



OKTOBERFEST  
pg. 5

# THE SIGNAL



FOLK ART EXHIBIT,  
pg. 4

VOLUME XLI, NUMBER 9

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OCTOBER 14, 2013

## Lethal Injection Drug Shortage

*Texas seeks alternatives to proceed with executions*

**SUZETTE ORTIZ**  
THE SIGNAL

A notable shortage on two of the most common drugs used in lethal injections, sodium thiopental and pentobarbital, affected multiple states that uphold the death penalty, including Texas.

This shortage forced states to seek alternative drug sources in order to proceed with their scheduled executions.

The shortage began when Hospira, the sole United States manufacturer of sodium thiopental, announced they would end production of the drug.

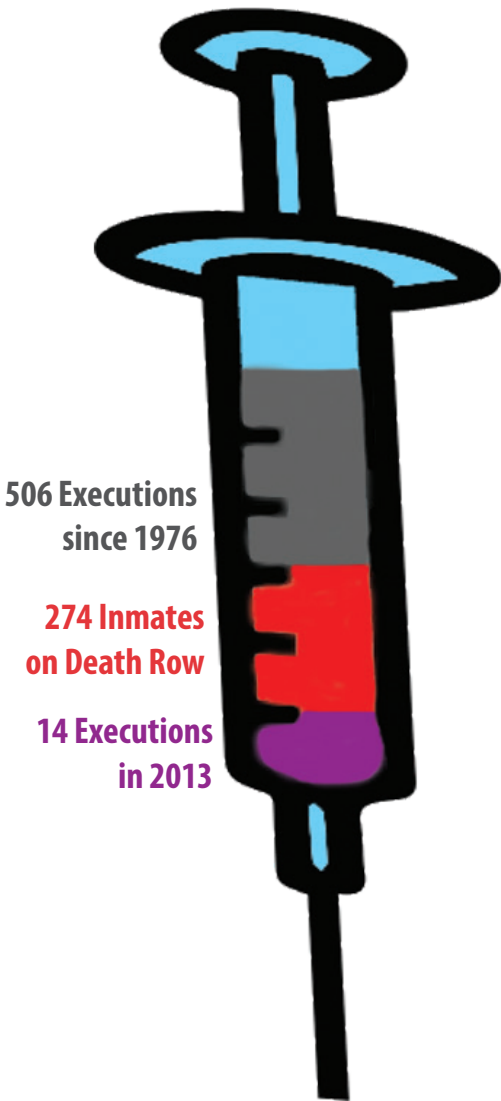
Hospira, while being based in the U.S., was manufacturing the drug in Italy, where officials mandated the drug no longer be used in executions.

“Texas initially used sodium thiopental as part of a 3-drug lethal injection procedure,” states the Death Penalty Information Center on its website. “However, on July 18, 2013, they switched to a one-drug procedure, using only pentobarbital.”

Although multiple states, including Texas, turned to pentobarbital as an alternative drug, this drug also experienced a widespread limited supply.

“Lundbeck, Inc., [the] producer of pentobarbital, publicly stated their opposition to the off-label use of their product, [and] then put restrictions in place to prevent Departments of Corrections from obtaining the drug for use in executions,” said Elaine de Leon, communications coordinator for the Death Penalty Information Center.

### Texas’ Lethal Numbers



506 Executions  
since 1976

274 Inmates  
on Death Row

14 Executions  
in 2013

INFOGRAPHIC BY JASMINE GASCAR: THE SIGNAL

“[Likewise] Hikma, another company that produces pentobarbital, put similar measures in place.”

Texas’ last supply of pentobarbital expired in September.

The expired drug supply cannot be used, even though its purpose is one of a lethal drug, because there is no way of telling how a human body will react to the out-of-date drug when it is put to use.

If the drug were to fail in its purpose, inflicting damage instead of a humane death to the person to whom it is being administered, it would bring legal consequences for the state using the expired drug.

In an effort to stay on schedule, Texas officials sought a new supply of pentobarbital.

“Texas leads the country with 506 executions since 1976, and with 14 executions so far in 2013,” de Leon said. “Texas recently announced that it will [now] obtain [the] drugs from compounding pharmacies.”

Compounding pharmacies are used to custom-make small amounts of drugs. They are usually hired to create something in response to a prescription for a slightly altered form of a medicine.

An example of the kind of medication a compounding pharmacy might produce is a liquid form of a medication that would originally be in a pill

SEE INJECTION, PAGE 6

## Students Robbed In Clear Lake Area

**TIFFANY FITZPATRICK**  
THE SIGNAL

Three University of Houston–Clear Lake international students have been victims of a recent string of robberies in the Clear Lake area. The robberies occurred off-campus, primarily between midnight and 4 a.m. on weekdays.

A bulletin sent out in late September specifically acknowledged international students as victims, which raised concern among the community, but the robberies are part of a larger increase in local crime.

“It isn’t that our international students are being targeted specifically,” said UHCL Chief of Police Paul Willingham. “But that there have been a number of robberies in the area and some of our international students have been victims.”

Robberies and other violent crimes are acknowledged largely as crimes of opportunity by both the UHCL Police Department and Houston Police Department. Publications from both state that citizens being aware of their surroundings and taking precautions can significantly reduce these crimes.

Willingham encouraged all students to visit the UHCL Police Department’s website, [www.uhcl.edu/police](http://www.uhcl.edu/police), and explore the various educational resources made available. These resources include a PowerPoint presentation on personal safety, a video on how to react to an active shooter, and information on requesting assistance and anonymously reporting crimes or suspicious behavior.

In addition to what individuals can do to ensure their own safety, the police department at UHCL has several programs in place to help keep the campus safe. Many programs are scheduled by the police and various university offices, but student groups may also request a presentation or training class from the police department.

UHCL Police provide safety transportation from dusk to dawn within campus borders; and the Hawk Patrol, comprised of student employees of the police department, offers safe transportation around campus from 6 to 10 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

Even with the safety precautions on campus, there is still concern over safe transportation from campus to nearby apartment complexes when students are in class or studying late. The university has a courtesy shuttle that drives between the campus and the popular apartment complexes nearby, but it does not run during the late night hours.

“It concerns me when I hear a few of my international friends tell me how they have to leave campus way past midnight because they don’t have any means of transportation,” said Carla Bradley, president of the Student Government Association. “Our campus police do a lot already, so it’s understandable if they can’t be everywhere. However, if students need a safe place to ask for help or advice, I’m sure they should be the ones to go to first. Waiting

SEE ROBBED, PAGE 6

## Innocence Project Of Texas First To Review Convicted Arson Cases

**HEATHER ALFORD**  
THE SIGNAL

Innocent until proven guilty is a constitutional right guaranteed all U.S. citizens by the First Amendment. However, what about those who are found guilty in the American justice system yet claim innocence?

That is when the Innocence Project of Texas (IPTX) takes action. When people claim to be wrongly convicted, they can call upon this nonprofit organization to step in and provide DNA testing that may have been overlooked or the method nonexistent during the previous trial or trials in the state of Texas.

Modeled after the national Innocence Project, IPTX uses volunteers in the form of lawyers, paralegals,

private investigators and law students. Additionally, the Innocence Project of Texas is offering one other service that is unique to the nation: a statewide arson review.

How fire investigations are conducted have changed drastically within the past couple of decades, and modern experts are finding the work of past investigators guilty of providing misleading evidence.

The Forensic Science Commission in Texas recommended a review of past convictions to the State Fire Marshal’s Office (SFMO) in April 2011, stated Lynn Robitaille Garcia, general counsel for Forensic Science Commission.

SEE INNOCENCE, PAGE 6



ONLINE  
this issue



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Folk Art Exhibit

**VIDEO**  
Mahatma Gandhi Week



**OCTOBER GOES PINK**

Go online to read blog  
by Haley Follett



**COMING OUT DAY**

Go online to view slide-  
show by Malori Bizzell



# Innocent People In Danger Of Execution

The Innocence Project is a national organization that fights for the freedom of prisoners in the United States who are innocent. The group uses DNA testing to exonerate people who were wrongfully convicted of crimes.

A significant number of people in the United States have been convicted of crimes they did not commit. Lawyers with The Innocence Project say that to date 300 people have been proven innocent by DNA testing, including 18 people who served time on death row.

The Innocence Project points to a number of cases in Texas where DNA and other forensic evidence has proven people convicted of crimes were innocent. In some cases the proof of innocence has come after the defendants were executed.

Cameron Todd Willingham was executed by the state of Texas in 2004 for intentionally starting a fire that killed his three young daughters.

In the Willingham case, The Innocence Project put together a team of five of the leading arson experts in the country. After reviewing the case, the team of experts wrote a report stating that none of the scientific evidence presented in the trial was valid.

The Texas Forensic Science Commission issued a report on the conviction of Willingham in

## EDITORIAL

April of 2011, recommending more education and training for fire investigators. The commission also implemented procedures for reviewing old cases. Despite this, Willingham’s wrongful conviction has not been overturned.

There should be a moratorium on the death penalty until such time as the causes of wrongful convictions are fully understood and corrected. Not only is this position held by The Innocence Project, it is also held by the American Bar Association.

The American Bar Association’s position against the death penalty is in large part due to the organization’s understanding of the unfairness of the criminal justice system. Prosecutors have presented flawed DNA evidence in criminal trials that have resulted in unfair convictions.

In Houston, the HPD crime lab has come under investigation for a number of problems with its DNA testing and storage methods, dating back to 2002. A 2007 Houston Chronicle article detailed how an investigation of the crime lab by a special investigator found at least 413 cases where defendants were convicted by DNA testing that may have been flawed.

A skilled defense lawyer is likely to challenge bad DNA evidence in court. One of the biggest problems in the criminal justice system is that poor defendants are frequently found guilty because they have to rely on court-appointed attorneys who are often overworked, unqualified, underpaid, and lack the resources needed to put on a good defense.

There are very few wealthy people who are sentenced to long prison terms and wealthy death row inmates are non-existent. The wealthy are found not guilty of serious crimes often because they can afford to pay for the best defense money can buy.

An argument can be made that the death penalty should be used in cases where the crimes are especially violent, brutal and heinous. Serial killers, mass murderers and terrorists who kill innocent people deserve to be executed, but only if the evidence presented against them is irrefutable, and therein lies the flaw in the system.

Our criminal justice system has a problem with wrongful convictions. Causes of wrongful convictions include eyewitness misidentification, improper forensic science, false confessions, unreliable informants, prosecutorial misconduct, racism, ineffective defense and police misconduct.

Citizens who are concerned



L.D. FORREST

about wrongful convictions can learn about volunteer opportunities with The Innocence Project and donate money to them by visiting their website at [www.innocenceproject.org](http://www.innocenceproject.org). On their website a link is provided where people can send an email to the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles asking them to investigate the wrongful execution of Cameron Todd Willingham.

In the United States, innocent

people are being convicted and sent to prison, sometimes to death row. The Innocence Project has proven this fact with irrefutable scientific evidence. Until the causes of wrongful convictions are fully understood and solutions to the problems are implemented by the criminal justice system, a moratorium must be placed on the death penalty.

## THE SIGNAL

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## Positive Thinking Can Transform

DANIEL DURBIN  
THE SIGNAL

It’s no secret that life can be stressful at times.

We have all had challenges that we thought were impossible to overcome – a feeling college students know all too well during the likes of studying for final exams, writing papers and meeting class deadlines.

The funny thing is, it’s how we go about addressing these challenges mentally that ultimately affects the balance between success and failure, not only in our college education but in the grand scheme of life as well. The simple remedy: be positive.

The difference between thinking positively and negatively about everyday situations has enormous consequences in our lives, whether we know it or not.

We have all known people who are constantly down in the dumps because they feel nothing they do makes a difference. This continuous negative attitude will only dig a deeper hole for them into a dreary pit of unachievable success.

When we dwell on negative thoughts, we conjure negative outcomes. It revolves around the “law of attraction” theory. This idea states that whatever thoughts we have in the absolute forefront of our minds will actually attract the same results from the outside world.

For example, when someone is primarily focused on the stress of possibly failing a test, the brain will actually block out some



### STAFF COLUMN

vital information needed to earn a passing grade so that it can accommodate for those pessimistic thoughts.

In contrast, let’s say that same person studies with a positive frame of mind, self-confidence and a strong will to improve his or her knowledge on the subject. He or she will then do outstanding on the test. Additionally, this theory doesn’t cease with schoolwork; it works in all aspects of our lives.

Normally, it is visually evident who the positive thinkers are in society in contrast to the negative ones. We all have an aura that surrounds us that, in turn, invites other auras of the same kind toward us.

Negative thinkers who constantly complain about their day-to-day struggles – or perhaps even thrive on ranting about them – to colleagues will consequently attract much more unwanted strife than they bargained.

Eventually, colleagues will no longer want to be around these negative thinkers because they reflect too much unwanted

negativity. This may lead to a loss of networking that impacts their social circles and, maybe even more importantly, their economic progress. After all, nobody wants to hire a “Debbie-Downer.”

Happiness is a choice so it is up to each of us to make that decision for ourselves. When we project positive thoughts, we attract other positive thinkers toward us, which not only grants us new potential friendships, but an overall sense of gratification and prosperity as well.

Occasionally, tragedies will occur in our lives that we cannot control, but it is how we face life’s toughest ordeals that will truly demonstrate who we are. Sadness is a natural emotion, which essentially keeps us human. That being said, it is also important for us to recognize that life will improve even in the midst of turmoil. If we fixate on the adversity at hand the dreary pit will continue getting deeper.

When I begin to stress out over something, I take a moment to remind myself that life is great. It isn’t good. It is great. I tell myself I can accomplish this task because I have the faith in myself to make it possible and nothing will stop me from reaching my goal.

Once you fully grasp this idea, it is an incredible realization of what you are capable of achieving. It is vital to our success and overall happiness as human beings. Positive thinking is a magical, untapped resource that we owe to ourselves to delve into.

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# What Happened To Old-Fashioned Teamwork?

**VICTOR ARAIZA**  
THE SIGNAL

America is not the greatest country in the world anymore. It has been that way for a while, we just hate to admit it.

To look back and see everything that was accomplished in this country – the discovery of electricity, and the creation of the locomotive, cities and steel – we had people who used their time to make advancements that made life easier for the general population, not to screw them over for personal gain.

We built great things, buildings that could scrape the sky and spaceships that could go beyond it. We promoted higher education to continue to build on what others had started. We didn't belittle intelligence and refuse to work with someone who could teach us a thing or two or call us out on our shortcomings. We also didn't automatically deem someone as stupid just because his or her beliefs were different from our own.



## STAFF COLUMN

Yes, I know we're not all bullies. We're not all afraid to reach for something greater than ourselves and sacrifice self-recognition and pride for the betterment of those around us. Unfortunately for us, in the eyes of the world, all the crazy people at the podium are the only voice of America many people in other countries may be able to hear.

The inmates are indeed run-

ning the asylum. The inmates in question are members of the 113th Congress, though alluding to them as such may be a dishonor to inmates themselves. Inmates might actually be able to agree on a policy that will benefit the majority of U.S. citizens and put an end to this fiasco, a stunning feat that what is supposed to be some of the brightest minds in this country just can't seem to do.

At about a 50-50 split in seats in both the House and the Senate, the current childish dispute is an embarrassing display of our culture. Today it is Obamacare, yesterday it was going to war with Syria, and tomorrow it's going to be why can't America just switch dinner to breakfast and breakfast to lunch (and raise the tax on maple syrup).

I remember when I was in elementary school, we were taught to respect our congressmen and women. They were up there with firefighters because they were doing a public service for the bet-

terment of the people.

By the time I got to high school, I remember teachers saying, "You guys are the future of this country." Except when we were fooling around, then the saying would be, "If you guys are the future of this country, then I'd hate to see where we're going to be in 20 years."

News flash: it's not so pretty now and, to be honest, I think the bar is so low that if all my generation does is just try, we could do a better job. We don't even have to get it right, we just have to say, "You know what, I genuinely want to try to make this country better in any capacity."

All this bickering and shouting for what? Because we're not satisfied with the president we voted into office? Because our guy lost? When did this turn into a twilight rivalry between #TeamRepublican and #TeamDemocrat and why can't we just #GetOverIt.

What does this say to elementary school students today? If

these tactics work for legislature what message does this send to kids? That if you cry and throw a fit you'll eventually get your way because we've become so easy to irritate?

So while our "leaders" go through this civil war of political parties, we have to wonder if this makes us vulnerable to a terrorist attack from enemies who work in unison. Even then I think what scares me the most is that the next terrorist attack might not be coming from abroad but rather from within.

We don't have to relive 9/11 to remind us how to unite, we don't have to relive another presidential assassination to prove we're divided and we don't have to watch congress go to war with itself to remind us we can do better.

America is not the greatest country in the world anymore because greatness is not achieved without a team. There's a reason the trophy reads "Chicago Bulls" and not "Michael Jordan."

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# Let Them Eat Cupcakes

Following the screening of **Les Adieux à la Reine / Farewell, My Queen** there will be reception to celebrate the opening of the Tournées Festival featuring cupcakes by Cosmo's Gourmet Co. Bakery & Deli.

**Fri, Oct 18, 7 pm, SSCB Lecture Hall**  
**\$3.75 or Free with ANY UHCL ID**

Les Adieux à la Reine / Farewell, My Queen: Benoît Jacquot's nimble, lush adaptation of Chantal Thomas's 2003 novel, portrays Versailles on the eve of the 1789 revolution as told through the eyes of Sidonie, the besotted reader to Marie Antoinette. Compressed to four tumultuous days, the film follows Sidonie as she tries to make sense of the rumors spreading in the royal palace. Rendered blind to the queen's caprice by love, Sidonie both thrills under her affections and seethes with jealousy for the queen's prized pet, Gabrielle de Polignac, giving rise to the discreet yet heated passion that unfolds in Farewell, My Queen. *Rated R*

Come celebrate

# SGA DAY

With Us

**Who:** Student Government Association  
**What:** SGA meeting with a little twist  
**When:** October 29, 2013. 11:30-12:30PM  
**Where:** Bayou Building Atrium I

The purpose of this special meeting is to expand our audience and expose ourselves to a larger crowd. We encourage everyone to attend the meeting while dressed up!

To get more information feel free to contact us.

/SGA.UHCL
 @UHCLSGA
 SGA@uhcl.edu

What should I, Mr. Pappu (the SGA mascot) dress up as?





## Folk Art Exhibit Honors Latin America

**ADRIANA  
CAPILLA-GARCIA**  
*THE SIGNAL*

The first Hispanic Folk Art exhibit to grace the halls of UHCL is now on display in the Bayou Building, Atrium I, as part of Hispanic Heritage Month 2013. Students, staff and faculty submitted artwork that represents countries throughout Latin America.

The exhibit is currently on display and will show until Oct. 15 with a closing reception from 3 to 4 p.m. featuring participants who submitted artwork. It is one of many Hispanic Heritage Month 2013 events sponsored by the Office of Intercultural Student Services.

Exhibited pieces include famous paintings, artwork created by UHCL students, artifacts, sculptures, patterned fabric, and calendars from Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama and Puerto Rico.

Imelda Estrada-Wicks, coordinator for transition and retention services in ISS, arranged the calendar of events available for Hispanic Heritage Month.

Estrada-Wicks worked with the Hispanic Heritage Month team, which consists of UHCL students, faculty and staff members, to develop events that would honor Hispanic Heritage Month.

Once the Hispanic Heritage Month team selected the Folk Art Exhibit, Estrada-Wicks invited every student who is self-

identified as Hispanic or of Latin descent via email to participate in the exhibit.

"We wanted as many countries as we could to be exhibited," Estrada-Wicks said.

Estrada-Wicks succeeded with a total of eight different Latin American countries represented in the exhibit, which accounts for the nationality of 3,188 self-identified Hispanic students at UHCL.

Two of the participants who submitted artwork are staff. The rest of the artwork was submitted by students or UHCL alumni.

"We had a great response, from alumni and students especially," Estrada-Wicks said. "The main [goal] of these Hispanic Heritage Month events is that we want students involved. This is a way for them to be part of the celebration and get to be a part of Hispanic Heritage Month."

Estrada-Wicks stated that UHCL student Leroy Martinez contributed a Mayan calendar, Mayan Chi Chen Itza shirt, maracas and a Zampoña (pan flute). These are artifacts that have been in his family for generations and originally belonged to his great grandparents.

Some of the students who submitted art for a specific country are not of that nationality, such as a painting that represents Costa Rica submitted by UHCL student Roxanna Sumrall. Sumrall went on a trip to Costa Rica and was able to purchase the painting, "Quetzal," on display.

Karina Acosta, sociology major, submitted an Aztec calendar hand-made right in front of her from tree bark she purchased in Cuernavaca, Mexico, for \$10. The fact that the calendar's cost was only \$10 impacted Acosta greatly. Acosta felt it gave her culture a sense of humility, inimitability and pride.

"I thought, wow, only \$10 — so cheap!" Acosta said. "I would have sold it for \$50 or \$60. It made me see and be proud of our heritage. For me, it is not like I can go to Cuernavaca and buy it again."

Acosta was the first student at Lee College to graduate with an Associate Degree in Mexican-American Studies. She feels the art exhibit enhances cultural pride among UHCL students.

"I am very proud of my heritage," Acosta said. "I think not only the Hispanic heritage, but any other culture out there, should be implemented in school."

Acosta also expressed her excitement to meet the rest of the artists at the closing ceremony.

Other Hispanic Heritage Month events include: Latino film "Bless Me, Ultima!;" a film screening and discussion of "Granito: How to Nail a Dictator;" an Empowering Latinos Symposium led by Jose Angel Gutierrez and John Valadez; two on-campus Farmers Markets; a "Painting on Canvas: Culture vs. Heritage" painting session; a cultural blast dance; and a Latin



KIMBERLY WARREN: THE SIGNAL

Karina Acosta, sociology major, submitted an Aztec Calendar on a tree bark to the exhibition.

American book and flag display in the Bayou Building, Atrium 1.

The final event of Hispanic Heritage Month is the "Citizenship and Immigration Forum," a community project aimed at getting volunteers to help complete citizenship applications, that will be held Oct. 19 from 8 a.m. to

noon at West End Multi-Service Center located at 170 Heights Blvd. in Houston.

For more information on Hispanic Heritage Month and event details, visit [www.uhcl.edu/iiss/hispanic](http://www.uhcl.edu/iiss/hispanic) or contact Imelda Estrada-Wicks at 281-283-3373.

## Gandhi Week: A Celebration Of Peace

**RANDI NULL**  
*THE SIGNAL*

As October begins, most Americans think about the cooling weather, football and pumpkin-flavored everything.

Halfway around the world, as well as right here in the heart of Houston, the start of October is a time to remember the most influential man in all of India and arguably one of the most influential leaders in the world.

Oct. 2 is the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, the man who peacefully led India to independence from British rule in the 1930s through means of non-violent civil disobedience. He inspired people around the world in their

fight for civil rights and freedom, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Gandhi pioneered "A Force More Powerful," Satyagraha, or Hold-

ing to the Truth, which was used by underdogs on every continent throughout the 20th century.

In 2003 a group of individuals wanted to bring Gandhi's values to the Houston area and together formed the idea of the Mahatma Gandhi Library.

"The idea was in getting people to read about him and keep his legacy alive," said Dr. Manish Wani, president and member of the board of directors for the library. "He has a lot of publications, a lot of books, a lot of materials that

people may not know about...we allow people to take the books; all we ask is that they read it."

Wani said that while the library was a step in the right direction, they wanted to do more. The group's next step was figuring out how to help teach the next generation Gandhi's ideals, which led to the idea of Mahatma Gandhi Week.

Mahatma Gandhi Week began as an annual set of essay, speech and poster contests for children.

"Not only can they enter the contests for cash rewards and prizes, but they also get to learn about Mahatma Gandhi," Wani

said.

Since its inception, the celebration has grown to include more contests and the Gandhi Darshan photography exhibit.

The photography exhibit depicts the life and times of Gandhi and was on display for three weeks in the Houston Public Library before being moved to Nolan Ryan Junior High in Alvin ISD for another week to help share Gandhi's walk with the students.

Mahatma Gandhi Week, which is actually a month-long



RANDI NULL: THE SIGNAL

Walk participants carry signs created by Houston-area children for the 5K trek around Hermann Park.





# Oktoberfest

## Zicke Zicke Zicke Zicke, Hoi! Hoi! Hoi!

### German Festival Celebrates Bavarian Culture

**SEAN WESLEY**  
THE SIGNAL

The aroma of German sausages and potatoes wafts through the air as traditional German folk music fills festivalgoers' ears. October is here, and with it, Oktoberfest celebrations spring up around the world.

What started as a wedding festival celebrating the marriage of Crown Prince Ludwig and Princess Therese of Saxe-Hildburghausen in 1810 has now become a worldwide celebration of the Bavarian culture.

This year marked the first annual Kemah Oktoberfest, which took place in the Lighthouse District Oct. 4 through 6. With the celebration came the excuse for eventgoers to strap on their lederhosen and dirndls.

The event showcased a diverse assortment of food and beer vendors from both local and national sponsors, which catered to an array of appetites.

"[Oktoberfest] is starting to become a more popular event in the Houston area," said Philipp Sitter, manager for King's Biergarten and Restaurant of Pearland, as he ran the restaurant's booth at the event. "Every Oktoberfest you see here in Houston, we have some type of part of right now."

Accompanying the flavors and smells of the celebration was a varying lineup of bands ranging from traditional German folk music to classic rock and country music. When the German music rang out,

the Deer Park High School German Folk Dancers performed traditional Bavarian-style dances to entertain the crowd while they dined.

Local arts and crafts dealers set up shop for attendees with a desire to browse or buy their goods. Booths sold everything from glass works and wind chimes to clothing and beer-themed products such as steins and signs.

Some booths offered games while others offered contests such as raffles to win new cars or a trip to Las Vegas. There was even a rock wall to climb.

Marie Janke, special event coordinator for the city of Kemah, said that this event began because there was not a festival like it nearby.

"We felt this was a good way to promote family fun in the area," Janke said.

This is only the first of more Oktoberfests to come to Kemah in the future, as it is expected to return next year.

"It exceeded our expectations for the turn out of the inaugural Oktoberfest, and we're real pleased with the results," Janke said.

If you missed your chance to take part in the Bavarian bash, fear not. Houston's second annual Oktoberfest comes to town Oct. 19, and with it, more German-styled revelry.

Houston



SEAN WESLEY:THE SIGNAL

Oktoberfest attendees around a table enjoy a glass of beer.

also saw a success with its first annual Oktoberfest last year.

"Most shows are slow the first year, but the Houston Oktoberfest was a hit right out of the gate the first year," said Don Schwarzkopf, vendor coordinator for the Houston Oktoberfest.

The Houston Oktoberfest will also offer a variety of food and drink vendors celebrating German cuisine as well as a lineup of bands to regale the crowds.

The Houston event will even play host to a German-themed tournament. The contest will test participants' skills with

challenges such as the stein race, bucket race, barrel roll and brat toss.

"I love it," said Sylvia Franklin, an attendee of the Kemah Oktoberfest who moved to the area from Germany three months ago. "Everyone here should go to a German Oktoberfest."

For more information about Kemah Oktoberfest, visit <http://oktoberfest.gulfcoastfestivals.com>.

For more information about Houston Oktoberfest, visit <http://www.oktoberfesthouston.com>.

### MORE ONLINE

Scan the QR code to the right to find more information about Houston Oktoberfest.



**RANDI NULL:THE SIGNAL**

Volunteer Neepa Vora paints symbols of peace on the hands of a young attendee at the face painting station.

celebration, ends at Miller Outdoor Theatre with cultural programming and the 1000 Lights for Peace, where participants have the chance to light a candle as their pledge for peace.

Seven years ago the group also incorporated a 5K Walk for Peace, which is more than just a chance to walk together through Hermann Park, says walk coordinator Sesh Bala.

"One of the very important things [Gandhi] did was a protest march called the Salt Tax March

in the year 1930," Bala said. "In remembrance of that, we are also doing a march."

The walk typically begins at the foot of the Gandhi statue in the Houston Garden Center and participants carry homemade signs along the route. This year the grand marshal, Ramesh Bhutada, carried a genuine Olympic torch as a symbol of peace. In recent years, one volunteer has even taken to dressing in Gandhi's image.

"I'm really enjoying learning about [Gandhi] right now," said Andrew Morgan, a student from Friendswood ISD who joined

the 2013 Walk for Peace. "It makes me want to participate and go out and do things. I'd really like to see a change and watch the Earth grow more toward peace."

Gandhi's message is not only celebrated during October, but year-round. The Mahatma Gandhi Library offers monthly book club meetings to discuss Gandhi's autobiography, but there are other chances to learn about Gandhi's life and teachings citywide.

In January, Unity of Houston's Peace Makers will offer a series of classes on the life, wisdom and

teachings of Mahatma Gandhi in their welcome center.

"Our mission is to spread the word of peace...around the world," said Jami Arnst, a Unity representative. "Gandhi's life is a true example of doing just that."

In time for next year's Gandhi Week celebrations, the Menil Collection will welcome the "Art and Truth: Gandhi and Images of Nonviolence" exhibit. The collection will be open to the public from Oct. 3, 2014 to Jan. 11, 2015, and will feature many of Gandhi's predecessors and contemporaries who

also valued non-violence and tolerance in the face of social reform.

For more information on Houston's Mahatma Gandhi Week, visit [www.gandhilibrary.org](http://www.gandhilibrary.org).



### MORE ONLINE

Scan the QR code to the right to access video footage on Mahatma Gandhi Week by Alicia Alvarez.



INJECTION: continued from page 1

form, so that a child would be able to swallow it.

These pharmacies are also able to remove an inactive ingredient for patients who have an allergy to that ingredient.

Although compounding pharmacies can be helpful in making alternative forms of a medicine, they are not subject to federal scrutiny. “[Compound drugs] are not held to the same regulatory standards as pharmaceutical manufacturers, so there are some concerns about the safety and efficacy of their products,” de Leon said.

The Texas agency has already purchased a new supply of pentobarbital from one of these compounding pharmacies in suburban Houston.

“We currently have 275 inmates on death row,” said Jason Clark, public information director for the Texas Department of

Criminal Justice in Huntsville, Texas. “The purchase will allow the agency to carry out all currently schedule executions.”

Texas released a statement verifying the purchase of pentobarbital through a compounding pharmacy after three death-row inmates who do not agree with the use of this new drug filed a federal lawsuit in Houston. They are accusing Texas of using untested drugs and claim that this violates the U.S. Constitution’s protection against cruel and unusual punishment.

“The inmates filed a civil suit and a federal judge dismissed the lawsuit this past Saturday,” Clark said.

One of the inmates who filed a lawsuit was Michael Yowell, who was executed Oct. 9. Yowell was the first to be executed with the new supply of pentobarbital.

INNOCENCE: continued from page 1

“However, that review is something the SFMO is engaged in separately from the Commission,” Garcia said.

The process is instead managed through IPTX and SFMO’s internal group, Scientific Advisory Workgroup (SAW), a team of analysts, investigators and engineers, with the hope of reviewing the evidence against those who may have been wrongly convicted.

Before they can go forward to SAW for review, research must be done. This is where volunteers for IPTX step in, including student volunteers from UHCL.

When the state began its arson review, a few of these cases had been handled locally through UHCL’s volunteers. Steve Egger, associate professor of criminology and board member for IPTX, does his best to bring the organization out to the campus in the hope of garnering more interest and help for the cause.

“I try to get students involved,” Egger said. “I count it as independent study credit.”

One past volunteer encouraged by Egger, Kyle Wofford, is still involved with IPTX. Wofford began volunteering in the Spring of 2011, when the arson review was first underway.

“So much junk science has been debunked...[but that] didn’t mean much in the eyes of the law,” Wofford said.

“Junk science” is how Wofford describes arson investigation techniques that have since been proven false. Common myths that have been debunked include crazing, which is the cracks found in windows after a fire that were previously thought to have been

caused by an accelerant. Experts now know that crazing is, in fact, caused by rapid cooling, such as when water hits the window.

Flashover, the point in which a fire has engulfed the whole room, changed many of the rules once thought to be certain. Melted metals, spalling, or heat-induced breaking concrete and burn marks under doors or thresholds were all once thought to be where accelerant had been sprayed. Now it is known to actually be an effect of flashover.

It was these types of outdated investigation techniques and more that volunteers in the Houston area had to research when first starting the arson reviews. Many of those volunteers were students at the time at UHCL.

Wofford was the overseer of these volunteers for five months.

“The amount of hours they spent researching [these cases] was insane,” Wofford said. “At the time they worked in four groups of

“SO MUCH JUNK SCIENCE HAS BEEN DEBUNKED... [BUT THAT] DIDN’T MEAN MUCH IN THE EYES OF THE LAW.”

– Kyle Wofford  
Innocence Project of Texas  
volunteer

three. Cases were huge... You do a lot of grunt work for the higher ups to focus on, going through the briefs, picking them apart.”

Wofford believes that volunteers working on the cases make a difference.

“This is all fresh to us,” he said. “Whereas others are used to investigating... They expect to see a certain thing. They go with their gut feeling on a lot of stuff.”

Through the hard work and efforts of IPTX and SAW, stronger cases are going forward. Although the efforts of IPTX and the Texas State Fire Marshal’s Office started in mid-2011, SAW began in early 2013. The trials researched a couple years back are just now going forward.

ROBBED: continued from page 1

to report a crime or incident is never advisable. If international students feel intimidated to report an issue, I hope they can confide in responsible people who can direct them to the correct information.”

The robberies occurred mostly in parking lots of nearby apartment complexes and on public roads.

Several apartment complexes have safety measures in place. University police patrol University Forest Student Village, the on-campus housing at UHCL, regularly. The gated complex also has the same emergency information call boxes that are visible across the campus, and

the apartments are included in the on-campus safety transportation program.

“Ultimately, it is our active and vigilant student community that deters crime by walking to class with fellow students, securing their personal belongings, keeping their doors and windows locked at all times and reporting suspicious behavior to the UHCL Police and housing staff on-call,” said Lawrance Samaranayake, general manager of University Forest.

Many other local apartment complexes have at least one courtesy officer living on the premises.

Pamela Hunt, manager at

The Retreat of Clear Lake, said the complex has a police officer living on site and that every resident is screened during the application process.

“I am confident this screening process does directly relate to security concerns and have noticed that when a property decides to ‘relax’ their rental criteria and screening process, it directly affects things like security, noise complaints, drug calls, etc.,” Hunt said.

UHCL Police Department can be contacted at police@uhcl.edu and dispatch can be reached 24 hours a day at 281-283-2222.

Personal Safety Tips from UHCL Police

- A.I.M.
- **Awareness** – Know your surroundings and the people around you.
  - **Intuition** – Trust your instincts. If you feel something is wrong, don’t doubt the feeling.
  - **Mindset** – Think about what you would do in an emergency before it happens.
- Safety while walking
- Avoid walking at night or in dark areas.
  - Ask friends to wait for you, rather than walking on your own.
  - Take wide curves for corners to increase your chance of seeing anyone who might be lurking.
  - Do not flash expensive jewelry or electronics.

- High risk areas
- Travel to these places in groups and avoid them late at night.
- Laundry rooms
  - Public restrooms
  - Public spaces
  - Parking lots
  - Mailbox rooms
  - Dumpster areas
- Safety in the car
- When getting in & out of your car:
- Keep one arm free.
  - Park in well lit areas.
  - Keep the keys in your hand.
  - Look inside the car before getting in.
  - Lock your doors as soon as you’re inside.
  - When in an accident or getting pulled over:
  - Stop in a public well-lit location.
  - Never follow anyone to a less public location.
  - Never pick up hitchhikers.



Campus Celebrates Free Speech Day

“My dream for the world is that we all accept each other as being human. No matter where we think we came from or what we think we came from or who we think we came from – we are all uniquely human. And that’s something one day I hope the entire world realizes.”

– Colden Snow, anthropology major

“We’ve had this historic striking down of the most important part of the Voting Rights Act and in the United States people, more so perhaps in the next voting, will not be able to vote because the Supreme Court struck down so much of the Voting Rights Act. This has all happened in your lifetime, in the last two months. And that’s powerful.”

– Chair and Professor of Psychology Sharon Hall



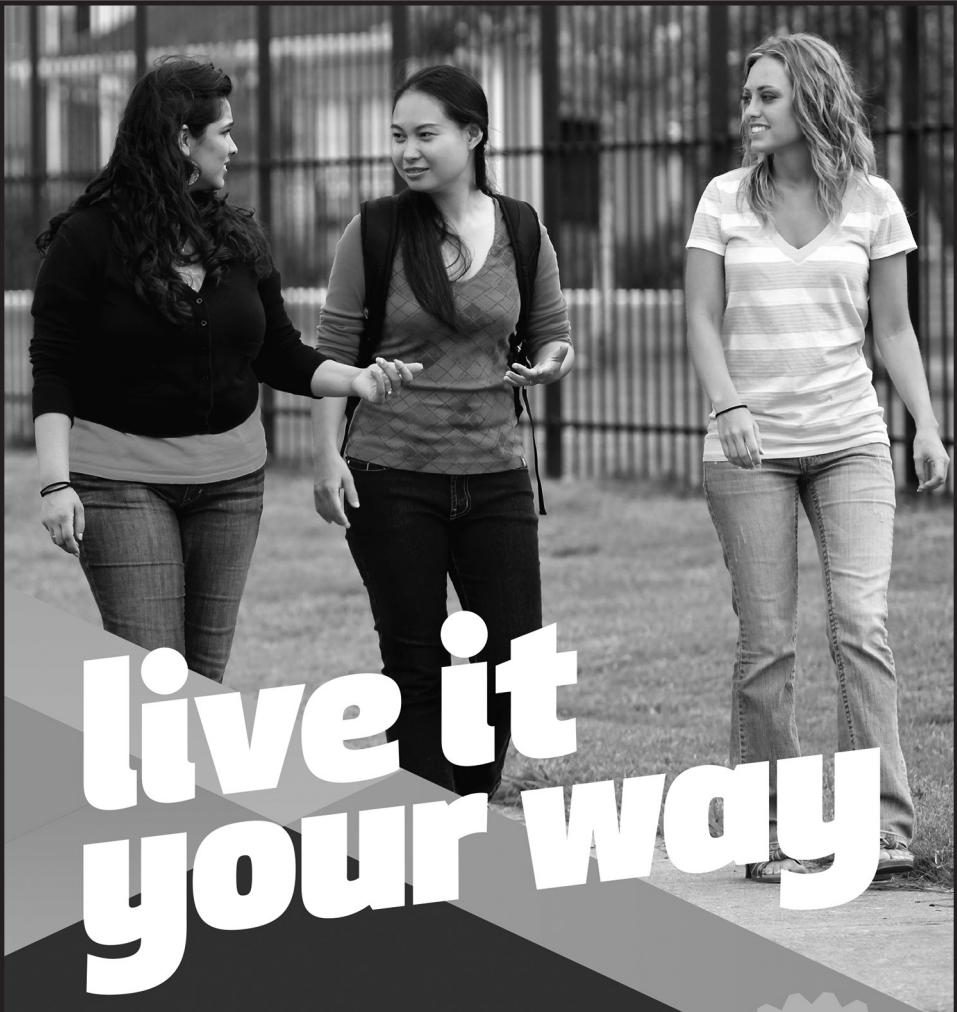
TIFFANY FITZPATRICK:THE SIGNAL  
Colden Snow, anthropology major, speaks freely about marriage equality during Free Speech Day.

MORE ONLINE

Use your smartphone to scan the QR code to the right to visit The Innocence Project of Texas’ website.








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### UHCL V DAY IS LOOKING FOR DIRECTORS • CO DIRECTORS ACTORS • CREW MEMBERS


TO HELP ORGANIZE & BEGIN PLANNING FOR V DAY


Performance between February & April 2014  
If interested in Directing/Co Directing, attend

**V DAY COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**  
**NOV. 1 & 2, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**  
**SSCB STUDENT ORGS ROOM**

**AUDITIONS FOR ACTORS:**  
**NOV. 8, 4 – 8 p.m.**  
**NOV. 9, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**  
**SSCB STUDENT ORGS ROOM**

Men and Women are both encouraged to audition!  
All Actors must participate in ALL aspects of V Day including bake sales, selling tickets, fundraising.





**CONTACT:** **PAVE** [pave.uhcl@gmail.com](mailto:pave.uhcl@gmail.com)  
**SHAUN SIMON** [simon@uhcl.edu](mailto:simon@uhcl.edu)



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# Film & Speaker

S E R I E S

## THE TOURNÉES FESTIVAL

New French Films on Campus

### Les Adieux À La Reine Farewell, My Queen

Fri, Oct 18, 7 pm, SSCB Lecture Hall  
**\$3.75 or Free with any UHCL ID**  
Opening night reception to follow screening

### La Fée / The Fairy

Sat, Oct 19, 7 pm, SSCB Lecture Hall  
**\$3.75 or Free with student UHCL ID**

### Le Bonheur D'Elza / Elza

Sat, Oct 26, 7 pm, SSCB Lecture Hall  
**\$3.75 or Free with student UHCL ID**

### L'Enfant D'En Haut / Sister

Sat, Nov 2, 7 pm, SSCB Lecture Hall  
**\$3.75 or Free with student UHCL ID**

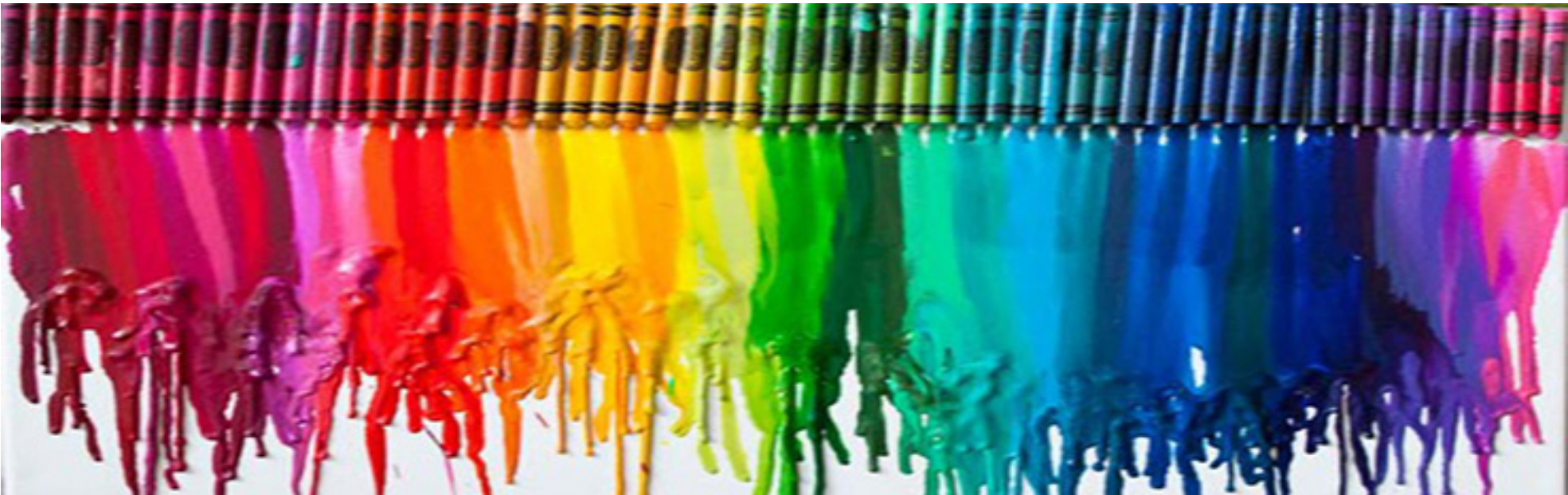
### Couleur de Peau: Miel Approved for Adoption

Sat, Nov 9, 7 pm, SSCB Lecture Hall  
**\$3.75 or Free with student UHCL ID**

Presented in collaboration with Cultural Arts, the Foreign Language Program, & University Advancement All films are in French with English subtitles. Complimentary mini French lesson provided by Foreign Language Program prior to each film. Check our website at [www.uhcl.edu/tourneesfestival](http://www.uhcl.edu/tourneesfestival) for more details

Support for the Tournées Festival is provided by: Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States / Centre National de la Cinématographie et l'Image Animée / Campus France USA / Florence Gould Foundation / highbrow entertainment.





COMING OUT STILL MATTERS AT UHCL

NATIONAL  
COMING  
OUT DAY!

**RACHAEL DEVINNEY**  
*THE SIGNAL*

Oct. 11 was National Coming Out Day, a day to celebrate coming out as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) or as an LGBT ally.

UHCL celebrated this event Oct. 10 in Atrium I of the Bayou Building from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

National Coming Out Day is a day where “People are encouraged to take their next step in their coming out process, whatever that might be,” said Bruce Beisner, reverend of Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church.

For some, this may be coming out as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender. For others this may be coming out as an ally of the LGBT community.

“Coming out is something we all do, in different ways,” Beisner said. “So it’s really a celebration of being who you are and being open and honest about that.”

The National Coming Out Day celebration on campus helped to get information about the LGBT community out to those who would normally not be a part of this community.

“[National Coming Out Day] is important because if it’s something we don’t know about or find important, we won’t go seek it out,” said Shaun Simon, coordinator for Women and LGBT Services. “So if it’s being provided to us and handed to us, it’s easier sometimes to swallow and digest and learn.”

National Coming Out Day was hosted by UHCL’s Unity Club. Unity is a student organization that “promotes equality on campus,” said Ashley Connelley, anthropology/sociology major and Unity president. “You do not have to be gay to be in the club; it’s open to everybody. I want it to be a safe place for allies, or

people questioning, or people actually in the [LGBT] community.”

National Coming Out Day is important “for those who aren’t comfortable being out on campus and for those that may be in that questioning phase,” Simon said.

Simon believes it is important to show those students that there is a community out there that is willing to accept them as they are, which is what she is trying to promote with the LGBT services program.

“It’s not just LGBT people that have to come out; it’s allies that have to come out as well,” Simon said. She explained that it is important for allies to come out in support of the LGBT community to help spread the word about its needs.

“This is a day for [allies] to publicly show their support for equality,” Beisner said.

There were tables with photos of openly gay celebrities, tables with people’s coming out stories and a table where people could write positive messages on scraps of paper to tie to Unity’s balloon arch.

At noon there was a question and answer panel featuring Connelley, Simon and members of Unity Lisa Wilkins and Colden Snow, both anthropology majors. At 3 p.m. Beisner, an openly gay pastor, shared with students his coming out story.

“I never really came out,” Beisner said. “I was [labeled as] one of those people you probably know as obviously gay. So for me [National Coming Out Day] was about taking the negativity that some people put on that identity and turning that into a more positive thing.”

Simon said National Coming Out Day’s most important goal was to get people to “make the connection and then ask questions.”

Major Strides Being Made in LGBT Rights

- 2013 The Supreme Court rules that the Defense of Marriage Act (D.O.M.A.) is unconstitutional.
- 2012 President Obama becomes the first president in office to endorse same-sex marriage.
- 2011 New York allows same-sex marriage.
- 2010 President Obama officially repeals “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell.”
- 2009 Vermont becomes the first state to legalize same-sex marriage.

Check out the article online for a more complete list of major strides made in LGBT rights.

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