



Breast cancer awareness



Nicole Wheatley: The Signal Staff

The University of Houston-Clear Lake sisterhood will participate in the Susan G. Koman Breast Cancer run Saturday, Oct. 6, in Houston. This year the team has decided to participate in the run in honor of Vicki Bailey. October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. This run is an event used to raise funds for breast cancer awareness and research. Pictured are the UHCL members who will participate from back row left: Vera Garcia, Bonnie Garza, Roberta Hohmann, Mary Ann Shallberg, Lynn Glazner, Debbie Brooner and Patti Koch. Front row left: Lee Folk and Sue Halamicek.

Full Story available on The Signal Web site.

Confusion over prerequisites solvable with PeopleSoft program

Cassandra Spencer
The Signal Staff

Every semester students register for classes expecting to move forward with their degree plans. Every semester there are students who hit a road block by enrolling in a class with a prerequisite they have not yet taken.

The University of Houston-Clear Lake uses PeopleSoft, a student administration software, to navigate the registration portion of online enrollment services. PeopleSoft allows students to add and drop classes. It also has the capability to block students from adding classes for which they do not qualify. However, most classes that carry a prerequisite are not set up with a block in place.

Communication major, Nancy Nguyen attended the first day of Newspaper Publication class this semester without knowing it would be the only time she attended this fall. Newspaper Publication has a prerequisite of Writing for the Media. Nguyen was taking this class along with Newspaper Publication. Taking both of these classes simultaneously did not meet the requirement.

“When I was registering, I noticed that there was a prerequisite,” Nguyen said. “I was signed up for Writing for the Media at the same time, so I thought it was no big deal. I didn’t think that this was going to affect me. [After discovering that I

PEOPLESOFT: continues on page 10

New limitations placed on undergrad programs

Neesha Hosein
The Signal Staff

The University of Houston-Clear Lake will be reevaluating and restructuring its undergraduate programs in order to be in compliance with the 120 Hour Rule that goes into effect next year.

The 120 Hour Rule just passed by the Texas Legislature limits all undergraduate degrees at public universities to 120 hours of state support. Anything beyond 120 hours will not be reimbursed by formula funding. This statewide initiative will be effective fall 2008.

“From what I understand, it came about because the legislature was hearing a lot of complaints from parents that it was taking too long for their children to graduate,” said Yvette Bendeck, associate vice president for academic affairs. “So they basically went and established that unless there was a compelling reason why degrees have to be longer than 120, it needed to be 120.”

Bendeck explained that all Texas institutions belong to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Their regulation established that a bachelor degree has to be a “minimum” of 120 hours, not necessarily an exact 120. The legislature says that unless there is a compelling reason, undergraduate degrees in the state of Texas must be taken down to the SACS minimum of 120 hours.

Each of the deans, administrators and fac-

ulty from all four schools must reassess their programs to redesign the curriculum and decide which courses need to be cut in order to honor the 120 Hour Rule.

“It needs to go through a process of evaluation internal to the university and the deadline has been set for Oct. 31 for the material to be provided to the provost office so that the faculty senate can look at the curriculum,” Bendeck said.

In certain cases, compelling reasons for extending the 120 hour limit are justifiable and require special approval. Things like accreditations, specific requirements for national accreditations that require certain hours for the curriculum to be adequately covered, fall under the exemption. If a determination has been made by the dean that a compelling reason exists, a request for exemption must be submitted to the provost.

“They have certain standards about curriculum topics that need to be covered and if they cannot be covered in 120 hours, then they have a compelling reason and you create a program, basically that reflects national standard,” Bendeck said. “You can develop a program with more hours to meet the national accreditation.”

Two known exemptions to the 120 Hour Rule are the social work and teacher certification.

“One exemption that has been granted is

LIMITATIONS: continues on page 10

Jena Six spurs probe into campus diversity

Stephanie Wilcox
The Signal Staff

Even in the year when we have a black man, a Hispanic man and a white woman as presidential candidates, discrimination based



Courtesy of Michael David Murphy: whileseated.org

Radio personality Michael Baisden, on left, with Rev. Al Sharpton, on right, who helped organize the Jena Six march.

on color, religion, sex and national origin still exist.

Here recently, one of the most publicized incidents is known as Jena Six. “Jena Six” refers to the case in Jena, La., that encompasses six black high school students.

The case has caused national public outcry. The concern is not whether the students are guilty or innocent. The concern is deep-rooted – did the scale of justice tip causing these students to receive unequal treatment?

The racial tension began when a few black Jena High School students sat under a tree known as the “white tree,” where traditionally only white students sat. The next day, students arrived at school to see three nooses symbolically hanging from the “white tree.”

Soon, racial tensions escalated to a fire that engulfed a section of the high school, a black student being assaulted by white students, and a white student threatening black students with a shotgun at a convenience store.

Everything came to a climax when a white student was taunting black students about the nooses. Six black students beat up the white student. The white student was taken to the hospital and released in time to attend a social event later in the evening.

The double standard arises because the six black students: Robert Bailey, Theo

JENA SIX: continues on page 10



Get your groove on at the Welcome Back Dance

- Read more on page 4



Want to get away this weekend?

- Read more on page 6



Thinking about a tattoo?

- Read more on page 7

Ruling out potential graduates:

Limiting classes limits students' potential

The Texas Legislature passed a new rule, which will go into effect in the fall of 2008, that will require all state-funded institutions to set undergraduate degrees to 120 hours, with some exceptions being granted for degrees that require certifications.

The rule is in addition to two earlier pieces of legislation that set limits on the number of classes a student can drop in obtaining an undergraduate degree, as well as the number of hours beyond the degree requirement a student can obtain.

The ruling comes after legislative constituents expressed their disapproval of the length of time it was taking their children to finish their degrees.

Many are worried that this new rule will adversely affect the very population that legislators say they are concerned with completing college degrees. A goal of state officials has been to graduate more minority, first-generation and low-income students. Because these students may not have the resources or experience to successfully walk the rope of an undergraduate degree, the new rules could work in contradiction with what legislators originally intended.

As illustrated by a 2006 study conducted by the Pell Institute, only 47 percent of students whose parents did not attend college enrolled in a postsecondary institution after graduating from high school, compared to 85 percent of students whose parents had college degrees. Of that 47 percent, more than 40 percent will not complete a degree.

Pragmatically speaking, these

new rules have the potential to drastically effect funding. Since the deregulation of tuition in 2003, universities depend on higher enrollment because of its direct correlation with state funding. Unfortunately, if this affects students' ability to maintain enrollment, it will mean less funding for schools.

Another perspective that needs to be considered is the declining value of a college degree. A 1999 study conducted by the U.S. Department of Education highlighted this decline, which has continued into 2007. Other studies by the USDE show the disturbing trend of college graduates' ill preparedness for the working world. Perhaps the worse thing for a college education is decreasing the amount of classes required to get one. Perhaps what universities should be allowed to focus on is developing a curriculum that is actually going to make a college graduate valuable to the job market, regardless of how many hours it takes to get there.

Another issue to consider is that of the college experience as a whole. Part of the value of going to college is found in broadening one's horizons and self-discovery. One of the valuable ways this is achieved is through the study of a variety of subject matters. By limiting the amount of classes a student can take, legislators are, in effect, limiting students' potential.

While complaints about fewer hours necessary to complete a degree probably will not be heard from most students, its negative effects may be felt for generations to come.

COMMENTARY

Students frustrated by flawed system

Angela Bolton
The Signal Staff

At the beginning of each semester, students are registered for classes, teachers are ready to take roll, and yet another student slides past the inevitable prerequisite only to be asked to drop the class.

This embarrassing situation seems to be occurring much too frequently. Exactly whose fault is it anyway? Some say the students, others say the teachers, or maybe the problem lies with the registration software PeopleSoft; but could it be a simple miscommunication at all levels?

Unfortunately, the entire ordeal leaves everyone frustrated. We can all point the finger at the other and put blame where we believe it should be, but in actuality, lofty accusations do not solve the problem. It is a matter of knowing what to look for, knowing what is expected, and how to properly communicate and execute the information needed to make each semester run smoothly.

First of all, students have the responsibility to check the university catalog for prerequisites before attempting the registration process. Whether accessed online or viewed in print, the catalog has a short description of each course.

Under these descriptions, some classes list a prerequisite, with some of them allowing the "permission of instructor" as a waiver. In other words, if the instructor for the course confirms that the student has met the required skills before hand, then the instructor can allow the student to enroll in the class for the semester.

For some students, this has caused confusion. Equally confusing is the fact that there's often been no mechanism in place to prevent enrolling in a class for which the prerequisite has not been met.

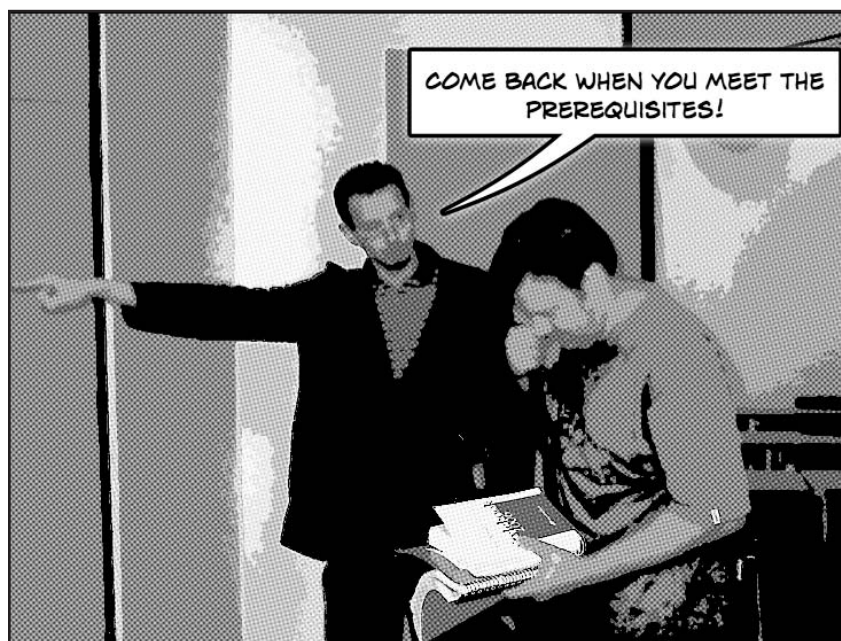
This can mislead students into believing that a decision to enroll in the class without meeting the prerequisite can be done without asking for permission to do so until the first day of class. These circumstances beg the question, how can we make the registration process an unproblematic interaction?

PeopleSoft, an enterprise application that

includes student administration software, has the ability to block any student who has not met the prerequisite for a course. Unfortunately, most University of Houston-Clear Lake professors were not aware that they could request a block.

The director of registration said faculty could place a request to block a class through their associate dean, thus allowing the prerequisite to be keyed in as a requirement and not a footnote.

In this respect, why has any prerequisite



Richard Willis: The Signal Staff

been keyed in as a footnote in the first place? Why should faculty members have to make a specific request when it's already clarified in the course catalog?

Having a professor waive the prerequisite is the exception to the rule. Why is the system set up to oblige the exception and not the rule?

Wouldn't it be simpler for the registrar's office to follow the catalog and block all the courses with a prerequisite, which would restrict students from automatically enrolling in a course where they do not meet the requirement?

The only way a student could then register for that particular course is with the prior permission of the instructor. This will leave no room for confusion and, by the same token, encourage students to utilize all their resources on campus properly.

Don't forget to ask questions that will break the communication barrier. If students have questions about the requirements of a course, they should contact their academic adviser or the professor prior to the first day of class.

Instead of placing blame, we should all be working together to fix the problem, and start off each semester on the right foot.

Clarifications and Corrections:

Correction: In the last edition of The Signal, the story titled "Trying to make 'cents' of it" referred to the senior vice president of academic affairs and provost at University of Houston-Clear Lake as Robert Stockton. His name is Carl Stockton.

Clarification: In the same story, reference was made to a salary decision effective Sept. 1, 2007, that would increase administrative, across-the-board raises by 2 percent. In addition to the across-the-board raises, some administrators also received 1.5 percent based on a market driven pay plan.

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The Signal is a public forum and will print letters to the editor subject to the following: letters must be no longer than 500 words. Where necessary, letters will be edited for grammar, spelling and style requirements. Letters must be signed and include the writer's full name, address and phone number. The editors reserve the right to refuse letters, announcements and contributed articles deemed libelous.

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The fragmented circle: picking up the pieces

Two weeks ago, in one of my classes, I asked, by a show of hands, how many read the school's newspaper--not a soul raised his or her hand.

I then inquired how many were communication majors and five people raised their hands. (WHAT?)

The following Monday, while distributing the latest edition, I happened upon a band of Bayousphere staffers feverishly posting ads in every available spot. The deadline had been extended to Oct. 8 due to lack of submissions. (SERIOUSLY?)

Approaching my first box (the wooden ones usually in front of the elevators commonly mistaken for trash cans) my heart sank as I pulled out stacks of unread editions of The Signal. (TERRIBLE!)

I am outraged by the lack of student participation and open disrespect for my and my fellow colleague's hard work. Why wouldn't other students bask in the opportunity to be published in the Bayousphere or take advantage of a free publication that keeps them apprised of valuable campus news?

This issue is not only a problem for Student Publications. Allow me to commend the American Marketing Association for hosting a well-organized and enjoyable Dog Fest. WAMU, Ben & Jerry's, Dachshund Rescue of Houston and Red Bull all made appearances. There were races, a costume parade and prizes. However, the major missing component was a lack of student attendance.

Some might argue that our metropoli-

tan university is too busy to be bothered with student publications, club involvement, dances or festivals. However, I believe this to be a societal issue of colossal proportion.

The disconsolate truth is that the majority of X's and Y's are mannerless, self-absorbed, generations focused on instant self gratification. It is not every single person within these generations, but an overwhelming amount. If you are reading this, chances are you do not fall into this category. (But if you have a friend who might, please feel free to pass this along.)

It is not just in universities, it is everywhere. Rude fast food attendants open their windows, snatch money and slam them back shut. Almost no one opens doors, not for the pregnant, elderly or disabled. Cell phones and crying babies frequent movie theaters, and "that's not my department" is a common response when asking for assistance.

Lack of eye contact, relationship loyalty, traffic cutting, able-bodied beggars, litterbugs, chatter during lectures and foul-mouthed children. I could go on forever.

Laziness and reckless disregard for fellow citizens has become the norm of everyday life. These things effect us all in one way or another. They aid to the continuum of the fragmented circle. America is currently the victim of the greatest decline in informed citizenship, civic engagement, and ethic responsibility in history. How can we fix this?

"There is a positive correlation between reading newspapers and civil involvement," explained Ashley Packard during one of her lectures. "That means that people who read newspapers are more involved in their communities and people who are more involved in their communities read newspapers."

"Our democracy is on the brink of a crisis," David Mindich argues in "Tuned Out: Why People Under 40 Don't Follow the News."

The future leaders of our nation have become disconnected from political news in all medias. Mindich interviewed a variety of young Americans across the country and discovered a group that is less informed, votes less and simply does not care. It's frightening because the media is requisite to the prosperity of democracy.

Where do manners and common courtesy play a part in all this? Participation in community organizations evokes a respectful connection to the community, thus generating a sense of solidarity and pride. Furthermore, civic involvement creates positive attitudes, values and beliefs.

It's a big beautiful circle, if used correctly. Where do we start? Mindich suggests every channel should carry news as part of its children's programming. For the college-aged, CBS newsman Don Hewitt (60 Minutes guru) has a new platform in mind, "Anything Goes." College editors and reporters submit short videos that will be presented in a magazine format, permitting the viewer to skip around. The objective is to increase youth involvement in the news.

An additional solution is to become involved in something, anything. There are several organizations on campus as well as in the community that can benefit from your help. Such involvement transfers a

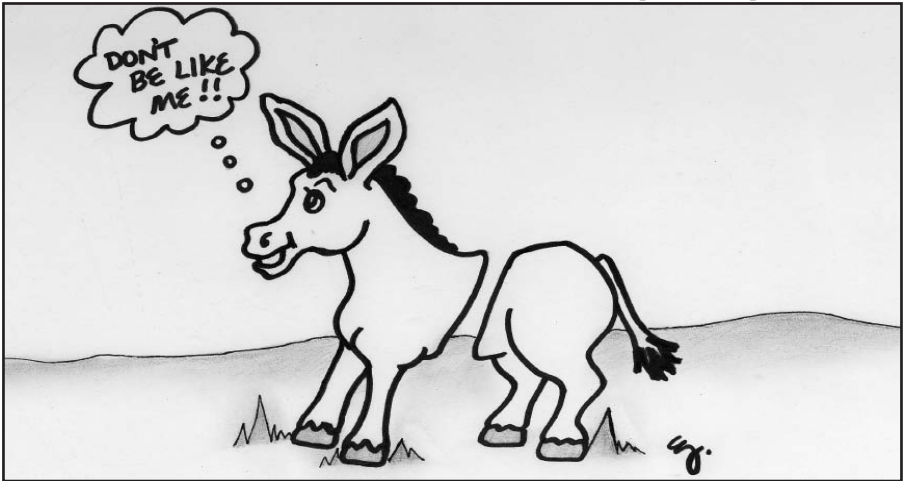
genuine concern for society and the growth of our fellow man.

Further reconstruction to the circle is the philosophy of civic journalism. It involves the journalist to reach out aggressively to the public regarding their problems, views and proposed solution and then objectively report them. As journalists we have an obligation to public life; journalism can empower a cause or assist in disabling it. It is the public's responsibility to assist in this process by helping the journalist, thus ultimately helping one's self.

"Young people of America, awake from you slumber of indolence and harken to the call of the future! Do you realize that you are rapidly becoming a doomed generation?" wrote author Hunter S. Thompson as a mere high schooler in the mid 50s.

In a post 9/11, war society one can not stress the importance of becoming involved and educating one's self on the issues. Especially considering we are directly responsible for the future. I urge you to pick up a newspaper, become involved in your community, and hold open the door for someone else when given the opportunity. I joined Green Peace over the weekend. What did you do?

Cartoon By: Emily Jaschke



Today's athletes and their extra activities

My life and career are over. I was just charged with multiple felonies. Oh wait! I'm a professional athlete. I'll be able to play again.

Why are so many professional athletes given the "Get out of Jail Free" card after committing serious crimes?

You and I would be sentenced to jail immediately for some of these crimes, yet these athletes are let go with nothing but a slap on the wrist.

As of late, the three major sports in this country have had their fair share of exposure in the media. It seems that some of these athletes just can't stay out of trouble, but somehow they're never actually charged or punished for their crimes. Their teams might fine them, but it is only pocket change for them.

As most of you already know, Michael Vick, of the Atlanta Falcons, has been charged with multiple counts of dog fighting activities by the federal government and, as of last week, the commonwealth of Virginia also indicted Vick for similar counts.

If Vick was an average person with an average job, he would be going away for a long time and would surely lose his job immediately. In reality, he's not an average person with an average job. Vick is a superstar in the NFL who will most likely have a job waiting for him after all of this has ended. Vick probably won't get the maximum fine or the maximum sentence, but unlike so many other athletes in trouble with the law, he will face some jail time because of the federal charges.

A lot of people are throwing their arms up in outrage

over the Vick case. They're saying how sorry they feel for him and that he deserves a second chance to play again. How can you feel sorry for a man who enjoyed watching dogs fight to the death? I don't feel the least bit sorry for him. Dog fighting is not only illegal, it's inhumane.

What if the NFL's commissioner, Roger Goodell, was in this position? There wouldn't be anybody screaming to give him a second chance. He would be run out of office.

As if Vick wasn't in enough trouble, he just tested positive for marijuana. Way to go Vick.

The NBA's Stephen Jackson, of the Golden State Warriors, and Ron Artest, of the Sacramento Kings, are no strangers to the law either. Jackson pleaded guilty to criminal recklessness for firing a gun into the air at an Indiana night club this past summer. To reward Jackson for his cooperation, he was ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine and given 100 hours of community service. Not to mention, no jail time. That sounds like a deal that only a pro athlete or Hollywood celebrity would get. He should have faced jail time for this incident because it violated his parole. If this was anyone else, they'd be in jail.

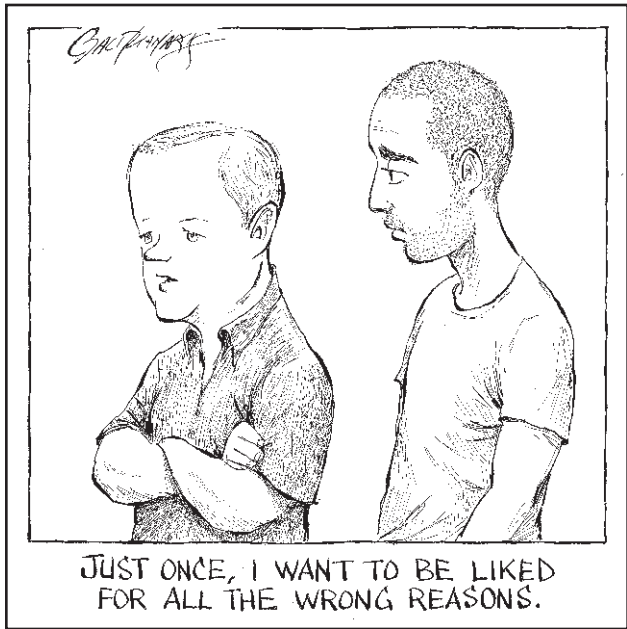
Artest would have been fired from his job a long time ago with a rap sheet like his. In May 2002, Artest was accused of physically abusing a woman during an argument. No charges were filed, but Artest was ordered to refrain from contacting this woman. Two months later, Artest was charged with harassment and criminal contempt for violating his agreement to not contact the woman.

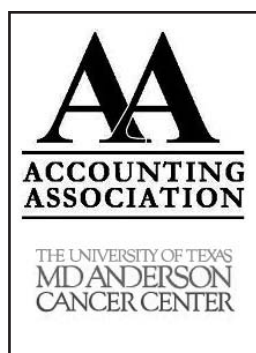
This past March, Artest was arrested for domestic disturbance charges. He reportedly shoved his wife and prevented her from calling 911. Stopping someone from contacting the authorities is a crime in itself.

I don't know about you, but I wouldn't want these two guys representing my company. I don't know why the NBA officials allow them to keep representing theirs.

Something is wrong with our society and justice system when we hold different standards for professional athletes and average people like you and me. The athletes I've mentioned are only a fraction of the number of athletes who seem to be above the law. They keep committing crimes because they know that they won't receive the same consequences that most of us would. Something has to change.

Goodell has been enforcing some more severe penalties for misconduct off the field since he became commissioner. While this is a step in the right direction, the NBA and MLB commissioners need to follow Goodell's lead. Here's how I would handle it. I would have a three strike rule. After your third conviction of a misdemeanor or felony, you're out of the league for good.

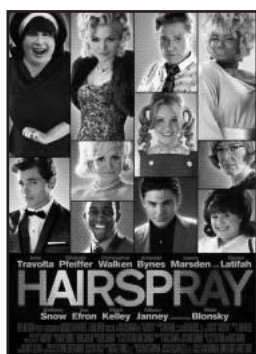


Up Coming
Events

Accounting Association sponsors MD Anderson Blood Drive at UHCL Oct. 9 and 10, 1-7 p.m. Bayou, Atrium II Open to all Free admission



1st Bay Area Houston Arts Festival: The Arts Alliance Center at Clear Lake Oct. 19, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Oct. 20, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Music and concessions Free admission



Courtesy of New Line Cinema

Film & Speaker Series: "Hairspray" Oct. 20, 7 p.m. SSCB Lecture Hall \$3 Admission Speaker: Sharon Hall, associate professor in psychology



Courtesy of Gallery Furniture

The Management Association Presents Jim McIngvale, "Mattress Mack" Oct. 25, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Bayou Atrium II Open to all Free admission

Students kick off the semester by kicking off their heels

Lauren Taylor
The Signal Staff

The fall semester is well underway and students have had time to get comfortable in their classes, but have they had time to meet other students? The Office of Intercultural and International Student Services is hosting the annual Welcome Back Dance Oct. 12 to give the students the opportunity to meet other students and make new friends.

The mission of IISS is to "provide leadership, advocacy and support which facilitates the development of successful, well-rounded, educated and accepting individuals." The purpose of the Welcome Back Dance is to welcome new and returning students.

"We want to give the students a way to relax from the pressure of midterms, and for them to be able to come out and have fun," said Ana Garcia, student ambassador for IISS. "The dance is another opportunity for students to socialize, make new friends and share their views with others."



Courtesy of the office of Intercultural and International Student Services

Students limbo at last year's Welcome Back dance.

This will be Garcia's fourth dance to attend and she said the dances are always a lot of fun.

"The most important thing is for students to know that this is a dance for all students," said Roland Enow, student ambassador for IISS. "We are going to make it

appealing to domestic students as well as international students."

Last year the dance was attended by mainly international students. Enow wants to make it clear that the dance is for everyone. The word "intercultural" means inclusive of all cultures.

A student dance committee, made up of student volunteers, is organizing the dance.

"We welcome all students and are always looking for new ideas from others," Garcia said.

"The Welcome Back dance is a free event with food, fun and music for all ages," said Candace Lehew, administrative secretary in the Office of the Executive Director Academic Programs and Advising for the School of Business. "The students work very hard to make it an enjoyable evening for all. We have a great time listening to music from other cultures and sometimes even learn a new dance."

The dance will have a DJ who will play all types of music ranging from hip-hop, salsa, rock and more. Refreshments will be provided. There will also be different activities and games.

The dance will take place in Atrium II from 7-11 p.m. For more information on the dance, contact the IISS office, located in room SSCB 1203, or you can e-mail them at IISS@uhcl.edu.

That sounds 'Fantastick!'

A love story with a twist

Alicia Gutierrez
The Signal Staff

A classic story of two star-crossed lovers with a little twist will be performed at Brazosport College's newly renovated theater.

"The Fantasticks" is a touching story about the matchmaking attempts of two concerned fathers who want the best for their children, which is for them to fall in love. The two fathers decide to instigate a feud so that this will give them a reason to oppose the children's relationship, when in reality, what they want is for their children to become closer.

Directed by Dana Anderson-Wyman, the director of drama for Brazosport College, this is a musical that captures hearts and shows two fathers' dedication to seeing that their children find happiness and love with each other. The fathers, Hucklebee and Belomy, build a wall between their homes and hire a rogue by the name of El Gallo to abduct Luisa in hopes that Matt will try to save her.

After falling in love, Matt and Luisa figure out their fathers' plot to get them together so they decide to go their separate ways and experience the world. The same curiosity that drove them apart, in the end, brings them together once more.

Anderson-Wyman feels that this musical sums up the mission that Brazosport College's drama department is trying to achieve, which is "keeping it fun." Anderson-Wyman is also very excited that this musical will be the first production in the newly renovated theater at Brazosport College.

The musical was written by Harvey Schmidt and Tom Jones and is somewhat based on "The Romancers," a play by Edmond Rostand. "The Fantasticks" opened for the first time in May 1960 at the Sullivan Street Playhouse and ran for 17,162 perform-

ances, making it the world's longest-running musical for 42 years until it closed Jan. 13, 2002.

"The Fantasticks" is a musical that consists of a small cast and is a very "budget-friendly" production.

A controversy associated with this musical is the way El Gallo uses the word "rape." The literal term means "abduction," but many who saw the play in the 42 years that it ran felt that it was used too loosely. After all the speculation about the usage of the word "rape," the musical was edited to reduce the number of times that the word is used.

The musical's group is a very small but energetic. Anne Jo Bradshaw, who plays Luisa, referred to her fellow cast members as "one big happy family." Many of the cast members do not attend Brazosport College, but are involved in theater for the love of it.

Cody Permenter, 16, is El Gallo, who is the narrator of the story. Permenter has been acting since he was 12 years old and feels that he cannot relate to El Gallo at all.

"It is a really big stretch for me because El Gallo is the villain of the play," Permenter said.

Although it is difficult for him, he feels the part gives him a chance to play something he is not.

Bradshaw, 21, describes her character, Luisa, as a spoiled daydreamer. Bradshaw has been involved in theater for about five years. She does not attend Brazosport College but enjoys doing plays with Anderson-Wyman.

The musical will be held at the Brazosport College Theatre Oct. 11-13 and Oct. 18-20 with performances beginning at 8 p.m. During intermission "Fanta-sticks" will be given out to the audience. General admission for the musical is \$5 for students, \$4 for senior citizens, and \$3 for children under 12, and Brazosport College students are free with a valid ID.



Alicia Gutierrez: The Signal Staff

ABOVE: Top from left: Jessica Davis, Michelle Marowsky, Daniel Bradshaw. Bottom from left: Casey Duvall, Rob Gavenport, Anna Jo Bradshaw, Cody Permenter, Cassandra Olsen Wedler, Clarie Anderson-Wyman.

BELOW: Anna Jo Bradshaw and Michelle Marowsky in a scene in the musical.



Alicia Gutierrez: The Signal Staff

*Student Life * Student Life * Student Life*

The Student Life Office would like to congratulate the following organizations on being recognized this year:

CONGRATULATIONS!



Accounting Association/IMASC
American College of Healthcare Executives
American Marketing Association
Art Association
Asian/Pacific Islander Student Association
Association for Childhood Education International
Baptist Student Ministry
Behavioral Science League
Bilingual Education Student Organization
Biology Club
Biotechnology Research Club
Black Students Association
Campus Crusade for Christ
Clinical Psychology Student Association
College Democrats
Communication Association
Criminology Student Organization
Family Therapy Student Association
(The) Film & History Club
Gamers' Guild
Healthcare Financial Management Association
Healthcare Student Association
Hispanics Advancing Culture & Education
History Club
Indian Students Association
Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers
Legal Studies Association

Literature Club
(The) Management Association
medical Group Management Association
Muslim Students Association
National Society for Leadership & Success
Rugby Club
Social Work Student Organization
Society for Future Chemists
Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry
Student Council for Exceptional Children
Student Government Association
Student Reading Council
Taiwanese Student Organization
Texas State Teachers Association – Student Program
Turkish Students Association
Unity Club (Sexual Orientation Awareness)
Vietnamese Students Association
Women's Studies Student Association
Alpha Phi Sigma
Beta Alpha Psi
I/O Psi
Omicron Delta Kappa
Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Association Psi Chi
Upsilon Phi Delta

Let's Make Some Noise for SGA!



Want to be "cool" on campus?

Get involved and make a difference!

If you see these happy faces...stop them and share your experiences, tell them your issues and concerns!

SGA meets weekly on Tuesdays, 11:30-12:30 in the SSCB Lecture Hall!

CONTACT THE SGA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:

Joyce Delores Taylor, President

Michael Phillips, VP-Committee Coordinator

Nida Ajaz, VP-Student Outreach & Communications

Patrick Cardenas, VP-Administration

SGA@uhcl.edu (281) 283-2556 www.uhcl.edu/sga



WELCOME BACK DANCE 2007



JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF FUN!
Free admission!

DATE: OCTOBER 12TH

TIME: 7 P.M.

PLACE: BAYOU ATRIUM II



ANY INDIVIDUAL NEEDING A SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION TO ATTEND SHOULD CONTACT THE OFFICE OF INTERCULTURAL & INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES (IISS) AT (281) 283-2575 ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE EVENT.

Nosferatu

Friday, October 26
8 p.m., Bayou Theater

General Admission:
\$8 presale/\$10 at the door
With UHCL I.D.:
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An evening of chills and thrills! F.W. Murnau's classic silent vampire film, *Nosferatu, ein Symphonie des Grauens*, will be screened with live music accompaniment. Musician Tom McDermott will use several instruments including a theremin to create an eerie atmosphere. Special garlic treats will be served at the reception. Capes and costumes are encouraged! This film is not rated.

For tickets or information, call the Student Life Office at (281) 283-2560 or visit the Cultural Arts Web site at www.uhcl.edu/culturalarts.

This event is presented in conjunction with the UHCL Film & Speaker Series. Complimentary reception will be held after the concert.



Kim Boswell: The Signal Staff

Kim Boswell
The Signal Staff

Situated on an unassuming plot of land in Santa Fe, Texas, Haak Vineyards and Winery is quickly garnering attention for its wines, as well as its entertainment venues.

As Galveston County’s only winery, it is an appealing place for local wine aficionados to visit, being so close to home. The Haak enterprise is officially seven years old, but winemaker and proprietor Raymond Haak, along with his wife Gladys, have been experimenting with growing grapes and making wine for 25 years prior as a hobby. Beginning with just two grapevines, the Haaks now proudly grow three acres of wine grapes, two of the Blanc du Bois varietal and one acre of Black Spanish.

“When operations began in 2000, the winery had only 1,500 gallons of capacity for winemaking,” Raymond Haak said, gazing proudly at rows of huge stainless steel tanks. “Now we have 33,000 gallons of capacity and we’re still growing.”

The size of the winery operation is not the only thing growing. Increasing appreciation for the quality of Haak wines is apparent by the many awards the Haak label has accumulated over its relatively short time in existence.

“The 2003 Texas Madeira is superb,” said Scott Hauptert, proprietor of Sandstone Cellars Winery, located in the Texas hill country town of Mason. “This wine was awarded a Gold Medal at the 2007 San Diego International Wine Competition. That’s quite an accomplishment.”

Nestled beside the beautiful vineyards, the Mediterranean-style winery contains the processing facilities and also an 1,800 square-foot cellar for storing and aging wines. This is something of a feat for the water-logged soil of Galveston County, but Haak has held the water at bay with 18-inch thick walls and French drains and pumps all around the outside perimeter of the cellar.

Haak is notably proud of his cellar “wine library,” which houses six to eight cases of every type and vintage of wine



Kim Boswell: The Signal Staff

Tasting room attendant Nicole Comeaux explains the nuances of wine tasting to two visitors. Comeaux is an education major at UHCL.



Kim Boswell: The Signal Staff

The Mediterranean architecture of the Haak Winery provides an inviting welcome to visitors.

he has produced. He wants to follow the quality of their aging and someday envisions a public wine tasting of some of these bottles.

Upstairs, the gift shop and tasting bar stay busy with people popping in, not only to sample the wine, but to become educated in wine tasting in a low-key and comfortable manner. Nicole Comeaux, a tasting room attendant and undergraduate education major at University of Houston-Clear Lake, enjoys assisting visitors.

“Always take two sips of wine,” Comeaux recommends. “The first taste will only convey everything you don’t like about wine, such as an ‘oaky’ taste. The second taste will reveal what the wine is really all about.”

The winery has truly become a “destination” winery, with entertainment and musical events scheduled weekly in any of the three outdoor areas. There are two pavilion-type facilities, connected by a walkway and a picturesque garden area, between the main building and the vineyards that occasionally serve as wedding sites.

An Italian Fest will take place at the winery Oct. 14, 1-4:30 p.m. The event is free to the public with food and wine available for purchase. For more information on winery tours and upcoming events, call (409) 925-1401 or visit their Web site at www.haakwine.com.



Kim Boswell: The Signal Staff

Winemaker Raymond Haak discusses how wine matures in oak barrels.



Jamie Griffiths: The Signal Staff

Gary Surber, co-owner of Tattzoo, fills in the flower tattoo on Jim Scott, Tattzoo's body piercing expert.

Body Tattoos: *A non-fading history*

Jamie Griffiths
The Signal Staff

Tattoos have been around for more than 5,000 years and with shows like “LA Ink” and “Miami Ink” drawing in audiences, they have become prevalent in today’s society.

Just about everywhere you go you can spot people sporting pieces of artwork on their bodies. Hopefully, the artwork is something enjoyable since it will be with them for the rest of their lives. Yes, tattoos are permanent and can never be fully removed.

There are several processes available designed to remove tattoos, but all involve pain, money and scarring.

Salabraision is a process that rubs salt on the tattoo to “sand” it out. If that does not sound appealing, then you can have tissue expansion. Tissue expansion involves a surgery to implant a balloon that will inflate to stretch the skin and another surgery to cut out the tattoo, replace it with the extra skin and remove the balloon. There are medical lasers and staged excisions as well.

“Make sure you love your selection deeply before you get it put on,” said Gary Surber, co-owner of Tattzoo. “The most common mistake is getting a boyfriend’s or girlfriend’s name.”

After careful consideration, if you decide you definitely want to get a tattoo, here are some things to keep in mind:

- Make sure the artist you select can handle your artwork.
- Remember you pay for what you get, so settle on a price.
- Look at the artist’s portfolio for quality of his or her work.
- Check out how the shop sterilizes its equipment.
- Make sure you wear something comfortable.
- Do not drink any alcohol or take any aspirin beforehand.
- Come in with food in your stomach and bathed, not sweaty.
- Depending on the size and detail, it might take two or three sessions to complete.
- For larger tattoos, the outline is done one week and the color is done the next week.

“I had to have one of mine covered up because no one could tell what it was,” said Christina Holmes, a literature major. “You have to put more thought into it, visit places, get references and look at previous work.”

Keeping that in mind, remember that getting a tattoo is somewhat painful, not to mention permanent. Just like a tattoo, the trend has not faded away.

THE PROCESS OF COLORING A TATTOO



Step 1: Prepare arm

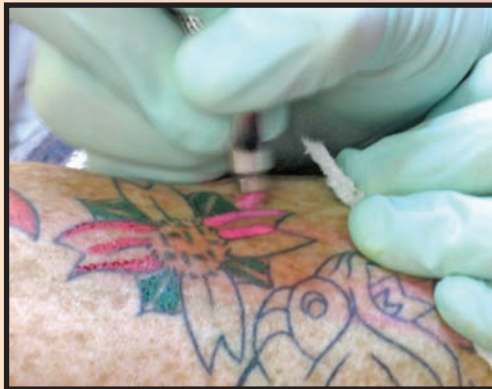


Jamie Griffiths: The Signal Staff

Scott starts by cleaning and shaving his arm.



Step 2: Add highlights

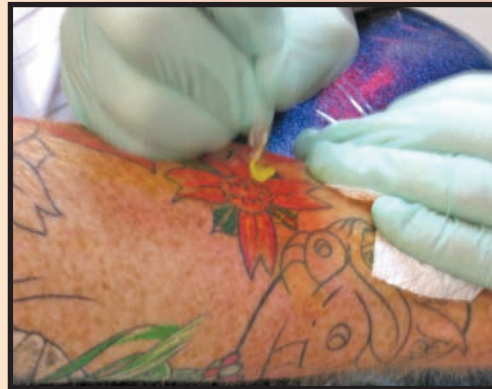


Jamie Griffiths: The Signal Staff

Surber starts highlighting the flower with pink ink.



Step 3: Add detail

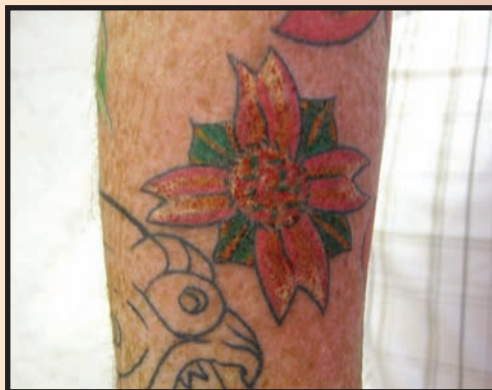


Jamie Griffiths: The Signal Staff

After wiping the blood off, details are added in yellow and white ink.

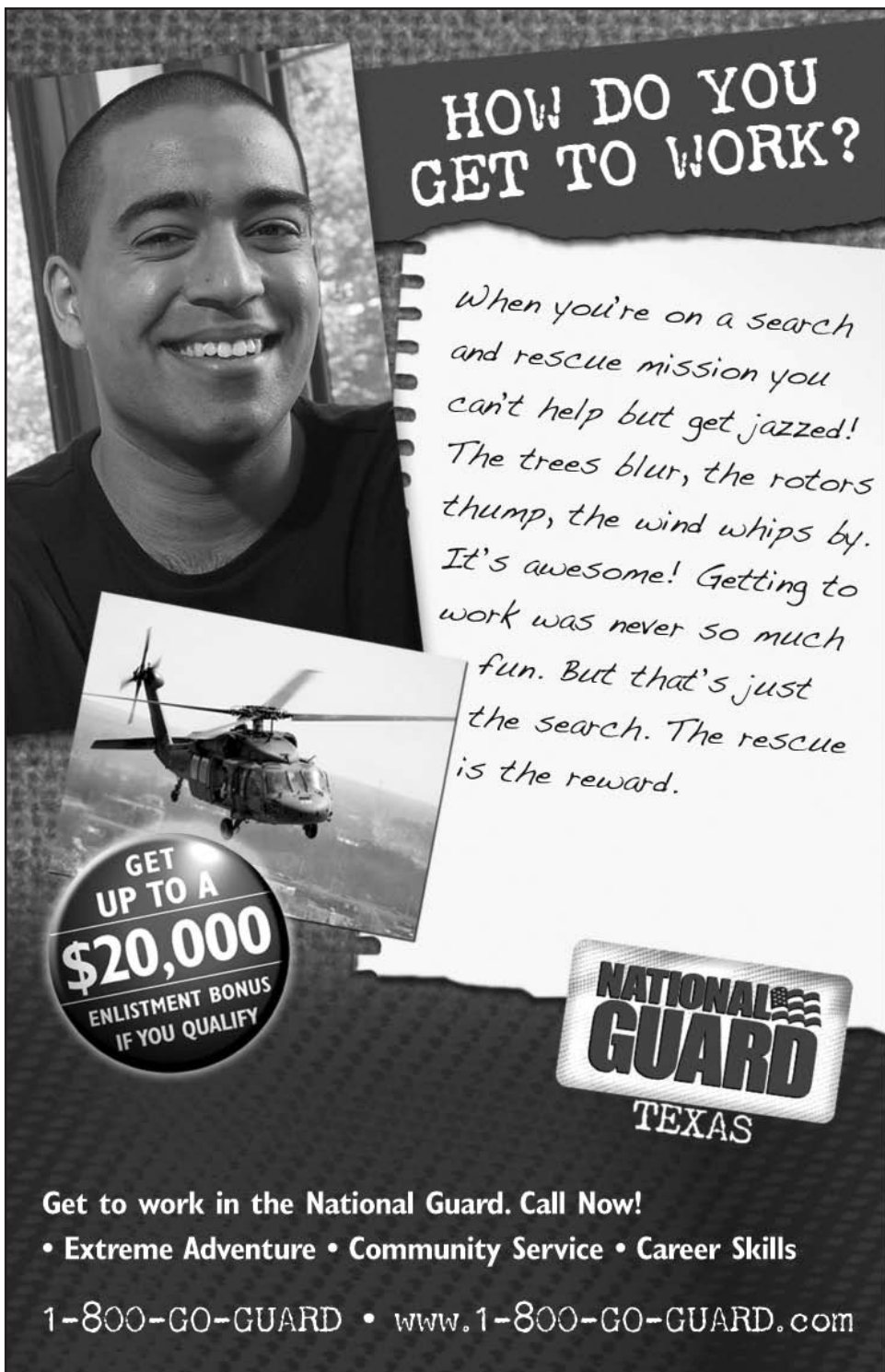


Step 4: Let heal



Jamie Griffiths: The Signal Staff

Still bleeding, Scott's tattoo will take a day or two to heal and show its full color.



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SSCB 1.202.07
*Registration required
- October 9-10**
MD Anderson Blood Drive,
1-7 p.m., Bayou Atrium II
- October 12**
English Enhancement Class,
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Location TBA
- Welcome Back Dance Fall 2007,
7 p.m., Bayou Atrium II
- October 16**
Workshop: Discovering Your
Strengths, 5-6 p.m., SSCB 1.202.07
*Registration required
- October 20**
Film & Speaker Series: Hairspray,
7 p.m., SSCB Lecture Hall
*Tickets: \$3
- October 23**
NSLS Speaker: What Major or
Career Should I Choose?,
6-7:30 p.m., Bayou 2512
*Registration required
- October 26**
Workshop: Dealing With Difficult
People, 1-3 p.m., SSCB 1.202.07
*Registration required
- Film & Speaker Series: Nosferatu,
8 p.m., Bayou Theater
*Tickets: \$5-10
- October 29**
IISS Dia de los Muertos (Day
of the Dead) Celebration,
noon-1 p.m., Bayou Atrium I
- For more events on campus,
visit www.uhcl.edu/studentlife.

Councilman Garcia addresses immigration issues

Monica Buchanan
The Signal Staff

In post 9/11 America, certain topics that were once casual debates are now becoming hot-button issues that seem to integrate into everyday life. One of these is the constantly debated issue of illegal immigration.

The Hispanics Advancing Culture and Education hosted an open discussion Oct. 1 that covered many of the issues surrounding immigration. The event was led by District H councilman Adrian Garcia who, as a Houston councilman and former Houston police officer, has seen firsthand how immigration has developed into an incredibly controversial topic.

While some feel that the subject of immigration can be made into a clear-cut issue, the University of Houston-Clear Lake's HACE president, Veronica Kreuder-Longoria, feels there is much more to this debate than meets the eye.

"Immigration is a very hot topic and is becoming a huge racial one as well," Longoria stated. "The public has a very narrow focus on what these issues really mean. We hope through this event we can get the pulse from city council and see where Harris County is going with these issues."

During the hour-long discussion, Garcia tried to displace some of the myths associated with both illegal and legal immigrants. One myth discussed was the money factor, that illegal

immigrants are costing Americans money by simply living in the United States. Garcia stated that this was simply not true.

"For the Latino community, we have what is called the 'Hispanic dollar,'" Garcia said. "The 'Hispanic dollar' represents close to one trillion dollars, and this represents what we collect by working and what we contribute by putting back into the community."

Garcia also attacked the myth that illegal immigrants are able to get by without paying any tax to the IRS. He argued that all immigrants pay the state sales tax whenever they buy consumer goods. While they can file their income taxes using a fraudulent social security number, they cannot receive a tax return.

Another immigration issue is how illegal immigrants affect the U.S. job market. Some questions were raised at the event as to what the city of Houston was doing about companies who hire illegal immigrants, as well as those who offer no benefits to immigrants in order to save more money. Garcia assured listeners that the city of Houston actively seeks out companies who violate



GARCIA

immigration laws and fines them to the full extent.

Houston is also having conversations about health insurance with contractors who are involved in city work. These conversations include a program that will insure that if companies do not offer health insurance to their employees they must pay the city a premium to provide their employees with government assistance.

Lastly, Garcia addressed the issue of public safety, which has become the focal point surrounding immigration since 9/11. As a police officer for 24 years, Garcia has witnessed how local law enforcement comes across road blocks time and again. He stated that, in real time, there is no way to validate someone's citizenship without infringing on their privacy rights.

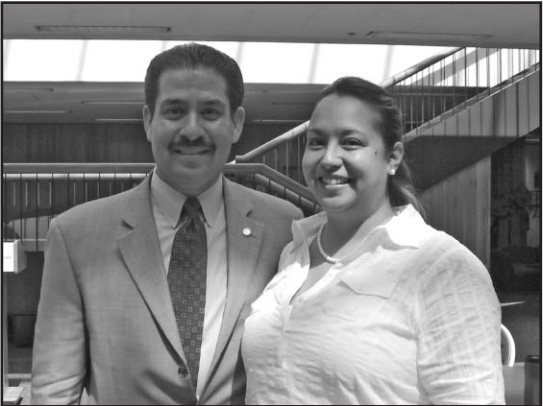
"Local law enforcement is not tied into the state's computer system," Garcia said. "The only way to easily verify someone's citizenship is to check their passport, which no legislation requires citizens to do."

The only way for local law enforcement to check citizenship is to detain someone and perform a background check, which for

more than 15 years has become an issue with racial profiling. Garcia acknowledged that all of us have the face of an immigrant, and there is no way to distinguish who is illegal without violating the rights of others.

Garcia does want Houstonians to know that terrorism is a different problem than immigration, and that even though the 9/11 attacks have brought immigration to the forefront, to understand that there are other ways of solving the problem is crucial.

He strongly suggests looking at why so many foreign countries are neglecting their citizens, and what the U.S. can do to force other countries to improve their living conditions. Garcia explained that is the only sure way to guarantee that immigration will be kept at a minimum without sacrificing the freedoms that America has promised to so many.



Monica Buchanan: The Signal Staff

Councilman Garcia and HACE president Veronica Kreuder-Longoria after his speech.


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PEOPLESOFT: continued from page 1

needed to drop Newspaper], I had to track down the professor for another class to ask her for admission into her class. It was a big pain in the rear. I missed the first week of school because of this situation.”

“The reason Writing for the Media is a prerequisite for Newspaper Publication is because it provides the journalistic background students need to produce the student paper,” said Taleen Washington, faculty adviser for the student publications. “Allowing a student to take Newspaper without first taking the prerequisite would be setting him or her up for failure. This is the case for most prerequisites. The exception is when a student can show that he or she does have the required skill level necessary and is granted permission to enroll by the professor. A prerequisite means that a student must master one set of skills before he or she is ready to advance to the next level.”

“Some prerequisites are blocking prerequisites and others are just footnotes,” said Yvette Bendeck, associate vice president of academic affairs. “There are a select few classes that a student may enroll without taking the prerequisite with the permission of the instructor; others are required.”

Ashley Packard, associate professor of communication, said that she has had to tell students in the past to drop her course because they did not have the required prerequisite. Packard expressed that the situation was embarrassing for the student, not to mention time consuming.

“Ultimately it is the students’ responsibility to look at the prerequisites in the catalog or on the Internet,” Packard said. “Some instances can and have been very

tenacious. Prevention within the software could be a solution.”

“All that needs to be done is the associate dean or advising coordinators from each school needs to put in a request to me and I can input it into the system,” explained Kevin McKisson, director of registration in academic records. “In order for professors and faculty to block students from adding a class due to the fact that they do not have the prerequisite, they need to contact their associate dean’s office to enter in the request. The request only has to be entered once, not each semester.”

“This was brought to my attention within the last week or two,” said Howard Eisner, the associate dean of Human Sciences and Humanities. “I was not aware that we had that ability within the system.”

“That would save us even more time in registering and figuring out our schedules if all professors that had a required prerequisite blocked us from enrolling into that class,” Nguyen said after hearing that sending in a request is all that it would take.

“I thought the computer system screened it automatically,” said John Brashear, adjunct professor in the School of Business.

“In my experience, when a new modification is acquired, it doesn’t work properly the first time around,” Eisner explained. “We need to be prepared to deal with this problem in an effective way. We will have to meet in our administration group and discuss how to deal with this issue, how to implement it and how to solve the problem with the prerequisites. We are aiming to have this problem fixed by early to mid spring.”

LIMITATIONS: continued from page 1

for teacher education. The Texas Higher Coordinating Board, which has to monitor on behalf of the legislature, have basically set a range of 124-127 hours for teacher education,” Bendeck said.

The 120 Hour Rule and the Six-Course Drop Rule have to be implemented from the community college level, because it is during the first two years of an undergraduate degree that students are most likely to get in a bind.

The Six-Course Drop Rule became effective for college freshman in fall 2007 and limits students to six dropped classes during completion of their chosen curriculum. If a student drops the maximum six classes while still in the community college level and uses the 2+2 transfer plan to UHCL, then they cannot drop any more classes prior to graduation.

Beyond that maximum, if a course is dropped after the census date (the twelfth class day of a regular semester) the student fails that course and the school suffers a loss on reimbursement for the course enrollment.

The 120 Hour Rule does not affect students who are under the current catalog; it will be for first-time freshman and transfer students who are coming into the university under the fall 2008 catalog.

“At this point, it is very difficult for the administration, faculty and staff to predict exactly how this might impact students,” said Kim Case, associate professor of psychology and women’s studies. “Many fear that the 120 hour rule will unfairly disadvantage first generation students, students of color, and non-traditional students (such as those returning to school to complete their degrees). Honestly, we will have to keep a close watch on how this legislation impacts the UHCL student population. Another concern that I have heard faculty express is

Shaw, Carwin Jones, Bryant Purvis, Mychal Bell and an unidentified minor were initially charged with second degree attempted murder and conspiracy.

The white students responsible for hanging the nooses were suspended from school for a couple of days. No other charges were filed for any of the other altercations.

The case of Jena Six, leaves some pondering whether minorities, especially African Americans, receive unfair treatment in our court systems?

“Without a doubt—studies show blacks are arrested when whites are given warnings, are jailed when whites are given probation, are given longer sentences—all the way through the system—same with Latinos, but not to some degree,” said Bill Quigley, professor of law for Loyola University in New Orleans. He has been featured as a human rights advocate in USA Today, Democracy Now and MSNBC.

What led up to the Jena Six incident was a racially charged school environment.

How well does the University of Houston-Clear Lake fair in regards to cultivating a tolerant and diverse environment?

“I certainly hope that the events in Jena are individual notes of disharmony playing out of tune from the composition of one America,” said Everette Penn, faculty adviser for the Black Students Association and a professor of criminology.

“Just this summer I visited Money, Miss., where in 1955 Emmett Till, a young black boy from Chicago was brutally murdered for saying: ‘Bye baby’ to a white woman. As I stood at the shell of a store where the event occurred I thought how far we have come; but also how far we need to go as a country to understand and appreciate the diversity that makes the United States what it is,” Penn said.

“Many times we don’t pay attention, it just becomes what happens and we just don’t even internalize it – we just move on our merry way,” said Linda Bullock, associate dean of student diversity for the Office of Intercultural and International Student Services.

“On a superficial level we come across as very inclusive, and I very happy and proud of that, but I am also aware that there are situations of prejudice and discrimination that occur on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity that occur,” said Stephen “Arch” Erich, associate professor of social work. “If you look at them in and of themselves, they look like idiosyncratic events. I would never say they are unimportant, but idiosyncratic. But when we start looking at the evidence there are people that are not tolerant on our campus and as such I think we need to do more.”

Student body representation

One integral aspect in creating a diverse student body is having faculty who are representative of the students’ demographics at UHCL.

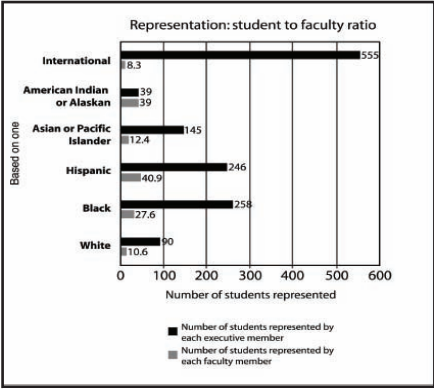
“My guess is, as you go up in terms of hierarchy there is less and less diversity ... so, while there is some diversity in terms of race, I would say we are not there yet,” Erich said.

“With the numbers of Latino population in our surrounding area and Hispanic students as the largest underrepresented group at more than 15 percent on this campus, I do not believe there is the same representation of faculty or staff at an administrative

JENA SIX: continued from page 1

level,” Bullock said. “We do have some excellent, great Hispanic professors here, the problem is we just don’t have enough.”

“The number of Latinos and African Americans who hold doctorates are so small, and UH-Clear Lake is one of over 4,000 colleges and universities in the entire



Source: UHCL Fact Book 2006

country,” said Anthony Jenkins, dean of students. “So, we would have to do something significantly great to draw them from places ... to even start making up for that disorientate number. I don’t think that the university has both the reputation or resources to do that.”

Overall, Penn believes the university has moved forward to diversify its faculty and hopes the current administration will continue this trend.

Organizations, Resources and Activities

“Through the range of people and organizations at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, I believe it would be difficult for someone to attend this university without having the opportunity of being exposed to different cultures and people,” Penn said. “The issue is: Will people move out of their comfort zones to experience something or someone new?”

A couple of years ago an effort to change the non-discrimination statement of UHCL to include gender identity/expression was approved by the president; however, it has not been implemented.

“What I found out is that it needs to go to one step further to the board of regents, as I understand it, and they need to vote for this kind of change at all the campuses,” Erich said.

Many resources are offered to students through the International and Intercultural Student Services, such as Make the Connection, an intercultural library, and a Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender resource library.

The National Coalition Building Institute Prejudice Reduction Workshop, is administered through the International and Intercultural Student Services, as an one-day workshop aimed at promoting and welcoming diversity.

“Ignorance, I won’t say racism, ignorance,” Jenkins said. “That you single out someone from a different color and you try to belittle them in front of your friends to make yourself better, or at least feel better. That ignorance has to stop ... when we get there, when America is able to use that type of energy and intellect. When we take our hatred, and start making each other better and stop tearing each other apart, we will unleash a energy and greatness that will be mind boggling.”

Go to The Signal blog at www.myspace.com/signal_uhcl to discuss any incidents of discrimination or intolerance you may have experienced while a student at UHCL.



Courtesy of Michael David Murphy: whileseated.org

Melissa Bell, center, whose son, Mychal Bell, was convicted of 2nd degree aggravated battery and conspiracy to commit murder for his role in a fight at Jena High School.

Swimming in the deep end of the gene pool

Ashley R. Marie
The Signal Staff

Last year Larry Rohde, associate professor of biology, won the University of Houston-Clear Lake Piper Teaching Award and was co-winner of the Institute of Space Systems Operation Fellowship Award. This year he continues working as the program chair for Master of Science in biotechnology while he advances his National Institute of Health funded research in cancer biology on the apoptotic stimulator protein of p53 2 (ASPP2).

As a native Texan who grew up in Fort Worth, Rohde received both his Bachelor of Science degree in biology in 1984, and Master of Science in biology from Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas. He then went on to the University of Texas Health and Science Center in Houston to earn his Ph.D. in biomedical science in 1995.

From 1995 to 1999, Rohde did his postdoctoral fellowship in Pediatrics Hematology-Oncology at Stanford University School of Medicine in Stanford, Calif.

“During my postdoc at Stanford, I worked with a team that studied this particular protein [ASPP2],” Rohde said. “Since ASPP2 is deadly to cells, my work focused on generating cell lines that we used to analyze the protein’s activity.”

The ASPP2 protein is a stimulator for the tumor suppressor gene p53, which is the most frequent genetic lesion found in human cancers. The ASPP2 is a gene product that stimulates p53 to induce apoptosis, or program cell death.

“Every cell in your body is designed to commit suicide,” Rohde said.

Apoptosis is a physiological response to cells that have reached a certain point when they can no longer function correctly. A cell will tell itself to die and the surrounding cells will engulf the dead cell, recycle its parts and prevent inflammation.

“Everyone has this going on in their body; it’s a normal function,” Rohde said. “What is interesting in cancer biology is the fact that if the cell has reached a point where it has been damaged and goes toward the direction of transforming into a cancer cell, and the ASPP2 gene I’m working with stimulates the p53 gene to induce apoptosis.”

Rohde took the data that he found during his postdoc and continued his research at UHCL. He realized that the ASPP2 had been found by using p53 as bait in an advance molecular technique. Rohde reversed the situation by using ASPP2 as bait.

By using the ASPP2 as bait, Rohde is able to use a fishing method to pull out any proteins that may be biting and then identify the gene. Rohde is looking at two pools of these proteins: 1) a human placental protein where a protein is being expressed in the placenta, and 2) proteins being expressed by human skeletal tissue.

The reason he chose these two pools of genes was because he knew ASPP2 was normally expressed in these particular tissues and, after screening each pool, he has reached a point where he is testing several possible ASP2-binding proteins.

Rohde’s students have helped get the experiment started and are now identifying the false and positive ASPP2-binding proteins.

“The reason I am able to do this is because my idea was agreeable to people at the National Institute of Health,” Rohde said. “They gave me a 3-year \$208,000 NIH Advanced Research Enhancement Award.”

Rohde’s teaching skills come from his own experiences as an undergraduate and as a graduate teaching assistant. As an undergraduate, Rohde was lucky enough to have a mentor, Herschel Garner, who saw his potential and gave him the willpower he needed to pursue his Ph.D.

“Dr. Rohde is excellent,” said Sadeh Davari, interim dean of the School of Science and Computer Engineering. “He is very good at teaching, service and anyone would be proud to have him as a professor.”

With his background, Rohde realized that in order for UHCL students to be competitive in the biotech field, they needed to have all the lab skills he could teach them. When Rohde started here

in 1999, he immediately organized a molecular biology lab and a tissue culture lab.

“When I first arrived here I had very little to work with, but the students learned,” Rohde said. “When students come through here they get really good training in the biotech lab we have.”

The biotechnology program here at UHCL is a field of study that is the only one of its kind in Texas. Unlike other programs, it has tracts for bioinformatics, management/marketing and molecular biotech.

Biotechnology can be defined as the application of fundamental biological principles to the practical development and management of products and processes, and to the study and development of the techniques and tools used in these processes.

“This program is a fairly new program, and with UHCL being in the middle of many medical facilities, we can expect to see a lot of interest,” Davari said. “We are already getting applications from overseas and we expect the program to grow quickly.”

The field of biotechnology draws from many different fields of biological science and provides important applications to the biomedical, agricultural and environmental sciences. Rohde has had seven research papers published, as well as a chapter in a book, two reviews and five abstracts.

For more information on Rohde and the biotechnology program go to <http://sce.uhcl.edu/rohde/>.



Ashley R. Marie: The Signal Staff

UHCL students Joe Shafter, Angela Dotson, Tarna Lopez and Traci Moody help Larry Rohde, associate professor of biology, in his NIH-funded research in cancer biology on the apoptotic stimulator protein of p53 2 (ASPP2).

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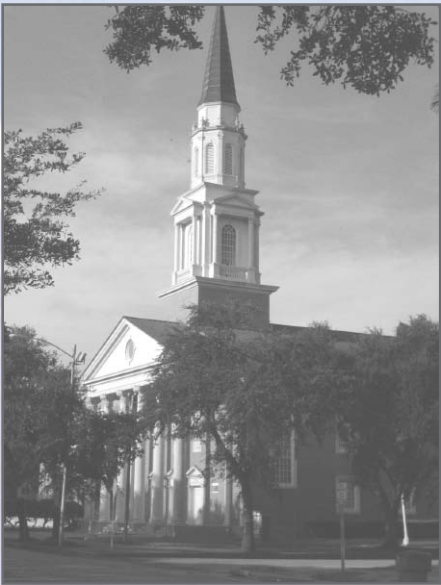
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Sri Meenakshi Temple
Pearland, TX



This structure is called a mandir, which is a Hindi word meaning Hindu temple. Mandirs are considered to be dwelling places of deities.

First Baptist Church
Galveston, TX



Baptist churches generally have altars with large sanctuaries. Many churches also feature steeples and crosses.

Clear Creek Community Church
League City, TX



This structure is a Christian non-denomination church. This church has a more modern facility with a contemporary design.

Places of Worship

Text and Photographs by:
Heather Frame
The Signal Staff

The forefathers who founded the United States of America felt that religious freedom was a vital component of a successful and free society. The Puritans fled England to escape religious persecution. This helped pave the path for the society we know today. In the United States and in the Houston area, there are thousands of places where people of all faiths are able to worship freely.

The churches, mosques, temples and synagogues shown here are all located in the southeast part of Houston. They may differ aesthetically, but each is considered to be very sacred to those who worship within its walls, illustrating the principle on which the United States was founded.

St. Mary's Catholic Church
League City, TX



Catholic churches often incorporate stained glass windows to illustrate various biblical narratives.

Temple B'Nai Israel
Galveston, TX



A synagogue is a place of worship for Jewish people. There are usually seperate rooms for prayer located in the main sanctuary of the synagogue. Jewish people often study their heritage in the Beth Midrash, which is Hebrew for "house of study." The symbol for Judiasm is the Star of David, which is visible on many synagogues.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Galveston, TX



A Roman Catholic church is often built in the Gothic style of architecture. It is a Christian church of which the Pope, or Bishop of Rome, is the supreme head.

Galveston Islamic Center
Galveston, TX



A mosque is a Muslim place of worship that has a tall slender tower or turret. The symbol for Islam is a crescent moon and star, which is visible on many mosques.