuss the new vaccination and the target demographic.

They include: "pregnant women, household contacts of children who are under six months of age, health care workers and emergency medical services personnel, children and young people between the ages of six months through 24 years of age, and nonelderly adults with underlying risk conditions or medical conditions that increase their risk of complications from influenza." The CDC cannot give an exact date as to the availability of this new vaccine, other than that it will be available in the fall. The traditional flu vaccine is not expected to protect against HIN1, and individuals failing into at-risk groups are being encouraged to receive both vaccines. The CDC recommends taking extra care to wash your hands frequently, and urges people to see their doctor at the first sign of illness. Student Health Services offers the flu vaccine on campus for \$20. They were not available to comment on the possibility of on campus HIN1 vaccines or projected costs.

### arts & entertainment The Dateline Downtown accepts unsolicited music, film, and video game reviews from students. Have an event to promote or cover? Contact us at Dateline@gator.uhd.edu. **Taking Woodstock Aims for the** Unreachable Win tickets —



Pholo Courtesyof Focus Features -- From left to right, Mamie Gummer, Jonathan Groff, and Demetri Martin. Taking Woodstock is an adaptation of the memoir "Taking Woodstock: A True Story of a Riot, a Concert, and a Life". This is Demetri Martin's first tead role in any movie. Martin is best known for his comedic writing for Late Night with Conan O'Brien and his own comedy special "Important Things with Demetri Mar:in".

#### Wilbert Chinchilla MANAGING EDITOR

Based on the trailer for Taking Woodstock, you might think it's a comedy. Casting Demetri Martin as the lead might cement this assumption. The film may also seem like an epic biographical piece set to revolutionize the genre of setting films during the "Woodstock Era", But, in reality, Taking Woodstock isn't exactly either of those things. Ang Lee and James Schamus' attempt to conceptualize the memoir "Taking Woodstock: A True Story of a Riot, a Concert, and a Life" wasn't a total success; nor total failure.

Elliot Tiber (Martin) is responsible for making Woodstock happen for the world. He is forced to give up his comfort and return back to Bethel, New York where his very Jewish parents

Sonia and Jack Teichberg (Imelda Staunton and Henry Goodman) are drowning in debt with their motel, El Monaco. After hearing the Woodstock Music Festival was "killed by Wallkill," Elliot - as the acting leader of the town's chamber of commerce - decides to take matters into his own hands by issuing a permit to Michael Lang's (Jonathan Groff) Woodstock Ventures. With the permit and the rooms all bought by Woodstock Ventures, the three days of peace and music begins. The film is not without an antagonist. Elliot faces death threats, racial slurs, and building violations that stand in the way of his true happiness.

With the help of his local and new friends Devon (Dan Fogler), Billy (Emile Hirsch), and Vilma (Liev Schreiber,) Elliot finds himself amidst

(unbeknownst to him) the greatest music, people, and scene of a century. This era of American history is very hard to encapsulate on a set, let alone on a silver screen. As you watch the movie, you get the sense that you are only "observing" and not "taking" Woodstock. Because this is a biopic, you eventually accept that Elliot will be your capsule. Martin did command the screen for 2/3rds of the film, an accomplishment considering this is his first leading role, but at times it just felt unreal and a bit forced. One scene where Martin is crying over the beauty of the "sea of people" while he is tripping off of LSD seemed like it should have been more epic.

Hirsch's role as Billy, an ex-Vietnam grunt, was under performed. It seems that the guidance of certain directors

#### see TAKING on page 8

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A winner will be selected at random.

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• Be in good academic and disciplinary standing \* Be reliable, punctual, energetic, responsible, flexible, collaborative, and demonstrate strong verbal communication skills

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· Participate in training sessions during the spring semester (attendance is mandatory)

· Must sign and abide by the rules stated in the o-team service agreement

Have Questions? Office of New Student Orientation, Room 325 North 713-221-8022 • orientation@uhd.edu http://www.uhd.edu/admissions/orientation/oteam\_ ioin.html

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present opposition. If presented with opposition, Flores says, "obviously, if you believe something firmly you express it."

Although a new person may have a new vision to express, Flores doesn't negate the past successes of UHD brought by previous presidents; in fact, embrace is the key to a successful future. "What Dr. Castillo has started has been tremendous. My first part will be carrying this same vision. As I get to know the institution more I may focus on something else. There may be some things that were not in the agenda and not on the top of the list that they need moved up."

On the list is possible future growth and attempts to generate students. In recent days, Flores has made his rounds and continues to tour the campus, a campus that "is helping uplift downtown." One tactic to further uplift is to act on a name change. "The regents have already decided that they would change the name not just for us but for UH-CL and UH-V. We really have to give it some thought and it may not be the names that the campus leans to that will be the ones acceptable to the regents. It's a give and

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take process, but I think it is important that there be brought discussion. It's not going to be unanimous.

I have been in campuses where there are hattles over the name. Even after the official name was changed like in Cal State Fresno, - the official name is Cal State Fresno - but the teams are called Fresno state. For many years the regents, or the trustees, after they voted that these campuses are going to contain "Cal State" in all of the names. Over time the names have changed, but the community didn't always accept it. In that case, years after the name was changed there were stillissueswhere universities didn't know whether to call themselves "Fresno State". The official name on letter head is Cal State Fresno, but if you always read the Fresno Bee, it will always say Fresno State. I think there will always be that situation \*

As a leader with previous experiences in these situations, Flores' bosses have chosen him to lead UHD through various feats. With a successful past. you now know the guy how can generate a successful future for UHD and its stakeholders. And although the plans won't always be mutual, bosses can always easily cause headaches.

Photography by Greener

Volunteering with local schools is an aspect of what Greener Gators do.

Greener Gators An Eco-conscious Column

In starting this column we have a few simple objectives that include but are not limited to

• Increasing the environmental awareness of UHD students, faculty, and staff

 Translating the heightened awareness into measures implemented on campus

· Transcending our influence to the metropolitan and greater Houston area

 Ultimately becoming informed, active, passionate proponents of the "Green Movement"

Lofty goals, right? Well, let us give you a quick sketch of hat we mean by each of those points. There currently are a number of activities that take place on or around our campus that are not, well, publicized. What do we need all of this nterest and energy for? We have a long list ahead of us when it comes to transforming into a greener campus, a camous that could become the exemplary model for other institutions in Houston to follow. We have some big ideas in mind for becoming a greener campus, and our mission is to bring these measures to fruition. What would you think about having hand-dryers in the restrooms or how about having a garden on the roof to

significantly cut down energy consumption? Do you agree that the parking lot shuttles could be more effectively used and what about the account balance sheet that prints every time you a job to the printer? We need YOUR help: your presence at meetings, your vote on opinion polls, your time in informing others, and most importantly YOUR ideas that can be instrumental. Using these precious resources we can begin making smarter decisions and influencing those around us.

If things seem a little fuzzy at the moment it's only natural. Later on, you can learn (by returning to this column) about recycling on campus as well as tips for green living, possible volunteering opportunities, and the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment that former UHD President, Dr. Max Castillo, signed.

Here's to hoping we can become better citizens of planet Earth.

**Greener** Gators

Green Tip: Not sure if something is recyclable or not? Search Earth911.org for the location and specifics of recycling plants closest to you.

## Jaundiced Eye

Happy day! UHD is helping fight the recession by raising tuition and postponing annual faculty raises till spring semester. Administration also announced they have \$1.5 million in stimulus funding! Seems like maybe a good way to fight recession, considering the economic status of most UHD students, would be, what? Cut tuition 15% for the fall semester? But, n00000.

Someone whispered in my ear that the reason pay hikes are being delayed is because it looks bad, as other universities in the state (and across the nation) are furloughing and laying off How would it look

er

### Vying for Your Vote Heated Texas U.S. Senate Race Will Target Students

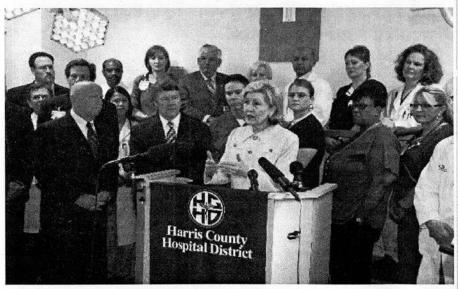


Photo via nutchison senale.gov

Kay Baitey Hulchinson announced her candidacy for the U.S. Texas Senate Seat on August 17, 2009. Bailey (above) is discussing health care reform, a recent hot button issue on Capitol Hill,

#### **Peyton Davis** CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It's official. On August 17, Kay Bailey Hutchison made the announcement that she will be resigning her United States Senate seat to run against Rick Perry for Texas Governor. Hutchison's formal announcement kicks off what is sure to be an interesting campaign and special election. As soon as rumors began circulating that Hutchison was making a move for Governor. candidates for her Senate seat began to emerge. Among those vying is Houston's own, Mayor Bill White.

According to public finance reports, State Comptroller, democrat John Sharp is only slightly trailing Bill White in early fundraising efforts. Republican candidates who have filed for the Senate race include Secretary of State Roger Williams, State Railroad Commissioner Michael Williams, Railroad

Commissioner Elizabeth Ames Jones and state Senator Florence Shapiro. While special elections hardly get the attention of regularly scheduled elections, Texans may be more apt to engage as the voter's final decision will directly affect their livelihood in more ways than one. Students have become a targeted demographic in recent elections. The Texas Governor and US Senate special election will be no different.

According to The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, youth voter turnout has increased by 2.2 million since 2004. With overwhelming statistical data showing that student voters show at the polls, it is no wonder that candidates are paying close attention to those issues affecting students most. While each candidate for Senate will take a personal stance on the issue

of education, their party as a whole "stands" on a general platform concerning the issue. Texas Democrats believe that higher education should be made available at an alfordable cost to everyone. More detailed information on where Texas Democrats stand on the issue of education can be found at www.txdemocrats.org.

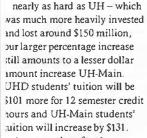
The Republican Party platform focuses more on the quality of education rather than the availability. More information can be found at www.texasgop.org. Obviously, cost and availability are not the only issues that face today's students. Economic issues such as job availability upon graduation and social issues such as gay marriage and abortion may also be motivator in getting out the student vote. It is important to know where each candidate stands on the issues that affect you and of course, showing up to vote. Always educate yourself.

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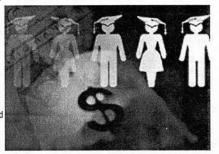
TUITION Continued from page 3

college is be coming a struggle for students around the country. U.S. lews & World Report tale that thirty percent of irst year college students Irop out. "President Barack Obama pledged o boost the U.S. college traduation rate to first in he world ... and announced 1\$12 billion plan to produce 5 million more xommunity college grads y 2020"



As you register for classes and pay your tuition bill, you might want to discover exactly where this new money is going. To begin with, 2.5-percent of he increase is going to cover he inflation in the Higher Education Price Index for 2009. After covering inflation, the remaining \$3 million raised by the increase will go primarily to hiring eight more college advisors, two transcript evaluators, and a veteran's coordinator. These advisors are being hired with the goal of guiding UHD students towards declaring a major more quickly. Zoë Leonpacher, a Junior UHD Marketingmajor, transferred from her college in Florida for the Fall 2008 semester. She believes that additional transcript evaluators are well worth the extra tuition money.

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Mr. Bradley's speech was about the money and how it is being put back to work for the students. Faculty pay raises have been put on hold through the semester, and UHD entered into a new energy contract saving the University \$100,000 - the Board wouldn't approve anything frivolous. In response to one very vocal opponent to the Board approved tuition and fee increase, who claims that

see TUITION on page 8

Dateline : Downtown

(see: California, for example).

major recession, are doing just

So it's harder to get tuition

fine now, but are still cutting

loans and students drop out if

program that will help keep use

students in school when there

are no jobs out there. A tuition

they can't pay for school and

books. We need a recovery

cut would be a good start.

credit anyway.

Actually, the banks, whose financial geniuses caused this

# classifieds

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**EYE** Continued from page 6

because it gets the money back in taxes eventually. States, on the other hand, compound the bad effects of the recession because most of their constitutions require a balanced budget, which means they have no leeway to borrow and spend to get the economy rolling. So they have to cut budgets and pound the workers

# COMICS

### TUITION Continued from page 7

Universities need to be run more like businesses, Mr. Bradley said, "which business would you like us to be run like? Enron, AIG... there are a lot of very poorly run organizations." He holds that UHD's budgetary spending is transparent, and that anyone who wants to see where the money goes can. Students aren't paying more for the exact same thing. The product is better and the cost is balanced by the added benefits.

# TAKING

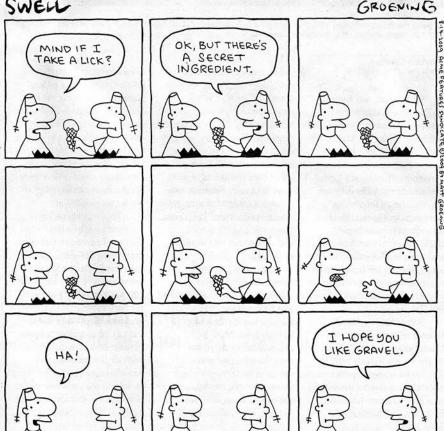
brings the best out of everyone. If there were any captivating performances in this film they were from Stauton and Goodman playing Elliot's parents. While most performances weren't captivating, there were many shots that were interestingly beautiful and engaging. The LSD trip was interesting in the sense that the colors, setting, and place worked to transfix your eyes to something surreal. Also, there is a scene where Elliot and Billy mudslide down the hill and a camera is following each person at a side angle both behind and in front of the crowd. There are many incoherent pieces throughout this movie and the viewer will forcibly make something of their own. An art-film, bio-pic, music-doc, dramatic-comedy, etc.; all of these arrows are flying at you and whichever one hits you will be the movie you saw. Taking Woodstock isn't terrible, its true aim is to use Martin as a vessel that takes you on a journey through the sea of characters Elliot has met in real life, while Lee aims to define every aspect of a time that itself is indefinable.

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Mr. Bradley said, Enron, AIG... He holds that



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