



Loss of funding threatens TexShare

Natalie Epperley

The Signal

If passed, the new proposed state budget will eliminate funding for TexShare, which provides Texas state libraries with databases as well as e-books.

Fourty nine databases are at risk. These databases include Lesis Nexis, Academic Search Complete, Business Source Complete and Legal Collection.

The Texas Library Association plans a lobbying effort and a major rally at the state capital in April during its annual conference.

“We don’t know what TexShare will look like if funding is lost,” said Gloria Meraz, director of communications at the Texas Library Association. “The one thing we do know is it will be a completely different entity and have less access for students.”

The website TexSharemission.com states that “TexShare enables libraries to offer a broader range of materials and services than any single library can provide for its constituents.”

This proposed state budget, SB1, was authored by Senator Steve Ogden, a Republican member of the Texas Senate representing the 5th District, which includes Harris county. Several attempts were made through e-mail and telephone to reach Senator Ogden as well as other cosigners of this proposed state budget to give their reasons for backing this proposal but were not successful as of Press Time.

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Tonya Torres:The Signal

Handgun bills propose carrying concealed weapons on campus

Mark Bownds

The Signal

On a hot day in August back in 1966, Charles Whitman, an engineering student at the University of Texas and a former Marine, climbed to the observation deck of the university’s tower and opened fire upon the students below.

Before getting shot and killed by an Austin police officer, Whitman killed a total of 14 people and wounded 32.

It was just last year at the University of Texas when a student, armed with an AK-47, fired shots in the air while on campus. This time the only one killed was the gunman after he ran into the school’s main library and committed suicide.

It is incidents such as these, including the Virginia Tech massacre April 16, 2007, that has Texas legislators pushing for a law that would allow college students, faculty and staff to arm themselves for protection. Currently there are three bills pending that, if passed, would allow individuals to carry concealed handguns on college campuses. They are House Bill 86, House Bill 750, and Senate Bill 354.

These upcoming bills have become a concern primarily dividing the two major parties. Many Republicans argue that properly trained citizens on a college campus should have the right to defend themselves and protect others at the same time, while the majority of the Texas Democratic Party

call for “weapons-free institutions of higher learning.”

Texas State Representative Chuck Hopson (R-Jacksonville) said that although the gun bills are controversial, they are something that need to be put into law.

“I think it’s a good thing,” Hopson said. “The downside is that if there’s a big shootout and a lot of people are involved with it, law enforcement people could have the difficulty of determining who the good guys are and who the bad guys are. The good side of it is that you have people that are mature; they have passed their concealed weapon license, and they’re there. So if something bad happens

Guns: continued on page 6



UHCL students have a chance to make history; submit mascot ideas online

Ashley Smith

The Signal

“Two, four, six, eight. Who do we appreciate?”

That question will soon be answered by the UHCL community because the search

for an official college mascot began Feb. 11.

The hunt for a mascot has been broken into five phases. The first phase, already in progress, invites all students, faculty, staff and alumni in

the UHCL community to submit their mascot ideas to the Mascot Leadership Team. The online survey, located on the UHCL website, will be available until March 11.

“It is important to consider

the unique culture of UHCL when choosing a mascot,” said Ashley Harral, graduate business major and Mascot Advisory Team student representative. “It needs to portray to the world what

UHCL has to offer.”

The university has put together two teams that will aid in the search for the new mascot. The Mascot Advisory Team is comprised of students

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ONLINE

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EDITORIAL

Loss in funding could result in loss of education

It's 2 a.m. After five hours working on a 10-page research paper due at 8 a.m., the realization comes that one more source is needed to complete the assignment.

Currently, students in this situation can easily log on to the Alfred R. Neumann Library website, click on a database and research virtually any given topic, but if the Texas legislature passes the proposed Texas budget, those databases could disappear. If TexShare funds are cut, then libraries will lose access to more than 40 databases, which in turn will hurt students' ability to gather information for research.

The proposed budget currently in the Texas senate will cut all state funding to TexShare, a resource-sharing program for public and academic libraries. Right now TexShare receives \$8 million from the state, \$3 million from federal funds and another \$3.1 million contributed by libraries through fees.

TexShare is only one of several programs in danger to lose all of its state funding. Other library programs include the K-12 Database Program which gives Texas schools access to thousands of

online full-text education resources, Loan Star Libraries and other statewide library programs. The State Law Library is also in danger of losing its state funding.

Currently there are more than 650 libraries across the state using TexShare. These consist of 4-year public and private universities, community colleges, public libraries and libraries of clinical medicine. The loss of TexShare would cause Texas students across the state to miss out on important information that would help enhance their educational experience.

Students are not alone in suffering if TexShare loses its state funding; faculty members will also be at a loss. Tenure and tenure-track faculty members in a university are required to research and publish.

The Texas Library Association, established in 1902, made up of more than 7,000 members comprised of employees of academic, public, school and special libraries, is currently fighting against the budget and trying to rally Texans across the state to stand up and make their voices heard. The association will march onto the capital steps April 13 for their annual Rally for Texas Libraries



Kalan Lyra The Signal

event, which will bring attention, among other things, to the need for database access through TexShare.

As members of the UHCL community we can also show our support for Texas libraries, and the need for TexShare, by writing to our elected officials. When writing to elected officials there are a few guidelines that need to be remembered. For example, students and staff need to make sure that they do not use any government-funded items, including university stationary or e-mail addresses. The University of Houston system website

offers many tips on how to write to elected officials at www.uhsa.uh.edu under the governmental relations section.

Throughout our college education, TexShare and the databases it provides allows us to venture out to thoroughly grasp a concept or delve deeper into a specific topic or subject. By proposing to eliminate all state funding to a much-needed program, the legislature may be saving money, but they are also cutting our chance of a well-rounded education.

COLUMN Pregnant at 18, college grad at 24

Jessica O' Rear
The Signal

My mornings are hectic. No matter what time I get up or how many things I do the night before to get ready, I can almost guarantee that I will be running behind schedule.

I wake up exhausted because I stayed up until 1 a.m. the night before trying to finish an assignment that is already a day late. It's hard to get everything done when I'm taking 15 hours of classes. Do I sound like the typical college student? Add on a full-time job and a small child; then you get a clearer picture of my life.

During my senior year of high school, I was in the top 10 percent of my class and in the top choir at



Clear Creek High School. I was accepted early to Texas A&M University. I thought I had everything carefully planned for my future. Life, on the other hand, was about to deal me a different set of cards.

About a month after I graduated high school, I found out that I was pregnant with my son, Branson. Not only was I scared about what the future would hold, I was also confused. My closest friends and even my sister insisted I get an abortion. They didn't think I could support a child on my own.

My mom and dad, also unsure of my ability to raise a child, initially urged me to look into adoption. However, I knew that I was destined to take on the challenge in front of me. I made up

my mind, convinced my friends and family would eventually learn to accept my decision.

Friends have asked me how I manage to work, complete my homework assignments and spend time with my son. My answer is simple: sacrifice. I make time. I stay up late to work on homework after Branson goes to bed. While my peers are out with friends, I am at home watching "Scooby Doo" or "Tom and Jerry." Instead of planning my next road trip, I'm planning my son's fifth birthday party.

I'll admit that I have wondered at times if this whole BA was really a bunch of BS. I've wondered if I would EVER finish school. Six years later and here I am, a few months away from graduating. I have also accomplished another life goal: I recently became a homeowner. As for Branson, he is sadly no longer my little baby; he will be starting

kindergarten in the fall.

I wouldn't have been able to achieve any of my dreams without the support of my boyfriend and, especially, without help from my parents. My mom and dad have done more than I could have ever asked of them. After Branson was born, they were completely accepting and loving toward my son. They care for Branson when needed so I can work to help support him and finish my college education. I determined from the start of my pregnancy that I wasn't going to be one of the 98 percent of teen moms who don't finish college before the age of 30.

Even though some people look at teenage pregnancies as devastating situations, I look at Branson as an unexpected blessing. I've never thought of Branson as a mistake. Instead, he is the sole purpose for my success.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Dec. 6, 2010 editorial, which Mr. Marinos accuses of 'reflecting opinions and conclusions based on very faulty and erroneous assumptions,' was not intended to serve as a treatise on American immigration policy since 1924 – the year Congress passed the Immigration Act of 1924, nor was it intended to proliferate hatred or racism. It was intended to reflect the opinions of an editorial board who felt Texas legislators would not be acting in the best interests of Texans by enacting state immigration laws. Immigration laws, really, are the purview of the federal government.

The Immigration Act of 1924 established the quotas to which

Mr. Marinos refers and were especially unaccommodating and discriminatory to immigrants from Asian countries. These quotas, however, were enacted within the last century. The Southern Poverty Law Center discussed immigration myths in its spring 2011 Teaching Tolerance. "For about the first 100 years, the U.S. had an 'open immigration system that allowed any able-bodied immigrant in.'" In the years since, however, the U.S. has allowed immigrants to enter from different nations at different points throughout its history based largely on its need for skilled labor.

Mr. Marinos' statement "The immigrants then learned our language, studied for citizen-

ship, worked hard, paid taxes and accepted no entitlements unless they were destitute; not today's picture," is not only unabashedly vitriolic, but also inaccurate. What Mr. Marinos is referring to is called assimilation. It is the process by which a group takes on the cultural traits of a larger group. And, due largely to education and media, immigrants today both assimilate and learn to speak English much more quickly than "the immigrants of yesteryear." "The discovery of America was followed by possibly the greatest demographic disaster in the history of the world," said professor William Denevan of the University of Wisconsin-Madison in S. Dale McLemore's Racial

and Ethnic Relations. McLemore also notes that the American Indian population declined from at least 2 million to one-eighth of that. Today, American Indians have among the highest rates of poverty and unemployment in the country.

We appreciate feedback to our work and encourage educated, reasoned discourse – it is after all what democracy is built upon. We stand by our assertion that state laws do little, if anything, to prevent illegal entry into the United States.

*Corey Benson, Carla Bradley,
Dana Lizik
Editors emeriti*

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Live Broadcast: Tues., Feb. 22, 6 – 7:30pm, B1418

Encore Presentation: Weds., March 2, 12 – 1:30pm, B1437 (subject to change)



Student Leadership, Involvement and Community Engagement

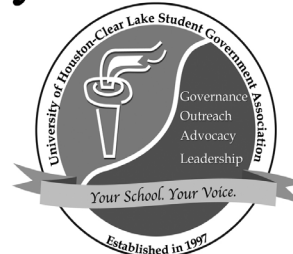
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IISS: Courtesy

UHCL event raising awareness, funds and eyebrows

Roberta Cowan

The Signal

February brings Black History Month, Valentine's Day and the third UHCL production of author Eve Ensler's 1994 play, "The Vagina Monologues."

This year the provocative play is co-hosted by the Office of Intercultural and International Student Services and the Office of Student Life's Student Leadership, Involvement and Community Engagement.

"Ninety percent of all proceeds go to Bay Area Turning Point to provide services for victims of sexual violence within our community," said Julie Smith, coordinator for IISS's Women's and LGBT Services. "Ten percent of the proceeds will go to the V-Day Campaign to help build safe houses for the women and girls still suffering in the aftermath of the earthquake that devastated Haiti last January."

The all-female cast consists of volunteers from UHCL and surrounding areas who champion V-Day's mission "that supports anti-violence organizations throughout the world, helping them to continue and expand their core work on the ground, while drawing public attention to the larger fight to stop worldwide violence (including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation, sex slavery) against women and girls."

"I like how the play stands for the empowerment of women," said Fallon Lockett, adjunct instructor for finance marketing and cast member. "[It] brings awareness of violence towards women."

Vicki Villarreal Leno, a second-year doctoral student of education and assistant principal at a local elementary school, returns for her second year in the play. She was angered by the rape of two of her students this year and used her anger



UHCL student and staff member, Juanita Hall, plays the Angry Vagina

to strengthen her performance. Leno learned that talking helps to deal with this issue.

"It takes away some of the shame," Leno said.

Juanita Hall, an undergraduate psychology major, said although she had no acting experience, her daughters convinced her to try out for the part of the Angry Vagina.

"I know that I'll do it again, it was so much fun," Hall said.

Because the play contains strong language and frank discussion of women's sexuality, The Cardinal Newman Society, a group associated with Roman Catholicism, has protested showing "The Vagina Monologues" on Catholic campuses.

V-Day addressed Newman Society protests in 2004 after the group protested the play's use of the word "vagina" on Catholic college campuses, by posting this statement on their official website:

"The word 'vagina' is indeed used frequently in the play – to break the silence and the censorship of a word that does indeed represent women both physical and metaphysically as a feminine being. If you can't say it, then you can't own it. If you can't own it, then you can't protect it. If it's violated, you can't protest or complain."

In March of 2008, The Cardinal Newman Society posted a speech by Bishop John M. D'Arcy, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, on its website expressing D'Arcy's disapproval of the decision to once again allow a performance of "The Vagina Monologues" at the University of Notre Dame.

"The play is little more than a propaganda piece for the sexual revolution and secular feminism," D'Arcy wrote. "The human community has generally refrained from exposing and discussing the hidden parts of a woman's body, preferring to consider them private and even sacred. Most importantly, the sexual sin, which the play depicts in several scenes, desecrates women just as much as, if not more deeply than, sexual violence does. The play depicts, exalts, and endorses female masturbation, which is a sin."

Here at UHCL, Smith said that she is aware of only one negative comment on campus where someone thought the play was inappropriate. She also received two negative comments regarding the UHCL logo for the play, which uses a woman's legs

clad in shorts and fishnet stockings with her feet in the air and turned upside-down to form the letter "V."

Smith reports that last year's UHCL production of the play raised approximately \$5,000 for the local women's shelter Bay Area Turning Point, Inc., the local beneficiary of the profits for the past two years.

Bay Area Turning Point assists thousands of people every year who require help dealing with domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, child abuse, rape and incest.

"Any type of awareness thing that we can do to get people involved, where they can go, see and be a part of, that's always a big help," said Jackie Keys, executive and community relations manager for Bay Area Turning Point. "The financial support from the play is awesome, and it goes directly into the shelter."

Keys was also excited to say that this year's cast made an effort to volunteer at the shelter.

The non-profit organization provides services for almost 8,000 people a year.

"We have shelter programs, but we also see non-residential clients that come in that may not need shelter right now, but they still need our services," Keys said. "Any time we get a call from a police station or hospital we send someone out to sit with them, help them get through the process, explain what is going on to them, especially at the hospital, just to be there with them."

Keys also mentioned that the agency works closely with the UHCL police.

"They are very familiar with us, and know our services, and know when we can collaborate," Keys said.

People who want to volunteer at Bay Area Turning Point must first complete an orientation process that includes a criminal background check. Keys stated that the organization used approximately 200,000 volunteers last year in a wide range of service.

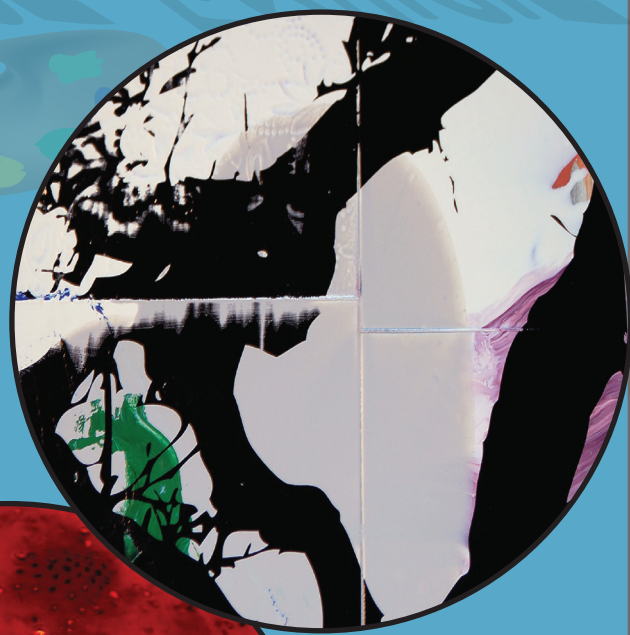
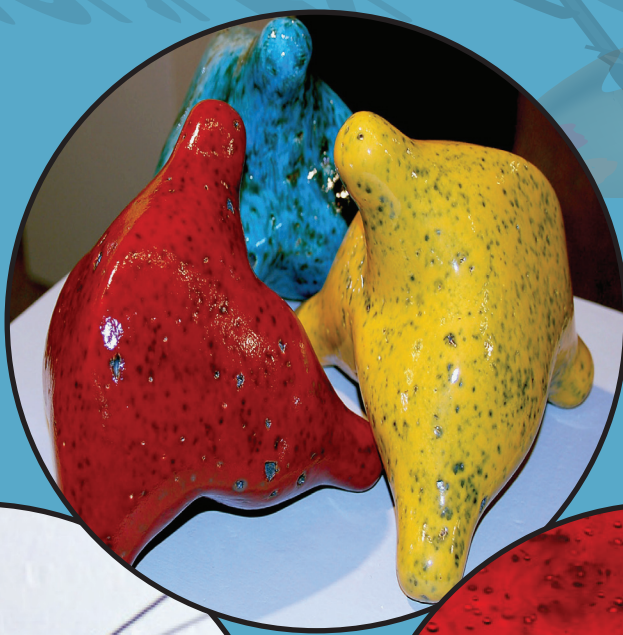
The UHCL production of "The Vagina Monologues" will take place Feb. 25 at 8 p.m. in the Bayou

Theater. Tickets can be purchased in the IISS office from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and from 8 a.m. to noon on Friday. Prices are \$10 for UHCL students, staff, faculty and seniors and \$12 for all community members. IISS can only accept cash or checks made out to UHCL.



Top Left: UHCL student Ileana Perez, instructor Fallon Lockett, and student Bianca Diaz play the Japanese Comfort Women. Top Right: UHCL student Tonya Tipton plays Down There. Bottom: Johanna Smart, UHCL academic records senior clerk, plays Reclaiming Cunt.

UHCL FACULTY ART EXHIBIT



Highlighting personal expression, faculty pieces utilize different mediums such as sculpture, digital photography and paintings. Clockwise from the top: Jason Makepeace's "Hinged Kayak," Nick de Vries' "Frisian Horse #20,21,22," Sandria Hu's "From the 'Clay and Smoke' series 2009-2011," Matthew Linton's "'Untitled' from the suspension project," and Stuart Larson's "Strawberry Jam."

Kristen Manrique: The Signal

Curtains open for UHCL Faculty Art Exhibition

David Miller

The Signal

Currently on display in the UHCL Art Gallery is the *Faculty Art Exhibition*, an annual show of art submissions from faculty on campus.

On exhibit are multiple art pieces ranging from paintings and sculptures to digital images.

Professor of Fine Arts Nick de Vries' pieces include multiple clay sculptures in different forms and shapes, all of which are preparation and material intensive. His works also have unique influences; The sculpture titled "Frisian Horse" is a sculpted reaction to the military defense mechanisms outside an embassy in Bratislava, the capital of the Slovak Republic, during the Velvet Revolution in the 1980s.

Another of de Vries' pieces is a tetrahedron, or triangle-based pyramid, with a theme based on natural elements.

"It sort of takes on a Japanese rock garden theme, with the shards surrounding the structure in the middle, almost like a transition," de Vries said.

Professor of Fine Arts Sandria Hu's pieces are tiles of wood painted with oils as part of "The Clay & Smoke Series."

Painted on each of the individual tiles are abstract landscapes, inspired by multiple settings.

Hu explains that her art is influenced by her passion for archaeology, which developed from digs across Eastern Europe. Some of the paintings have a cool, autumnal feel and are influenced by her trips to Budapest and Prague. The other paintings are warm and intense, carrying the vibe from Mexico and warmer climates.

Associate Professor of Visual and Applied Arts Matthew Linton's art consists of photographs taken of a suspension project. Suspension is the process of fully lifting a person off the ground by their skin. This is done by using body piercings with specially made hooks.

"There are many people involved in a project like this including set builders, body painters, piercers, coaches and rigging staff, among others," Linton said.

The Houston chapter involved in this event is part of Constructs of Ritual Evolution, or CoRE. Participants in Linton's photos have costumes and makeup applied to their skin, making each of the pictures unique.

Associate Professor of Visual and Applied Arts Stuart Larson's work comes

from digital prints. His artistry lies in the actual materials used in the process. His prints are made using everyday substances like sculpting gel, strawberry jam, conditioner and shampoo.

"Normally we try to keep liquid away from our electronics, but here I embrace the tension," Larson said. "Part of the process is experimenting with different products to see what the reflective properties are, then the next part is to refine the ones that are interesting."

Jason Makepeace's, continuing lecturer in sculpture, works were inspired by his passion for kayaking and sculpting. His works are dedicated to the history of kayaking and of the craftsmanship necessary to create kayaks.

"From a dug-out canoe rooted from an entire tree to a more modern mold injected plastic, it is evolution juxtaposed together within these works," Makepeace said.

The exhibit is on display in the Art Gallery, located near Atrium I in the Bayou Building. It is free and open to the public from Feb. 7 through March 10. Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon.

Fighting for space leadership

Sophia Stewart
The Signal

Fighting words echoed the walls at the University of Houston-Clear Lake Feb. 9 when Bob Mitchell, president of Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, announced NASA’s stance on the upcoming budget.

In Mitchell’s “NASA & Clear Lake: The Impact of the Space Industry on the Area’s Economy” lecture, he told listeners that he plans to fight the layoffs for the upcoming 2011 budget.

“Prior to Feb. 1, 2010, we thought we would lose 750 to 1,000 jobs,” Mitchell explained. “After Feb. 1, those 750 to 1,000 jobs just went to worst-case-scenario – 7,000 jobs. That’s no exaggeration.”

In response to the newly announced budget, Terry Feagin, professor of computer science, explained the importance of NASA.

“People are educated about the universe through such programs of research as those supported by NASA,” Feagin said.

Mitchell advised the community to fight the layoffs using a specific message: “Encourage Americans to fight for America’s leadership in space.”

“Seven thousand jobs mean a lot to us,” Mitchell disclosed. “We can preach to the choir; there was no doubt in our mind that our senator and congressman were going to say, ‘We have to fight this thing.’ It wasn’t easy to convince people of this, but the message couldn’t be 7,000 jobs. We weren’t going to win this thing unless we got the entire United States involved. So our mission was to go out and say, ‘Listen, we’re going to lose leadership in space.’”

Mitchell made a trip to Washington D.C. and spoke to key legislators from different committees to attempt to convince them of that message.

“Are you willing to give up leadership in space?” Mitchell asked lecture attendees Feb. 9. “People don’t realize what all comes from NASA ... Just about everything you do once you walk out these doors come from NASA. Fetal monitors ... that came from NASA. Lasik surgery came from NASA. The tread

on your tires came from NASA.”

Mitchell oversaw the creation of a group called goboldlynasa.net to get young engineers who were just finishing college involved.

The website asks people to write to their congressmen about the importance of human space flight to them and to America. They developed a group of more than 2,800 members who sent more than 61,000 letters to the White House and congressmen during a four-month period.

Julie Smith, coordinator of women’s & LGBT services at UHCL, requested Mitchell to come speak on campus.

“The theme of our series this year is headlines,” Smith said. “This is something very personal and relevant to a lot of people on our campus and in our community.”

UHCL President William Staples also attended the lecture.

“At the present time, since the federal budget is under continuing resolution status, it is difficult to tell what the future budget for NASA and, in turn, Johnson Space Center will be,” Staples explained. “During UHCL’s 37-year history, the university has assisted individuals with their life transitions, whether a community college transfer student seeking a bachelor’s degree or a student returning for a master’s degree to advance their career or to change careers. UHCL is committed to serving the varied educational needs of our community.”

Feb. 14 NASA announced in a press release a new budget for the fiscal year 2012, stating that the “\$18.7 billion budget request for fiscal year 2012 that supports a reinvigorated path of innovation, technological development and scientific discovery. The budget supports all elements of NASA’s 2010 Authorization Act, which was passed by a strong bipartisan majority of Congress and signed into law by President Obama.”

Mitchell advises graduates of the UHCL to “continue to keep a passion for space.”

For more information about contacting representatives, Mitchell advises the community to go to goboldlynasa.org.

TexShare: continued from page 1

The TexShare databases are supported by funds that are granted to Texas State Libraries, 4-year public and private universities, community colleges, and libraries of clinical medicine participate in TexShare (a total of 677 libraries). This resource provides many of the Neumann Library’s frequently used databases and e-books.

“I had expected that it might lose a proportion of its state funding, not that it would be cut essentially to zero,” said Karen Wielhorski, executive director of Alfred R. Neumann Library. “All public and private colleges and universities in the state participate in TexShare, along with 58 community colleges, 542 public libraries, and 4 clinical medicine libraries.”

These electronic databases are research tools that are available day and night in offices, homes and participating libraries. Beth Hentges, Faculty Senate president and professor of psychology, said that if this bill were passed, it would have a major impact on UHCL’S library.

Kevin McNamara, associate professor of literature, agrees that the loss of TexShare would cause research difficulty

Mascot: continued from page 1

Ashley Harral, Corey Benson, Sam Sedai and Samantha Noronha, who represent each of the schools on campus. The team also consists of faculty representatives James C. Benson and Chris Ward, staff representatives Katie Wallet and Ali Albrecht and alumni representatives Nida Ajaz and Michael A. Reeves.

The second team, the Mascot Leadership Team, is facilitated by Theresa Presswood, executive director of communications, and is comprised of Yvette Bendeck, associate vice president for enrollment management; Darlene Biggers, associate vice president for student services; Charity Ellis, director of alumni and community relations; Katherine Justice, executive director of human resources; Ron Klinger, associate director of organizational development; David Rachita, interim dean of students; and Mary Ann Shallberg, executive associate to the president.

Although the university does not have intramural sports teams on campus, the search for a mascot is not new to the

for students.

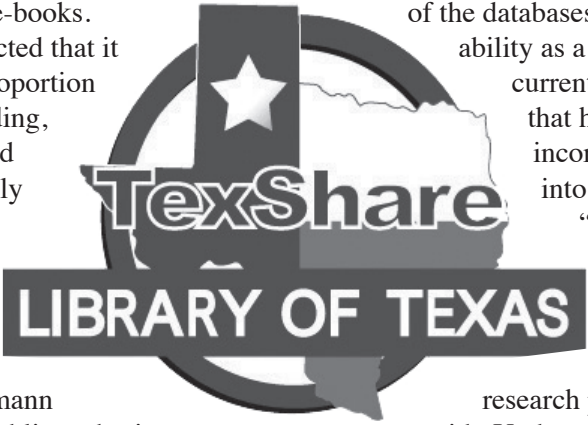
“While I think they will still have access to the MLA Bibliography, all the articles that are not available in J-Store or Project Muse will no longer be available,” McNamara said. “That’s a significant loss for all of my students.”

McNamara also feels that the loss of the databases would affect his ability as a professor to keep current with the texts that he teaches and incorporating insights into his teaching. “Grad students absolutely need access to this material in order to write their research papers,” McNamara said. Undergraduates, too, should have experience with the technologies, techniques, and intellectual skills of literary research.”

Direct subscription to databases could be very costly. This is why the Texas Library Association is encouraging individuals to contact their state representatives, so they can protest against this proposed bill.

“Now is the time for citizen action,” Wielhorski said.

Voters may voice their concern online. A form letter is available at the website www.capwiz.com.



UHCL campus.

A search first began in the 1980s when the alumni association leaders suggested the Red-shouldered Hawks, but without a consensus the matter was closed. The need for a mascot rose again in 1990 when the school held a contest to find a mascot, but because of budget cuts and the search for a new president the search for a mascot fell to the wayside.

Then came Blockie. Created in the summer of 1999, Blockie was created by students during a welcome back to school bash. He continues to be used by the Office of Student Life.

“Although Blockie is not the official mascot of the university, he represents the excitement that can be created by having an identity,” Benson said. “Whatever mascot is chosen will illustrate a shared school spirit and pride.”

Students, faculty or staff members wanting to submit their ideas to the teams can do so at www.uhcl.edu/mascot.

Guns: continued from page 1

on campus, they’ll be there with a weapon, and they don’t have to wait until the law enforcement people get there.”

Gun-Free Kids is one of the many organizations campaigning against the carrying of concealed weapons on campus. President Andy Pelosi says legislators are not solving the problem, instead they are creating others.

“It’s a bad idea because we think for the most part that the campuses are safe enough environments,” Pelosi said. “We’re just asking for trouble by allowing guns on campus. Think about having guns in dormitories, or at parties,

and where does the gun get stored? They’re going to get stolen, that’s what’s going to happen. What kind of safety are you really going to have? I just think that it’s increasing the risk of domestic violence, suicides and things along those lines.”

Hopson said that not everyone would be allowed to carry a concealed weapon.

“These people carrying are people that have passed all the things required to have a concealed handgun license,” he said. “These are people that are over 21 years of age, so they’re considered an older student. You can’t go

to college at 17 and be able to carry a gun; it just allows people that are there with training and have a gun to be able to respond a lot faster than the police can.”

Pelosi said his organization does not put much stock into the criteria of a concealed handgun license holder (CHL).

“I think that the level of training for a CHL holder is pretty low,” he said. “Even trained police officers only hit their target 25 percent of the time, and they are taking active training, so we’re not convinced that CHL holders are going to be able to prevent

another Virginia Tech?”

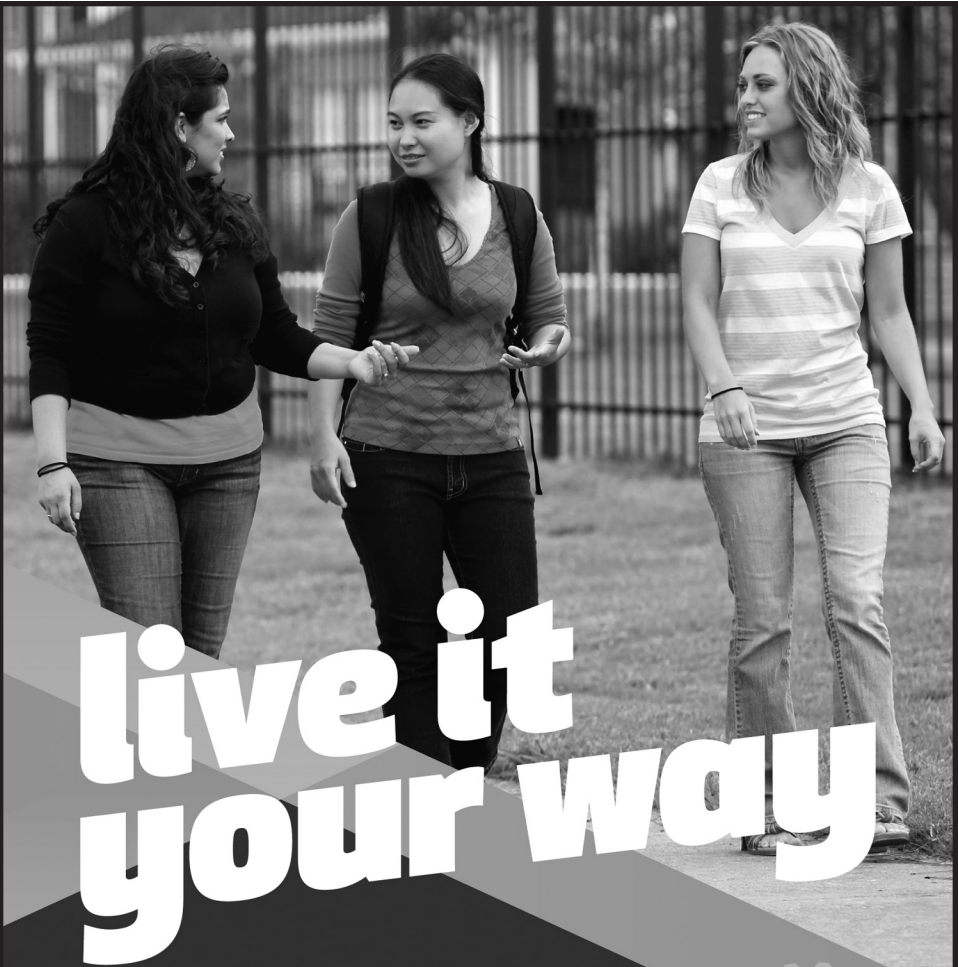
In fact, it was announced in December that Virginia Tech shooting survivor, Colin Goddard, who is now Assistant Director of Legislative Affairs for the Brady Campaign, is actively protesting the gun bills in Texas.

“Introducing guns is just going to create unsafe environments for the students and faculty,” Pelosi said. “If students bring guns into the classrooms, will professors start thinking twice about how they grade and how they teach? We need to look at ways to improve

campus security first, as opposed to the mindset that arming everybody is the best protection?”


UHCL Chief of Police Paul Willingham said regardless of the outcome, he will continue to uphold safety on the campus.

“I am sworn by oath to enforce the laws of the land,” Willingham said. “If one of the concealed carry bills currently up for consideration by the 82nd Texas Legislature passes and signed into law, I will enforce and/or protect the rights of person’s in accordance with that law.”



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UHCL MASCOT SEARCH

Help *UHCL* Select a Mascot!



Great things are happening at YOUR University and we want you to be a part of an amazing and exciting endeavor! On behalf of UH-Clear Lake, the Mascot Leadership and Advisory Teams request your participation in the collection of ideas for an official university mascot.

A fun, spirited and memorable mascot can strengthen initiatives for engaging key audiences, building organizational awareness, and enhancing the UHCL experience. Recently, a leadership team was formed to respond to feedback and requests to address the absence of an official UHCL mascot. Traditionally, college students rally around a beloved mascot as a way to share their school spirit. UHCL is the only university in the University of Houston System without a mascot. UH Cougars, UHD Gators and UHV Jaguars do not reflect the pride and spirit of UHCL, so we need your input.

Be a part of UHCL history by submitting your ideas for a university mascot. Visit www.surveymonkey.com/UHCLMascot to complete the brief survey by March 11, 2011.

www.uhcl.edu/mascot



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NEW JAPANESE HIBACHI BLACK ANGUS SIRLOIN SKEWERS

Building hope



Norma Villarreal: The Signal

Stephen Cherry, professor of sociology, and volunteer Lauren Threikeld build a home in Baytown on Saturday, Feb. 12, for Habitat for Humanity during Community Outreach Day.

A fair day on campus



Norma Villarreal: The Signal

An arch of balloons lift to the ceiling while Cynthia Ramirez, volunteer, and Dori Wheelis, education major, prepares for “Take A Buddy To The Fair,” Saturday, Feb. 12 in the Bayou Building Atrium II.

Graduation preparation



Norma Villarreal: The Signal

During Graduation Fest, Joey Fasullo, owner of Candid Campus Photography Inc., helps Amber Dennis, psychology major, put on a gown for graduation portraits, Tuesday, Feb. 15 in the Bayou Building Atrium II.




Steal-A-Meal Fish Plate

Wednesday, March 9, 2011
Place: SSCB 1.203
Time: Noon
Price: \$6

To reserve your plate, buy your ticket at the Office of Intercultural and International Student Services, SSCB 1.203, or contact Imelda Estrada at Estrada@uhcl.edu.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div>20</div> <div>UHCL Mascot Search, Complete the survey by March 11, 2011 on www.uhcl.edu/mascot</div>	<div>21</div> <div>Workshop: Who Moved My Cheese? Leadership and Change, 5-7 p.m., Bayou 1437</div>	<div>22</div> <div>Workshop: NSLS: Unleashing Creativity: Your Most Important Competitive Advantage 6-7 p.m., Location TBA</div>	<div>23</div> <div>BSM: Free Lunch, noon-1 p.m., Bayou Atrium I</div>	<div>24</div> <div>Employer Spotlight: State Farm Insurance, 5-7 p.m., Bayou 3109</div>	<div>25</div> <div>The Vagina Monologues, 8-9:30 p.m., Bayou Theater</div>	<div>26</div> <div>F&SS showing of “Fair Game,” 7 p.m., SSCB Lecture Hall</div>
<div>27</div> <div>Reminder: tomorrow is the last day to apply for Spring 2011 Graduation</div>	<div>28</div> <div>BSA celebrates Black History Month 2011, 5-6 p.m., Bayou 1437</div>	<div>1</div> <div>Interview Dash, 5-7 p.m., Bayou Forest Room</div>	<div>2</div> <div>Open Mic Poetry Reading, 5-6:30 p.m., Cappuccino Bono, SSCB 1st floor</div>	<div>3</div> <div>Screening of Pedro, 11-1 p.m., SSCB Lecture Hall</div>	<div>4</div> <div>Deadline: Cultural Extravaganza Performance Registration noon, IISS Office (SSCB 1203)</div>	<div>5</div> <div>UHCL Pearland Open Campus, 9- 2 p.m.</div>



Don't let time slip away...

There are only 10 more days to submit your work to **Bayosphere 2011**

To view past issues and for entry forms, visit www.uhcl.edu/bayosphere



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