



KEEP THE DREAM ALIVE



STAFF: UHCLIDIAN

Pictured: Inspirational speaker Joe Rogers, UHCL President William Staples and SGA President Joyce Delores Taylor.

Joe Rogers meets with students, faculty and staff at a reception held following his Dream Alive program Feb. 21. The inspirational speaker re-enacted Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech as part of his presentation. The Dream Alive program was just one of the events held on campus during February's Black History Month. The Black Students Association and The Film and History Club screened the movie TSOTSI, Feb. 9, featuring guest speaker Anthony Jenkins, UHCL dean of students. BSA also hosted an open forum discussion covering the uses and misuses of the "n-word." This controversial topic attracted numerous participants who discussed concepts including possible reasoning's behind the word's negative meaning and reasons it should and should not be used in music or other forms of self-expression. The month-long celebration ended on a positive and uplifting note with the Gospel Showcase.

M.D. Anderson opens doors to new cancer center

By JESSICA HENNESSY
THE UHCLIDIAN

The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center opened its doors to a new radiation treatment facility in the Bay Area Feb. 20.

Instead of having to fight the traffic in Houston, cancer patients in the Bay Area will now be able to receive their treatments closer to home. M.D. Anderson will be working in collaboration with Christus St. John Hospital, located next door to each other, to bring patient care and radiation therapy beyond the Texas Medical Center.

"We hope to compliment St. John Hospital and the care they have been providing cancer patients in this area," said Kent Postma, an administrative director for M.D. Anderson's community satellites.

Led by Matthew Ballo, center medical director and associate professor of radiation oncology, the staff's focus is to provide its patients with the most recent technology and knowledge. The new facility contains state-of-the-



BRUCE BENNETT: COURTESY

CONGRESSMAN NICK LAMPSON TOURS FACILITY: Drs. Jeffrey Moore and Matthew Ballo explain how the linear accelerator, used for external beam radiation treatments, destroys cancer cells while sparing normal tissue.

art equipment that allows the doctors at the M.D. Anderson main campus to monitor the treatment process.

"We've spent seven to eight years developing these satellite communities so that cancer patients all around will have the opportunity for excellent care," Postma said.

The staff at M.D. Anderson is

certain they will stand out among the other cancer treatment facilities in the Bay Area.

"What makes our facility so special is the way in which the staff applies the equipment and how the treatments are administered," Postma said. "We put a lot of personal effort into taking care of our patients."

Each patient receives the

See **CANCER CENTER**, page 10

Governor Perry takes a shot at cervical cancer

By BRET NEWCOMB
THE UHCLIDIAN

In just over six years as the governor for the state of Texas, Rick Perry has issued 65 executive orders. Sixty-four of those orders were relatively forgettable. Number 65 was not.

On February 2, 2007, the governor ordered that all girls must receive a vaccination for the human papillomavirus before entering the sixth grade. The decision sent shockwaves reverberating from Austin across the entire state, and on through the country.

So what makes this order so controversial? As is the case with all issues as polarizing as HPV vaccinations, controversy is forged out of the collision of verifiable scientific facts, opposing political views, and contrasting moral ideologies.

Science

Human Papillomavirus is a group of viruses that include more than 100 different strains or types. More than 30 of these viruses are sexually transmitted and are spread primarily through genital contact.

The American Cancer Society and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention both state that, while condoms do protect users from certain infections, they do not always protect individuals from HPV.

Men and women are both equally susceptible to HPV and 50 percent of all individuals who are sexually active will be infected with some type of the virus in the course of their lives.

The latest report from the CDC states that one in four U.S. women aged 14 to 59 is infected with the sexually transmitted virus that in some forms can cause cervical cancer.

Most individuals with HPV infections are unaware because the virus lives in the skin or in mucous membranes and usually does not cause symptoms, though some cases do result in condylo-ma acuminata, more commonly known as genital warts.

However, the real danger of HPV is found in approximately 10 of the 30 identified strains of the virus. In some cases these strains can lead to the development of cervical cancer.

"Last year, more than 1,100 women in Texas were told they

have cervical cancer," said Krista Moody, deputy press secretary for the office of Governor Rick Perry. "Nearly 400 died from the illness."

Cervical cancer is an abnormal growth of cells located at the base of the uterus in the lining of the cervix. Annually, about 3,700 American women die of cervical cancer, which is almost always caused by HPV. The American Cancer Society predicts that there will be more than 11,000 new cases of invasive cervical cancer in the United States in 2007.

On June 8, 2006, the Food and Drug Administration approved Gardasil, a vaccination developed by Merck & Co., Inc. The vaccine is the first of its kind and is used to prevent cervical cancer, precancerous genital lesions and genital warts due to human papillomavirus

The vaccine is recombinant, which means it contains no live virus and works by introducing a genetically manufactured protein of the original virus into the body. The body then produces antibodies based on that manufactured protein.

"Seventy percent of cases of cervical cancer are due to two types [of HPV]," said J.D. Polk, a doctor of osteopathic medicine and chief of medical operations at Johnson Space Center. "The vaccine is aimed at those two types."

Politics

On Dec. 21, 2000, Rick Perry was sworn in as the 47th governor of Texas. Since that time, Governor Perry's administration has focused on the creation of jobs, border security and school improvement, all under the umbrella of conservative family values.

In 2006, Perry was re-elected as governor despite only garnering 39 percent of the vote. In that same year, Perry lost some support from his conservative base when he supported an increase in the state franchise tax.

The loss of support proved to be minor when compared with his parties' reaction to Executive Order RP65, which bypassed their consideration.

"A policy decision of this magnitude should have been considered in the committee process

See **HPV**, page 10



Wheelin' for hope
Lose the Training
Wheels debuts in
Houston

STORY ON PAGE 11

Ice breakers
Houston Aeros keeps fans
on the edge of their seats

STORY ON PAGE 6



The UHCLIDIAN is a homonym for Euclidian – a word play using the name of the famous Greek mathematician Euclid and the university’s acronym, UHCL.

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Analyze both sides of the HPV issue, then make your opinion count

No one seemed to disagree with the idea behind the human papillomavirus vaccine Gardasil: a series of three shots given to young women between the ages of 9 and 26 will prevent cervical cancer. However, once Gov. Rick Perry created an executive order requiring young girls to get the vaccine before entering sixth grade, controversy and disagreement ensued.

The most obvious argument in favor of the vaccine is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's statement that it is 100 percent effective in preventing cervical cell abnormalities in girls who have had no previous exposure to HPV. Since HPV is usually transmitted sexually, Gardasil is recommended for girls as young as age 9 in hopes of vaccinating them before they become sexually active.

One argument against mandating the HPV vaccine is that Gardasil has only been approved in the United States since last June. Although the vaccine has been studied for more than three years, its long-term effectiveness and safety are relatively unknown.

Some opposition groups also believe that the vaccine will promote premarital sex and promiscuity among pre-teen and teenage girls. Proponents counter that such a contention is similar to arguing that the Hepatitis B vaccine promotes drug use, or that getting a flu shot promotes people coughing in each other’s faces.

Numerous studies and polls have found that more than half of U.S. teenagers have had sex by the time they graduate high school – these students do not need the HPV vaccine to have an excuse for premarital sex. However, students do need to be aware that Gardasil does not prevent any other sexually transmitted diseases, nor

does it prevent pregnancy.

It is true that abstinence is the only guaranteed defense against pregnancy and STDs, but a female who stays a virgin until marriage can still be at risk for HPV. Even if a female’s only sexual partner is her husband, she is just as much at risk if her husband is not also a virgin because it only takes one partner to contract the virus.

Gardasil does have the potential to provide women with a false sense of security when it comes to preventing cancer because the drug does not protect against all types of cervical cancers. If women stopped getting yearly Pap smears because the vaccine made them feel safe, then the number of women with cancer could actually increase.

Cervical cancer is not the leading cause of death among women; it’s not even on the list of the top 10. About 14,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer each year, and around 3,700 die from it.

So, it is fair to wonder why there is a need to mandate a vaccine for a disease that kills fewer than one hundredth the amount of women as heart disease. It is also fair to question that it may not be a coincidence that Merck, the maker of Gardasil, donated money toward Perry’s re-election campaign.

If the HPV vaccine becomes mandatory for sixth-grade girls in 2008, it will be the first required vaccine for a disease that is not spread casually or thru indirect contact in public places. The high cost of Gardasil is also adding to the argument against forcing girls to get what some deem to be unnecessary shots.

The manufacturer’s list price of the three rounds of shots is \$360. Some physicians are adding on fees for administering the vaccine, causing the price to rise as

high as \$900 in the Houston area alone.

Perry is seeking funds to cover the cost of Gardasil for the uninsured or those covered by government health programs, making the vaccine available to those who might otherwise not be able to afford it. On the other hand, for those who have insurance with high deductibles or whose coverage doesn’t include vaccinations, the costs could be insurmountable.

Because Gardasil is a vaccine for a sexually transmitted virus, many parents judge mandating the shots to be outside the boundaries of the government, and think they should have the final word on whether their daughters get the vaccine.

Perry addressed the parents’ rights issue in a press release, stating that parents will ultimately decide if their daughter will have the vaccine. An opt-out option will be offered for those who object to the vaccine for religious or philosophical reasons.

Both sides of the HPV vaccine debate make strong arguments in their favor, so it is important for people to stay updated and educated on the issue as the controversy continues. Only then can they form knowledgeable opinions and figure out which side supports the best interest of themselves and their families.

On Feb. 21, a House committee on public health recently voted to void Perry’s executive order with a vote of 6-3. The bill will now go to the full, 150-member House for another vote.

Citizens can actively participate in the debate by writing to their state representatives. A list of Texas state representatives can be found online at <http://house.state.tx.us/members/welcome.php>.

Speak out : What is your opinion about the HPV vaccine mandate?

“Oh yeah, I’m for it. Take the shots. Kill it before it kills you.”

*Michael - GRAD
Information Systems*

“I’m kind of 50/50. I understand both sides.”

*Sabiha - UGRD
Anthropology*

“Initially, it should be optional.”

*Stephanie - UGRD
Communication*

“I don’t agree with the vaccine being mandatory. I think parents should be given a choice. They should be able to sit down and discuss with their child to decide whether to get it or not.”

*Melissa - UGRD
Communication*

“I think it’s good that our government is working to protect our kids, but I would hope that if it is mandatory they will help with the cost factor. I don’t agree that low-income families should be required to pay extra for something that is not a necessity.”

*Jamie - UGRD
Communication*

“I think that it should be the parents decision to get their children vaccinated for HPV, not the government’s.”

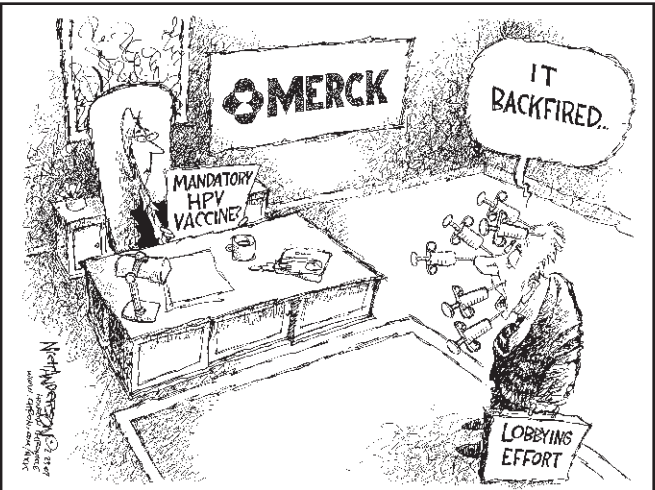
*Steve - UGRD
Communication*

“I’m for it. You’re trying to prevent a disease, so why not? It’s just like any other vaccine you normally get.”

*Tracey - UGRD
Undecided Major*



CARTOON BY: NICK ANDERSON



CARTOON BY: NICK ANDERSON

LETTERS POLICY

The UHCLIDIAN 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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Bad drafts a thing of the past?

The season is over, a new champion is crowned, and now the real work begins. It's the most important part of an NFL season; the time when teams have the chance to evaluate what went wrong and what worked.

The off-season is where teams can improve by bringing in new free agents and drafting the collegiate players that can impact their team greatly. This all sounds very exciting, unless you are a Texans fan.

At this time last year, the Texans were the worst team in the NFL and had the opportunity to have the first overall draft pick in a draft that could go down



COREY MALLORY
TEXAN'S TALK

as one of the best in the history of the NFL.

There were two no-brain picks that could have been made to change the face of the Texans for years to come: the hometown hero and MVP of the National Championship game, Vince Young, a game-changing quarterback, and the most exciting player to go through college in probably 30 years, running back Reggie Bush.

True Texans fans would be happy with either one of those players, knowing what they bring to the table. They could change our whole brand of football for years to come.

Then Draft Day came upon us and Texans fans felt what could only be described as a slap in the face.

They didn't take the hometown hero, Young, or the electrifying Bush, instead drafting Mario Williams, defensive end from North Carolina State.

This allowed Bush to head to New Orleans, and Vince to go to the former Houston Oilers and hated rival Tennessee Titans.

A year later, Bush lead the Saints to the Division Championship game, and Young took home Rookie of the Year honors.

How did the Texans do? We finished a dismal 6-10 and have the eighth overall

pick in the upcoming draft.

This draft is going to be a great one with the influx of juniors available, but the thought of another draft blunder haunts Texans fans. The popular question in Houston is "Who are we going to pass on this time?"

Hopefully, the past is behind us and we can move on from our mistakes and make this draft a changing point in Texans history.

The Texans need help on both sides of the ball and could use their first selection at a number of different positions. Their major needs are running back, offensive and defensive line, and secondary help.

Sitting with the eighth position for the upcoming draft, the Texans could have a chance at Oklahoma star Adrian Peterson, a running back that reminds people a lot of former star Eric Dickerson.

This would be a huge upgrade to a running back position that finished the season in the leagues bottom half for rushing yards and touchdowns.

Peterson could be selected before the Texans draft, which could lead to the team trading down and adding a couple of more picks.

Some players the Texans have been talking about include Louisiana State University safety LaRon Landry, Michigan defensive tackle Alan Branch, and Arkansas defensive end Jamaal Anderson.

Many people think that an offensive lineman will be the pick at eighth for the Texans, but I feel this would be a big mistake.

Look for the Texans to improve their offensive line by bringing in some veteran help via free agency or address this problem in the later rounds of the draft.

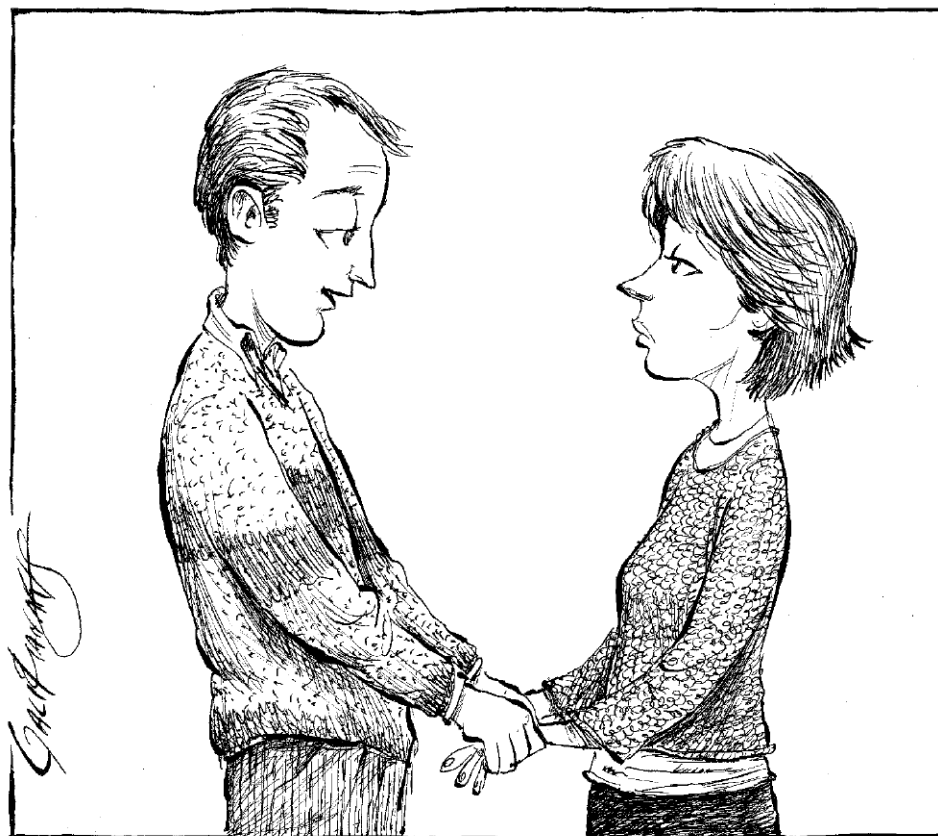
If you look at the last few drafts and see how the offensive linemen selected in the first round have done, you will notice that they really don't have much impact for the first few years. This is why I feel it would be best to address the o-line problems via free agency.

Hopefully, this draft will change people's opinion of the Houston Texans and lead to a winning atmosphere around the city. The Texans have been in the league for five years now and losing is getting old.

Texas is rich in football tradition and we need the Texans to show how passionate Houston is when it comes to football. We, as fans, need something to cheer about; we don't want to be the laughing stock of the league anymore.

TELL ME ABOUT IT

BY: Carolyn Hax



YOU'RE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL IN THE WORLD. THAT I ACTUALLY HAVE A CHANCE WITH.

Texans on the right track

We've endured the second guessing and complaining for almost an entire year now. From newspaper articles to talk radio, all Texans fans have heard is how they blew it by passing on Vince Young and Reggie Bush in last year's draft.



CHRIS SCARCELL
TALKIN' TEXANS

Yes, both had great rookie seasons. But so did the Texans. The team improved their win total from two to six and has put themselves in position to break the .500 mark next season.

The Texans' philosophy to build a team around a solid defense began to show its potential toward the season's end. With a young and solid core nucleus to build on, the Texans look like a team to be reckoned with as they head into the future.

The key to building a championship team in the NFL requires finding great talent through the draft. It also requires a little patience. Not all players will be instant contributors, but the key is to find a couple each year that will. After making several great choices in last year's draft, the Texans need another stellar draft class to make giant strides into next season.

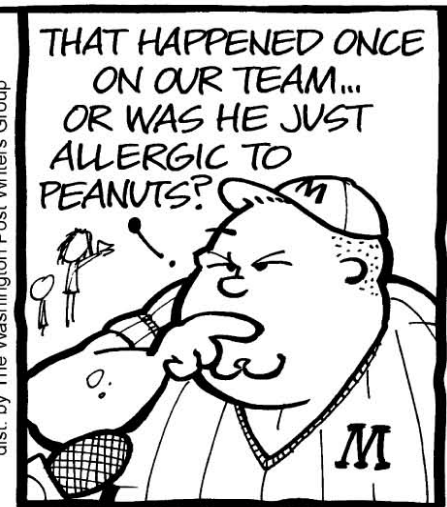
While the Texans have a couple of big holes to fill, their most pressing need is in the secondary. As it stands now, the Texans only have one out of four players starting in the secondary who should be an NFL starter.

Unlike last year's draft, there is not a consensus number one pick. This means when the Texans pick at number eight, they could be faced with a number of tough choices. Will stud left tackle Joe Thomas be available? How about fan favorite running back Adrian Peterson? Both are possibilities. The smart decision is to improve the secondary.

Players such as strong safety Reggie Nelson or free safety LaRon Landry could be solid choices. So will cornerback Leon Hall. All will most likely be available at pick eight and all would tremendously improve an up and coming Texans defense.

These players may not create the buzz and excitement fans are looking for, but they will add to the win total. And when it comes down to it, that's what it's all about.

THE BEAT OF THE STREET: YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE EX-NBA PLAYER COMING OUT OF THE CLOSET?



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MAR. 28



LETTERS
FROM THE
OTHER SIDE

Featured Speakers:
Liliana Castillo &
Christine Kovic

SSCB, 7 p.m., \$3.00
Free with UHCL ID

APR. 6



CHILDREN
OF MEN

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*"A good film is
when the price of
the dinner, the
theatre admission
and the babysitter
were worth it."*

-Alfred Hitchcock

Children's Museum of Houston's 'Out-of-this-World' Spring Break

By CHRIS SCARCELLA
THE UHCLIDIAN

With the spring semester flying by and Spring Break just around the corner, many students are looking forward to the time off from the classroom. However, that does not mean education and learning must cease for the children.

The Children's Museum of Houston offers an exciting agenda for the family, filled with fun and education in its "Out-of-this-World Spring Break exhibits from March 8-March 18.

The museum will be offering something new to do each day, highlighted March 12, by a visit from Matt Wilson, star of the "For Real" segments of the hit PBS show, "Cyberchase".

Kids will have the opportunity to meet and get an autograph from the child star. Wilson will then host a variety of performances where he will show how

everyone uses math in real world situations before kids will have the opportunity to enter the "Cyberchase-The Chase is On!" exhibit.

"This exhibit presents math in a fun, kid-friendly format, encouraging visitors to make use of their problem-solving skills and approach math with an investigative, positive attitude," said Shannon Weaver, director of public relations for The Children's Museum of Houston.

Many other exhibits will be available for children including health and nutrition, science, math and arts.

The museum designs each exhibit to help children's developmental growth by using a hands-on approach to education, while allowing kids to solve problems through critical thinking. Each program is aligned



DIGIT: COURTESY

MEET DIGIT: A child greets Digit from the hit PBS KIDS GO! show.



THE CHASE: COURTESY

THE CHASE IS ON! Kids enjoy the motherboard at the Cyberchase exhibit.

with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills guidelines that structure public school curriculum in Texas.

"Our number one goal is to help the parents be the child's first teacher," Weaver said.

The hands-on exhibits allow the children to problem-solve and put to use what they are learning in the classroom setting.

"The Children's Museum of Houston offers children a break from traditional classroom-style learning and allows children to participate in a variety of fun real-world activities," said Olivia Morales, UHCL alumni and current 2nd-grade teacher.

The museum serves more

than 600,000 parents, educators, child-care workers and children annually and more than 150,000 through outreach programs throughout the Greater Houston area.

"Currently, these outreach practices provide free admission to 40 percent of the museum's visitors, ensuring that no family is turned away because of need," Weaver said.

The Children's Museum of Houston is located at 1500 Binz in Houston's Museum District and regular admission is \$5.

For more information, visit www.cmhouston.org or call (713) 522-1138.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

March 8 - Storybook Math: Math is everywhere, even in storybooks! Dive into literary adventures involving fun math games.

March 9 - Around the World: Math is a universal language. Travel around the world exploring math and more!

March 10 - Go Kids!: Get your heart rate pumping with fitness challenges during this healthy living themed day of movin' and groovin' fun! Don't miss special performances from J.U.M.P. Capoeira and Florence Love's exercise workshop.

March 12 - Cyberchase: The Chase Is On! Inventive Innovations: Tackle mathematical problems using "brain power" to help save CyberSpace, participate in "Inventive Innovations" activities and check out special performances from the star of Cyberchase, Matt Wilson.

March 11 - Express Yourself: Showcase your superstar vocal talents during karaoke and create mini-masterpieces with Colors of the Heart Art Studio.

March 13 - MindFest: Build creatures and contraptions while engaging your mind in experiences such as Light Painting, Shadow Play, Bubble Painting, Kinetic Sculptures and more!

March 14 - Pi Day: Meet Albert Einstein and celebrate his birthday, which also happens to be Pi Day, the celebration of the never-ending, non-repeating, decimal, pi.

March 15 - Launch Day!: Take off on an investigation of flying toys, and design and test rockets in the Stomp Rocket Workshop.

March 16 - Cowboy Culture: Ride on into CMH and learn tricks from real cowboys when Bandera on the Road sets up camp for a day dedicated to the Wild West!

March 17 - St. Patrick's Day: All lads and lassies will get in the St. Patty's Day spirit with Irish music and green themed activities.

March 18 - Cyberchase: The Chase Is On! Try to stop the villainous Hacker from his mad mission of taking over CyberSpace by using math to crack codes and solve problems.



PI DAY: COURTESY

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION: Pi Day at the Children's Museum of Houston allows children to meet Albert Einstein and help celebrate his birthday.

*Student Life * Student Life * Student Life*

HOT! HOT! HOT!

19th Annual Chili Cook-Off PLUS



Competition and Festival

Saturday, March 31
noon-4 p.m.

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Applications Available in the
Student Life Office, SSCB 1.204

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Student Life Office – SSCB 1.204 – 281*283*2560
www.uhcl.edu/studentlife

Get Involved in the SGA!

UHCL's Student Government Association (SGA) is looking for a few good women and men as candidates for next year's Executive Board.

If you feel that you are a true student leader and have the dedication and commitment required to be a part of the Executive Council (EC) or know someone who is, SGA encourages you to apply or to encourage that person you know to apply.

Applications can be picked up in the Student Life Office in the SSCB or can be found on any SGA table as well as on the SGA Web site. Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 8, 2007 in the SGA box 109 or the Student Life Office...*you can make the difference!*

If you have any questions regarding EC responsibilities, please see any of the current EC members or contact the SGA adviser, Andrew Reitberger.

**Be sure to attend the SGA Executive Council
Elections on Tuesday, March 20th from 11:30 a.m.
to 12:30 p.m. during the scheduled SGA meeting
in SSCB 1.100.**

**ONLY OFFICIAL STUDENT
ORGANIZATION REPS CAN VOTE!**

CONTACT THE SGA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:

Joyce Delores Taylor, President

Ashutosh Gupta, VP-Committee Coordinator

Madhu Mukherjee, VP-Student Outreach &
Communications

Sabiha Mahmood, VP-Administration

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

SGA Meetings are open to *all* UHCL students.
Meetings are **Tuesdays, 11:30-12:30, SSCB 1.100,**
unless otherwise announced.



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SEEKING ACTION: LOOK NO FURTHER

By LONA CAIN
THE UHCLIDIAN

On the edge of your seat, the intensity rises and rushes through your body. Farther to the edge of your seat, the player is making his way to the opposite end of the ice. You stand for a better observation. Crack! The puck is hit toward the goal. Goal! The fans jump up and down with great enthusiasm. Hockey is an extreme sport.

The Houston Aeros have been a part of Houston since 1994.

Ryan Stanzel, Aeros director of communication, said the Aeros consists of the best players in the American Hockey League.

"We're basically AAA baseball," Stanzel stated.

The AHL is minor league hockey that is divided between Atlantic, East, North and West divisions. The Aeros are in the West.

Hockey is notorious for fighting and aggression on the ice, but it is more than that. Stanzel said that the sport is more than just hockey; it also includes the activities before, during and after the games. There are also a lot of activities and community involvement outside of the rink.

Before the game begins, players skate onto the ice hyped and ready to win. Everyone in the Toyota Center enjoys the National Anthem, and then the excitement begins.

The game starts off a little mellow with a minor fight here and there. The first period is calm compared to the rest of the game. Each period the players get more aggressive, and the game gets more intense.

The last period is the most exciting. The players slam the opposing players harder and more frequently against the glass. The glass shakes and the

fans eyes widen with amazement.

Shortly after a player is slammed into the glass, a fight breaks out, and then many more after that, and each time the fans watch fervently.

The pace of the players becomes faster each second, counting down to the end of the game. Hockey sticks slide along the ice. Possession of the puck is much more crucial. It is a fight to win.

The fans are now inching toward the edge of their seats. The Aeros have a few more seconds to make a goal. The clock runs out. The Aeros passion for the sport, their fans and each other played throughout the game. However, on this night, it was a winning victory for the Wolves.

Between periods the fans are entertained as future Aeros skate onto the ice and play a "mini-game." The young players are members of hockey teams throughout Houston that have the opportunity to play during an Aeros home game.

There is also the Aeros Dynamic, which is Chilly the mascot, the Aeros' cheerleaders, and a few other Dynamic members to excite the fans. They sling shot Aeros' merchandise into the crowd, and pump everyone up for the next half of the game.

Bobby Alaniz, a Houston police officer has worked security on the ice for the past three years. He enjoys the excitement of the fighting and the occasional puck flying over the nets.

"It's always different, always exciting [and] always fast," Alaniz said.

He has a personal relationship with the players and hangs out with them after the games. Alaniz said that the players are great people and are laid back when they are off of the ice.

Fans are wild and sometimes almost as aggressive as the players. They yell at the opposing team and the referee. Most are hard-core fans. They know almost everything that a fan can know about the team as well as the game.

One hard-core fan is Fred Trask. He has been an Aeros fan for six years. He is a season ticket holder and proudly sits on a stool down on the ice behind the glass. With his camera poking through the cutout media hole, Trask takes pictures of the game. Tonight he is taking pictures for the Houston Chronicle.

A fight breaks out, the best one of the game yet. Trask shoots excitedly as the two players' gloves and helmets fly off. After a couple of minutes the fight ends.

Trask said that he began by bringing his camera to the games and getting good shots. In addition to freelancing for the Houston Chronicle, he also takes pictures for the Aeros and their families and shoots for other teams in various areas.

He personally knows the Aeros team members and their families.

"You get to interact a lot more at this level," Trask stated referring to the Aeros being in the minor league.

Trask says it's the speed of the game along with the physical attribute of the sport that generates the excitement.

"There is nothing fake about it," Trask said. "[It's] the grace, the beauty and the power of it."

The fights are real. The adrenaline rush is real. The passion is real. The relationships are real.

To become an Aeros fan, check out their Web site at www.aeros.com. Game times and ticket prices are posted.

AEROS OFF THE ICE

Off of the ice, the Aeros are involved in many charities and have their own charity department where they raise money to donate to children's organizations.

They are big supporters of the Booster Club known as Kids Unlimited. It is a non-profit organization that benefits children with cancer. It provides family-oriented activities for the children, allowing them to put aside their sickness for the moment. The children and their families also have the opportunity to attend Aeros' games.

The Aeros built an Aero themed playroom for the children on the ninth floor of the Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital. A fundraising event in late March will benefit the playroom.

The Aeros have also organized a Hometown Heroes charity where some of the players sponsor tickets for 10 kids and two chaperones to go to all of the home games during the regular season.

Houston Aeros Charity is committed to their community and is very active and dedicated to the children in the Houston area during on-and off-seasons.

The players visit numerous children's hospitals and organizations in Houston. HAC has raised more than \$2 million in the past nine years. They have been involved in 14 charities this past year.

On the Aeros Web site, www.aeros.com, there is a list of the charities and children's programs the team is involved with, along with upcoming charity events.



Photos By: Lona Cain
Designed by: Donna Cox



BENCH WARMING: The team watches the action on the ice from the team bench.



Aeros Hockey

Edge-of-Your-Seat Action

THE SLAP SHOT

A standard hockey rink is 200’ by 85’, although some do vary. The ice is approximately 3/4” thick and is usually kept at 16 degrees for the proper hardness. The thicker the sheet of ice becomes, the softer and slower it is.

The puck is made of vulcanized rubber and is three inches in diameter and one inch thick, weighing about six ounces. It is frozen before entering play to make it bounce resistant. Some of the game’s hardest shooters send the puck toward the net at speeds between 90 and 100 mph with the elite shooters easily topping the century mark. Making things even more difficult on the goalie, the puck will frequently curve in flight, much like a baseball.

Above: Chicago Wolves Boris Valabik (27) in pursuit of Aeros Joel Ward (28).

Right: Aeros Ben Thomson (29) speeds away from Wolves Kevin Doell (21).

Bottom Right: Young fans cheering on the Houston Aeros were excited to see themselves on the big screen.

Below: Aeros Danny Irmen (19) faces off with Wolves Cory Larose (9).




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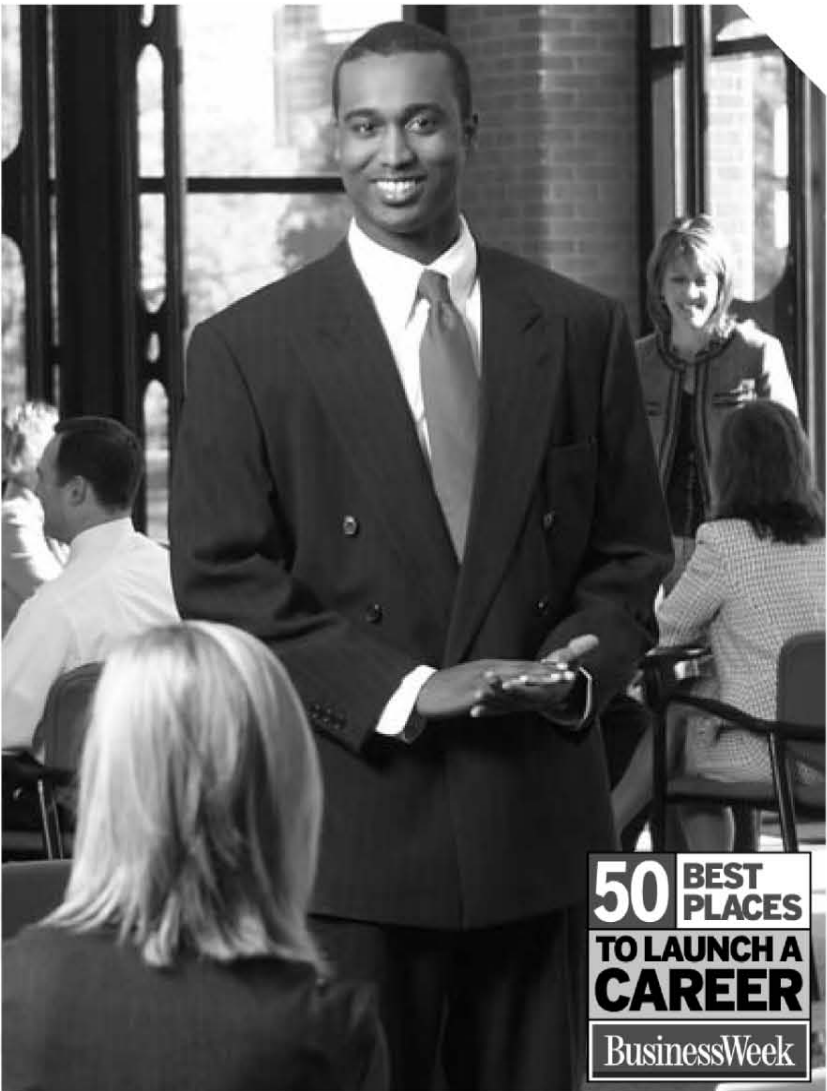
It also means that I'm working alongside and learning different things from a wide group of talented people every day. It's great to be at a company where everybody's differences – whether they be business philosophies or cultural ideals – are not only accepted, they're part of the very fabric of our success.

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BusinessWeek

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EVENTS ON CAMPUS

March 5
“Esquire: Leading with Dignity” presented by UHCL Professor Paul Wagner, 1-3 p.m., SSCB 1.202.07
Registration required. For info call Student Life, (281) 283-2560.

March 6
Environmental Lecture Series: “Nano-Structured Metal-Organic Polymers” presented by UHCL Professor Jack Lu, noon-1 p.m., Bayou 2230

IISS Coffee Hours, 5-7 p.m., Arbor Building
Learn more about IISS and get some FREE coffee & cookies.

March 7
Voices of Colour Speaker Series, Part II: “Religions of the World” presented by Sheikh Zoubir Bouchikhi, noon-1 p.m., Bayou Atrium I
For info call IISS, (281) 283-2575.

March 12-16
SPRING BREAK

March 20
“The Wizard of Oz: Lessons in Teamwork & Group Dynamics” presented by Jennifer Clark, Student Leadership Institute, 5-7 p.m., SSCB 1.202.07
Registration required. For info call Student Life, (281) 283-2560.

March 24
Cultural Extravaganza, 7-10 p.m., Bayou Theater
For info call IISS, (281) 283-2575.

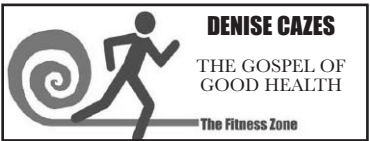
March 27
Texas Job Fair, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., UH Main Campus
For more info, visit www.haccc.org/TexasJobFair or call UHCL Career Services, (281) 283-2590.

“The Art of Possibility” presented by Ben and Rosamund Zander, 6-8 p.m., Location TBA
Registration required. For info call Student Life, (281) 283-2560.

March 28
“What is Your Leadership Style? (Myers-Briggs Type Indicator)” presented by Betty Brown, UHCL Counseling Services, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., SSCB 1.202.07.
Prerequisite & registration required. For info call Student Life, (281) 283-2560.

UHCL Film & History Club screening of “Letters from the Other Side” with speakers Christine Kovic and Liliana Castillo, 7 p.m., SSCB Lecture Hall
Free admission with UHCL I.D.

FITTING IN FITNESS



I’ve heard it a million times before, “I don’t have time to exercise”. Who does these days? Between the job, the family, school, church, community functions and that social life there is little time or energy left to do anything but collapse on the couch at the end of each day.

Each semester students tell me that they plan to start exercising when the semester is over, or worse yet, when they GRADUATE.

Co-workers tell me that they will start exercising when they finish the big project they are working on. Some even say they will start exercising after they’ve lost a few pounds! Isn’t that the point of exercise? We all have our excuses. . .er. . .I mean rea-

sons for putting off exercising and making those dietary changes. I’m the fitness guru and even I have trouble getting my exercise in at times.

While it is legit that we are all very busy, we always find the time to do the things we want to do like emailing, watching Deal or No Deal or talking or texting on the cell. Maybe some of that time can be reallocated to taking care of ourselves?

Most people understand that they should exercise to manage weight and reduce the risk of diseases. There certainly has been enough in the news touting the benefits of exercise: longer life span, reduced blood pressure, less stress, less heart disease, lower weight and more energy. But figuring out how to get it done is the big question.

The first step is understanding that you have one body and one choice: that you and you alone are responsible for your health the condition of your body. Once you’ve had the epiphany and accepted this message, things get easier.

The trick to successfully starting and maintaining an exercise program is planning, organization and time management.

Schedule your exercise just like you do other events in your week. Sit down with your calendar on Sunday and decide when you are going to do what: cardio,

weights, yoga or a simple walk.

Do you have some mornings free before work (get up a little earlier!)? Not a morning person? try a lunch time workout. Many women avoid this because of the grooming issue. Unless you are going to exercise outside in the summer, you probably won’t get that sweaty and disheveled from a 30 minute resistance workout at lunch. Save the longer, sweat producing workouts for when you have time like weekends or after work.

Many of us have this all or nothing mentality when it comes to working out. If we can’t do this big long routine, then we do nothing. Let go of that: break it up and kick it up. Something is always better than nothing and you’ll be surprised at how much you can accomplish in a short amount of time. Do 15 in the am and 15 later in the day and use the weekends for those longer more concentrated sessions.

Kick it up by moving whenever possible. Walk around while talking on the phone, walk over to a co-workers office instead of calling. TAKE THE STAIRS! Walk ALL the way over to the other building. Walk around the field while watching your kid’s soccer game instead of sitting there.

Accountability also helps to keep you on track so get a buddy. Plan your exercise times with

them and this will motivate you to show up. You’ll have someone to talk to and share with so you’ll be less likely to get bored.

You should also take advantage of work related fitness opportunities like seminars on health and fitness or fitness release time plans. Research shows these employee programs promote morale and reduce sickness and absenteeism.

Finally, let go of unrealistic expectations. Many have a vision that an exercise routine involves perfect bodies doing athletic routines. Just move often and you’ll do your body good. Some of us need to start VERY slowly and simply walking around the block (or building at lunch) is our starting point. That’s OK!

For those of us who have exercised before and want to get back into the groove, don’t make the mistake of trying to pick up where you left off. Take a few steps back and give your body time to readjust to exercising again. Too much too soon will cause pain and injury and that’s no fun.

So, with a little planning, motivation and commitment, you can find a way to fit fitness into your busy life. It’s all about choices isn’t it?

One Body: One Choice!
cazes@uhcl.edu

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Physics Seminar Series
March 8, 7 p.m., Bayou 1313
NASA Johnson Space Center Astrophysicist John Shebalin delves into “Turbulence” as the Physics Seminar Series continues. Participants can obtain continuing education certificates for \$15 per individual seminar, with a discount for multiple seminars. Otherwise, the events are free and open to all. For more information or to register, call UHCL’s Center for Educational Programs, (281) 283-3530.

GRE Review
March 10, 17 & 24, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Bayou Building
Prepare for the Graduate Records Examination with the GRE Review Course offered through UHCL’s Center for Educational Programs. The fee is \$349 per person. For information or to register, call CAMP, (281) 283-3121, or e-mail camp@uhcl.edu.

Art Exhibition: ‘Image and Word’
Through April 1
Bayou Atrium I, Level 2
Vinicio Reyes, an art professor at the Universidad Veracruzana in Xalapa, Mexico, will display works on paper during this three-month exhibit. For more information, call Professor of Fine Arts Sandria Hu, (281) 283-3446, or e-mail hu@uhcl.edu.

Art Exhibition: ‘Ritual Vessels’
Through May 11
Bayou Art Gallery
Baylor University Professor of Art Paul McCoy displays ceramic sculpture representing the history of human ritual. Admission is free. The Art Gallery’s hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information about the gallery, contact Nick de Vries at devries@uhcl.edu or (281) 283-3377.

Affordable Psychological Services
The Psychological Services clinic at UHCL has appointments available for counseling and psychological assessment. Advanced graduate students in psychology provide supervised services to children, adolescents, adults, couples and families. Convenient, late-afternoon and evening appointments are available. The clinic charges fees based on family income that are among the most affordable in the Clear Lake area. Qualified clinical faculty supervise all services in the clinic. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (281) 283-3330.

CORRECTION

In the February 19 issue of the UHCLIDIAN, the front page article titled “New rules mandate storage of company e-mail” stated that there was a new ruling concerning the storage of electronic data for purposes of federal litigation. It is not a new ruling and it does not pertain to all electronic data.

On April 12, 2006, the U.S. Supreme court approved amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, which provides better guidance for storage of electronic information, but it was not a ruling. It was a modernization of an existing rule. Companies can still purge their electronic information archives freely if the information is not relevant to pending or anticipated cases of federal litigation. If this e-information becomes required in a case, the data can be requested as per Rule 34 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The updated e-discovery rules means that courts will now allow attorneys to request e-data as part of the discovery process instead of just documents. Anyone being sued or about to be sued will be in trouble if they start deleting electronic documents during or before a suit just as if they shredded paper evidence.

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Cancer Center: continued from page 1

staff’s undivided attention when they arrive at the radiation treatment center. First, a consultation takes place to discuss treatment options depending on the type of cancer present.

Next, the patient is placed on a simulator that takes detailed pictures of the area where the cancer has developed. This particular machine has the ability to view soft tissues, a revolution in the cancer treatment world.

After identifying and marking the exact location of the cancer, the staff begins planning for the treatment.

“We are able to provide our patients with custom devices to aid us in the screening and treatment of the cancer,” said Prect Arora, a dosimetrist at the treatment center.

A mold of the patient’s body will keep them as still as possible. This allows the staff to pinpoint the exact location of the cancer, as well as sparing non-cancerous areas during the radiation treatment.

“With the technology today, we are able to spare organs, such as the heart, from damage from the radiation,” said Mark Petru, therapy supervisor for the

satellite facilities.

The machine used for radiation gives off a slight buzz sound and a couple minutes of beams, and then the patient is finished. The machine is located in a concrete room so that no radiation can be exposed.

“Burns used to be of concern when radiation treatments were administered,” Petru said. “Techniques used by our technicians now are able to reduce those side effects.”

M.D. Anderson hopes to bring in as many new patients as possible. The staff will even work with the patient’s doctors who are not in the M.D. Anderson system.

The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center has ranked among the top two cancer hospitals in the U.S. News and World Reports “America’s Best Hospitals” survey since 1990. It has been number one four times in the past six years.

More than 50 percent of M.D. Anderson’s patients come from out-of-state. The new facility will be serving those patients who choose the Bay Area as their temporary home while receiving

treatments.

The treatment center staff expects to see 30 to 40 adult patients a day. The new facility is providing free parking for all patients.

Together, M.D. Anderson and St. John Hospital will be providing cancer prevention and information for the community with support groups, seminars and speaker’s bureau.

The M.D. Anderson Radiation Treatment Center is located at 18100 St. John Dr. in Nassau Bay on the campus of St. John Hospital. The center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. To

schedule an appointment or speak with a staff member, call the center at (713) 563-0670 or (866) 423-2129.



BRUCE BENNETT: COURTESY
NEW CANCER CENTER OFFERS CONVENIENCE: The M.D. Anderson Radiation Treatment Center, located on the campus of Christus St. John Hospital, expects to see 30 to 40 patients a day.

HPV: continued from page 1

and debated in both houses of the Legislature,” said Larry Taylor, the Republican representative from District 24. “These types of decisions are usually studied heavily with extreme scrutiny before enacting a state policy affecting hundreds of thousands of children in this state for years to come.”

Moody believes the governor was well within his rights to make the order and should be credited with bringing the importance of the vaccine and cervical cancer into the view of Americans.

“Governor Perry’s executive order sparked an important statewide and national discussion about HPV and cervical cancer,” Moody said. “Had he not issued the order, it’s unlikely we would have heard anything about this illness. Operating fully within his constitutional authority, Governor Perry threw the entire weight of the executive branch behind requiring the HPV vaccine.”

The mandate was unexpected by many in Texas public school systems.

“Well, I was surprised,” said Lynne Cleveland, superintendent of Galveston Independent School District. “ I think that he [Perry] really has the best interest of the female students in mind, but I would hope to see parents volunteer willingly as opposed to being forced.”

After the order was made, Taylor and 31 of his House colleagues wrote a letter to the governor calling on him to withdraw his decision. He also co-authored House Bill 1098, a bill aimed at reversing the governor’s mandate as a requirement for admission to public schools.

On Feb. 21, a House public health committee approved the bill by a 6-3 vote. House Bill 1098 will now go before the entire House for consideration where 90 of the 150 members have signed on as co-sponsors.

“If the vaccine is as worth while as the Governor believes it is, then there should be little difficulty in raising the issue for debate within the Legislature,” Taylor said.

Safety

For many, the issue with the vaccine isn’t a political issue as much as it is an ethical issue. The executive order evoked an immediate response from many conservative values organizations regarding the safety and efficacy of the vaccine, the implementation of it, and the message that it may send to America’s youth.

In a press release to the CDC, Moira Gaul, a policy analyst for the Family Research Council, stated that “the Family Research Council welcomes the news that vaccines are in development for preventing infection with certain strains of the human papillomavirus” but that “we are particularly concerned with insuring that medically accurate information regarding the benefits and limitations of an HPV vaccine is distributed to public health officials, physicians, patients, and the parents of minor patients.”

Many echo the FRC’s concerns when it comes to the safety of the vaccine. While the FDA has approved it, there are individuals and organizations that are concerned with the cost, long-term immunity, possible side effects, overall coverage of each HPV strain, and the implementation of the vaccine.

“I’ve received an overwhelming response from parents

against the mandate to vaccinate their daughters,” Taylor said. “Parents, legislators, and significant health care organizations such as the Texas Medical Association aren’t satisfied with the information at hand.

Still others believe that the vaccine is everything it claims to be.

“There are always concerns about new medical advances, but this vaccine meets the FDA requirements for approval,” said Rochelle Tafolla, vice president of communications and marketing for Planned Parenthood of Houston and Southeast Texas, Inc. “This means it has been extensively tested to ensure safety.”

“Nobody bats an eye at tetanus shots,” Polk said. “Since tetanus vaccinations were made mandatory, the occurrence of tetanus related deaths have all but disappeared. I understand opponents not wanting to have another vaccine for their kids, but this [cervical cancer] has a much higher level of lethality. What is the risk/benefit ratio? The benefit of the vaccine could be life saving.”

Even in the face of that reality, Dawn Richardson, president of Parents Requesting Open Vaccine Education expressed her concerns in an open letter to parents on PROVE’s Web site.

“This Mandate forces our little girls to be experiments for the new HPV vaccine that has only been on the market since June of 2006—less than one year,” Richardson said. “It is made by Merck—the same drug makers as Vioxx! There are already 82 reports of serious adverse events filed with the FDA following the administration of this vaccine.”

Conflict of Interest

Richardson is not alone in recognizing that Merck & Co., Inc. is the producer of Gardasil. Many conservative watchdog groups are quick to point out that Merck employs one of the states most powerful lobbyist, Mike Toomey, who is the former chief of staff for Perry. There is also equal concern about a \$6,000 contribution that Merck’s political action committee made to Perry’s re-election campaign.

Moody calls any assertions about Perry’s mandate and his relationship with Merck “absurd and baseless.”

“Regardless of the company or who they employ, if someone comes to the governor saying they have an effective tool for preventing cancer, Governor Perry will listen,” Moody said. “Today, Merck is the only manufacturer of the HPV vaccine. However, within the next year, another company is expected to have FDA approval for the same kind of vaccine. When that happens, Governor Perry will be all ears.”

There are also many whose concerns are not just with the safety of the vaccine and the governor’s motivation behind mandate, but also with the nature of the message.

Morality

“Prior to the governor’s recent vaccination mandate, public school immunization requirements were in reaction to outbreaks of contagious diseases spread by casual and/or occupational contact,” Taylor said. “However, HPV is contracted through sexual interaction. By issuing a blanket mandate among all young females, we lower the standard by which our daughter’s adhere to—saying sexual

interaction is so common at a young age, the state finds it necessary to protect you.”

Moira expressed similar concerns in her letter to the CDC stating “our primary concern is with the message that would be delivered to nine- to twelve-year-olds with the administration of the vaccines. Care must be taken not to communicate that such an intervention makes all sex ‘safe.’”

The governor’s office has considered these concerns, but believe that the benefits far outweigh any physical or moral dangers that the vaccine may pose.

“To stand aside and allow more women to contract this deadly virus would be the height of irresponsibility,” Moody said. “Mandating this vaccine for young women makes not only good public health policy sense, but good fiscal sense. This vaccine mitigates future costs of treating cervical cancer reaching into the millions, helping women avoid having to undergo hysterectomies and chemo radiation.”

“Claims that this vaccine will promote sexual activity are just plain wrong,” Tafolla said. “This is about preventing a deadly disease. Ideology should not be allowed to get in the way of saving lives.”

Taylor and many others in the house believe that the solution is in the hands of the parents, not doctors.

Parental Rights

“While the number of teens having sex before marriage is on the rise, putting a band-aid on the matter doesn’t necessarily address the growing trend,” Taylor said. “The fact of the matter is parents should make the call on behalf of their children. The more interaction among parents and their children, the more likely that trend will plummet. The right message is simple, abstinence at a young age prevents the contraction of STD’s that may lead to cervical cancer later in life.”

In a Feb. 5 press release, Perry stated, “parents need to know that they have the final decision about whether or not their daughter is vaccinated. I am a strong believer in protecting parental rights, which is why this executive order allows them to opt out.”

Richardson pointed out that schools and physicians do not have to accept the exemption, and some insurance companies are discriminating against families of kids who have not received all of the state-mandated vaccines.

“The governor is hiding behind the claim that parents can opt out of this mandate, but he is not telling parents the truth that in many cases, the exemption isn’t worth the piece of paper it is printed on,” Richardson said.

Visit the UHCLIDIAN Web site at www.uhcl.edu/uhclidian for useful links on the issue of cervical cancer, HPV vaccinations, and the governor’s executive order.

Wheels of determination roll into Houston

By NEESHA HOSEIN
THE UHCLIDIAN

Imagine growing up unable to ride a bike without training wheels. An adapted bicycle program called Lose the Training Wheels is making its debut in Houston, thanks to the Down Syndrome Association of Houston in partnership with the Central Baptist Church in Deer Park.

Wheels of Determination Bike Camp 2007 will run from March 12-16 at Central Baptist Church in Deer Park. Trained volunteers will help campers, age 7 and up, learn unique riding techniques on specially designed bikes.

This busy traveling camp goes nationwide to those sponsors quick enough to nab an open date. The mission of this program is to provide a helping hand to special needs kids who encounter difficulties with 2-wheel bike riding.



RICHARD KLEIN: COURTESY

LOSE THE TRAINING WHEELS:

Richard Klein designed special rollers to give riders a better sense of balance.

program’s corporate body. The camp was developed by Richard Klein, a retired professor of engineering at the University of Illinois, and his wife Marjorie Klein, a retired kindergarten teacher. The couple have dedicated their time to analyzing problems faced by riders with special needs such as autism, cerebral palsy and Down syndrome.

Klein used his “routine application of, and belief in the scientific method” to come up with bicycle designs. He focused on what keeps a bike upright and stable. With the use of scientific principles and experimenting with different designs he was able to find the right combination to come up with distinctive wheels and “rollers” for the bikes.

“The children ride bikes but at times think we are holding on and supporting them,” Klein said. “Some children are absolutely thrilled and so proud of themselves. They can’t wait to get home to show neighbors and relatives. It is very common that the parents will break down in tears of joy as they are seeing, what to them is a miracle, something that they never dreamed to ever be possible.”

The LTTW program uses a teaching philosophy different from the old “push and let go” method. They believe that falls and injuries encourage the children to fear the bike. Regular

training wheels are often shaky and leave the children more nervous than confident about bike riding.

“We don’t teach children how to ride a bike,” Klein said. “Instead the child discovers how to ride. The discovery happens or is augmented because we create a special environment, and we tweak that environment as the child improves and learns. The volunteers get many rewards as they are able to see how instrumental they are in helping, and in seeing the child blossom. The main role of the volunteer is to provide encouragement and to be a best buddy. Strong bonds are created between the children and the spotter volunteers.”

Klein also said that during the course of the camp, the kids are noticeably less shy and reluctant and more eager to ride. Parents of autistic children have told Klein that they notice their child even sleeping better at night and seeming more relaxed all around.

According to Klein, approximately one million children in the United States today can benefit from this program, because if children have disabilities that prevent them from riding a bike, then it is likely that they are limited in other areas as well, even socially.

Jennifer Vincent is on the board of directors for the DSAH and is also a volunteer coordinator.

“My goal is to see this pro-

gram brought to Houston as a central location so that we can have these camps annually,” Vincent said. “I am currently assisting with recruiting volunteers for the camp. My motivation is to see all children with disabilities reach their full potential. Riding a two wheel bike is something that provides self esteem and allows individuals with disabilities to be able to participate with their non-disabled peers in a recreational setting.”

Vincent talked about her personal connection with the program’s mission.

“My son is 10 years old and has a severe, profound hearing loss, he wears hearing aids and currently is unable to ride a two-wheel bike. I have a 2 daughters age 9 and 5. My 5-year-old has Down Syndrome and currently is unable to ride a bike also. I have a vision for my 3 children to grow up and live independently and be productive citizens in society.”

Danielle Singleton, caregiver for Vincent’s 5-year-old daughter, was inspired to participate in the event by filming it in hopes that the footage can give other parents and potential campers a closer look into the program.

“Seeing these kids overcome the obstacle of losing their training wheels and learning how to ride a bike with only two wheels is a big accomplishment,” Singleton said. “It is a big accomplishment for anyone. I



RICHARD KLEIN: COURTESY

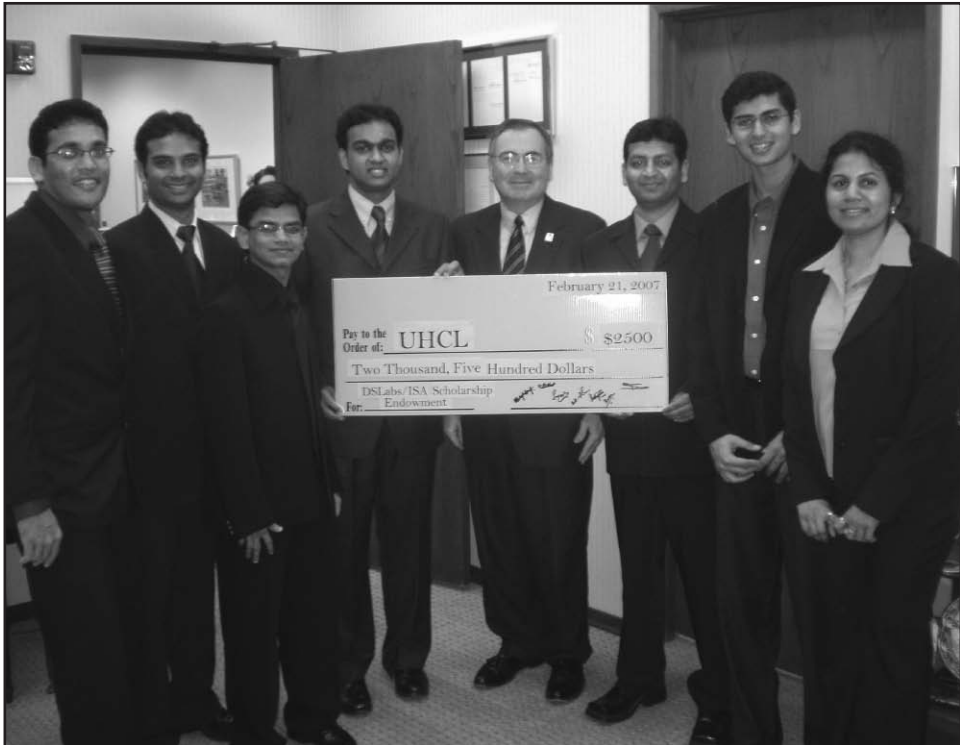
HELPING HANDS: Volunteers provide encouragement and act as a best buddy.

remember the day I lost my training wheels.”

Klein’s “bike science” research has been ongoing since the early 1980s, and he has tested many prototypes throughout the camp’s history. Klein believes in experimenting with different ideas because “reality does not lie” and experiments will “never give you a false answer.”

“I am using engineering principles akin to rocket science to cause a bike to be more stable and easier to ride,” Klein said. “If we as a society can send a rocket to some distant planet with absolute precision, we can certainly get a child to ride a bike across a (gym) floor.”

More information about this program can be obtained from the official Web site at www.lose-thetrainingwheels.org.



ISA: COURTESY

MESSAGE FROM THE INDIAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION:

This year the ISA donated \$9,000 to the ISA Scholarship with matching funds from Houston Endowment. This is almost double of what ISA donated last year (\$4,075). The ISA also held a fundraiser for Santhosh Kumar Thota who passed away after an accident last fall. A total of \$5,001 was collected and sent to his family in India. All of these achievements were celebrated on a much larger scale with additional media coverage from area newspapers, including The Houston Chronicle.

All of this would not have been possible without your support, guidance and monetary contributions. We are proud to be part of the University of Houston-Clear Lake, a place where we become graduates and true leaders. ISA Executive Council Elections were held on February 28. As outgoing officers, we would like to thank you and we hope that ISA will receive your continued support.

GOING TO COLLEGE
THANKS TO THE
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MARDI GRAS Galveston



MARDI GRAS FANS: Fat Tuesday's crowd gathered together to catch beads.

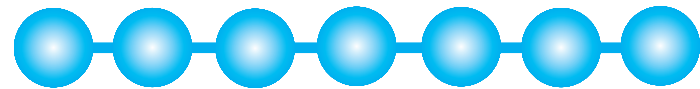


BEAD ME, BABY: People of all ages enjoy Mardi Gras



ON PARADE: The Quaker String Band from Philadelphia performs for the crowd. (above)

TOSSING BEADS: ABC 13's Tom Koch throws some Mardi Gras booty. (far right)



PHOTOGRAPHER: COREY MALLORY
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What's in the beads?

By **COREY MALLORY**
THE UHCLIDIAN

Mardi Gras is over, the streets are back to normal and pictures of this year's festivities are starting to pop up all over the Internet. From a financial standpoint, this year's Mardi Gras was a success, but do the party-goers care about that? No; these party animals only gauge success by one thing: beads.

What is the one thing that makes people go so crazy at Mardi Gras? It is not the beer. It is the beads.

Yes, strands of little plastic beads are the real commerce at Mardi Gras. These beads may as well be gold.

They will make an innocent girl wind up on the Internet. Or, they will turn the most laid-back person into a crazed animal focusing on the shiny booty like a hungry lion on the prowl.

It is these beads that show dominance during this 12-day festival; the more beads you have, the more popular you feel.

Since the late 19th century, the lucky few who get to ride on the glamorous floats each year have also gotten to throw out Mardi Gras beads.

These beads, up until the 1960s, were made of glass. Plastic beads, which are far more cost efficient, replaced the fragile glass beads and allowed float riders to throw larger quantity of beads to the fans. This is when beads became a priority.

What is it about these beads that make a normal girl show her prize possessions to crowds of complete strangers?

"It's all about having

Mardi Gras spirit," said Galveston native Tera Driscoll. "Me and my friends make it a game to see who can get the best beads."

So what about the guys? Well, it is the guys who supply the beads.

The guys also tend to be the ones with cameras flashing pictures of their female counterparts. They are the same people who are responsible for the pictures of your little sister that wind up on the Internet.

"Without the beads, Mardi Gras would be just another holiday," said Ronnie Finley.

Mardi Gras is not all about flashing. Children also enjoy partaking in the festivities.

The only thing children have to flash is a smile in order to receive bundles of the Mardi Gras treasure. The kids truly care about collecting the beads; they see the beads as something magical.

"I love my beads,"

said two-year-old Karlee Chapman.

For those who are not as daring or do not have a little one to flash their smile, beads are still attainable. Of course, there is a price for these trinkets and they are not cheap.

Many different types of beads are available, from plastic fruit beads, to beer beads, beads with sports team's logos and even some beads with replicas of human anatomy attached.

In the first weekend of Mardi Gras, beads can go for up to \$15 a piece, but if you are patient, by the last couple of days these beads can be had for as little as \$5.

No matter how you get them, if you want to be King or Queen of Mardi Gras, you have to have massive amounts of beads. For every guy with beads, there are ten girls ready to show their goods; and for every flashing female, there are dozens of flash bulbs lighting up the Strand.

