

Roller Derby Girls!

See page 6



Ericka Paetz: The Signal

Students gather on the steps near entryways to smoke. The new smoking policy will require smokers to be at least 10 feet away from all entrances.

UHCL designates smoking areas for students and faculty

Committee creates new policy to accommodate smokers and non-smokers

Jenna Lewis
The Signal Staff

The University of Houston-Clear Lake will be a smoke-free campus except in limited designated areas by fall 2008.

The University Life Committee along with the UHCL Police Department have been working together to create the revised policy, which had been stalled for the last few years.

The committee took some of what was already in existence from past attempts at the policy and brought in new ideas to the table. Every member was then encouraged to share these ideas with their constituent groups and get feedback.

“What I wanted was a very collective approach to this and to not have the committee operate in some vacuum,” said Dean of Students Anthony Jenkins, who is also the chair of the committee. “I think in the past that is where they could have stumbled, but I wanted everything to be transparent and to have the university community voice its opinions.”

Two Student Government Association members

of the committee surveyed students to find out how many actually smoked and get their input on the new policy.

“In my opinion, they did a very thorough job in representing the students and they were extremely vocal on making sure that students had buy-in,” Jenkins said. “We took into account the student’s views and all of that went into the final decision-making process.”

Linda Contreras Bullock, assistant dean of student diversity, is very allergic to cigarette smoke and has become increasingly more so just from being around it.

“People are free to make their own choices, and I do not want to dictate to anyone how to live their lives; but until the policy goes into effect, there is not an entrance in this university where I can walk through a door without the chances of walking into a cloud of smoke,” Bullock said. “I find myself gauging who is where and which entrances I can use. The outcome is like music to my ears.”

Many students and staff have been wondering if

Smoking: continued on page 10

Tales to Tell

Ericka Paetz
The Signal Staff

Texas’ higher education system is undergoing several changes. New stipulations on degree plans, course drops and credit hour limits will be implemented in fall 2008. How these changes affect actual students is the basis of a new project called “Stories to Share.”

Chloe Diepenbrock, faculty senate president and associate professor of writing, has organized a way for students to relate their individual experiences through writing. Diepenbrock, who is also the director of the UHCL Writing Center, says that the personal experiences of students who are working to obtain a degree are the stories that Texas legislators need to know.

The new legislation, said De Juana Lozada, director of communication at the Office of External Relations for the Texas Higher

Education Coordinating Board, is “aimed at streamlining a student’s undergraduate experience.” With the rising amount of student enrollment, Lozada said, it is necessary for students’ success, that they be accommodated accordingly and in a timely manner.

“Students often do not realize that part of the cost of providing them with their educations comes from the taxpayers through legislative appropriations. With so many students attending higher education institutions, the Legislature must [present] a way to provide every student who enrolls with at least enough support that they can finish a bachelor’s degree. But they are not willing to fund course repeats and additional credit hours not required for graduation indefinitely.”

The changes, however, such as the Six Course Drop Rule, could present roadblocks for non-traditional students.

Stories: continued on page 10

Endowed professorship awarded to UHCL

Mandy Hess
The Signal Staff

Doctoral students within the School of Education at the University of Houston-Clear Lake will soon benefit from a financial sponsorship with funding available beginning in 2012.

Sandy Johnson, owner and president of Barrios Technology, Ltd. has partnered with UHCL to create the endowed professorship with the School of Education.

The Sandy Johnson/Barrios Technology, Ltd. Endowed Professorship in Educational Leadership will allow for research and professional development in the School of Education. The professorship will not be immediate though.

“I believe education is critical to anyone’s career path,” Johnson said. “This endowment is a way for me to give back to the education field. The people that inspired me were teachers.”

—Sandy Johnson

“Endowed means that money is put into a fund and invested,” explains Dion McInnis, associate vice president for the Office of University Advancement. “The interest earned off of that money will then be used to support professors. It can be used differently at each institution to provide support for educational leadership and outreach to the community.”

Sandy Johnson has pledged to give \$150,000 over the course of almost five years. The university will match Johnson’s gift by giving 150 percent for a total of \$375,000.

“We wanted to make a statement about the importance and the value we place on this first Ph.D. program,” McInnis said. “This endowed professorship is also a way for this university to show its maturity.”

“This endowment will work to significantly increase opportunities for faculty research and professional development,” said Lawrence Kajs, program chair and professor of Educational Leadership. “We commend local business leaders and alumni like Sandy Johnson who understand and appreciate the importance of sound leadership in our schools and in the community at large.”

Professorship: continued on page 10



Houston art scene
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Tour De Houston
See page 7



The CSI Exhibit
See page 4

Students’ voices vital to our community

Walk around any American college campus today and you will see a more diverse student body than in past generations. Both married and unmarried adults, parents, recent high school graduates, senior citizens, full-time workforce members and elementary school teachers are just some of the various types of students in the pursuit of higher education.

With so many different kinds of people in our community entering into universities, one may wonder what kind of impact they will have on both their campus and the people with whom they interact on a day-to-day basis.

Every single student has a story. Some are first-generation college students – the first in their family to ever attend college. Some are fresh out of high school, looking at the world with excited eyes and dreams that stretch beyond the imagination. Others are non-traditional students, older students who have careers and wish to further those careers with a degree. But whatever the story, students can have an impact on the way those around them think about college and the way their school is run.

Recently, the University of Houston-Clear Lake Writing Center published a booklet of students’ stories in hopes of raising community awareness about the diverse range of students who attend today’s universities. These stories inspire others to pursue their dreams, regardless of their background or financial status.

Chloe Diepenbrock, director of the Writing Center, is hoping that students will not only share their stories with their

community, but also the Texas Legislature, in anticipation of having an impact on laws and policies regarding their education.

Students at UHCL can produce a ripple effect, encouraging others to step out and follow their own educational pursuits. The student body’s voice is a powerful tool in changing the world around them, both on campus and in society. Through being an example to co-workers, joining a student organization or doing community service, students can have a positive impact. This not only affects current students, but future generations as well, so it is worth the time and effort students put in to influence issues.

In addition, students’ voices are vital to the life of UHCL. Students have the power to impact what types of classes are provided, what programs are available, who the university hires and where funding is allocated.

There are many ways students can make their voices heard around campus. Through outlets such as the Student Government Association, UHCL students can voice their opinions on many issues. Fraternities, sororities, international clubs



Julie Bray: The Signal

and many other student organizations are all good venues for students to get together to make a change. Alumni of UHCL also speak multitudes to the people with whom they interact every day since they have achieved their degrees.

Equally important is the influence students and alumni can have on the community around them. Many people who have degrees in our community become leaders; therefore, leading by example is another way that students and alumni can make an impact.

On a broader spectrum, students can also have an influence on society through

writing their state legislature. There are many issues that students can address such as laws regarding education and emerging policies/rules designated for the fall. Students interested in contacting the Texas State Legislature can visit Texas Legislature Online at www.capitol.state.tx.us. Here, people can find information about local representatives, bills that have been passed and much more.

Students’ voices are certainly strong at UHCL, and though not everything can be changed or ruled by them, they have a large say in the happenings on campus and in the world around them.

CrossSignals

The Signal staff members share their opinions regarding reporting violations of smoking in non-designated areas. Join the discussion by logging on to The Signal blog at: www.myspace.com/signal_UHCL

I would certainly not turn in a fellow student for smoking in a non-smoking area. I feel I have just as much of a responsibility to remove myself from the situation if I am uncomfortable as they do to be as respectful as possible when they choose a location to light up.

–Jennifer Ferguson–

I absolutely would turn in a fellow student for smoking in a non-smoking area, but only if that student refused to stop when I politely pointed out the fact to them and asked them to stop. If they were rude to me regarding my request and ignored me, I would go directly to the police department and file a complaint. This is a public institution; and I have just as much of a right to breathe smoke-free air as a smoking student has to pollute his or her lungs.

–Amber L. Zainfeld–

I don’t foresee myself walking up to a perfect stranger and asking them to put out a cigarette, but then I’ve never been particularly bothered by cigarette smokers in public places. I understand that there are some that feel very strongly about working and attending classes in a smoke-free environment. It will most likely fall on these folks to make sure smokers are kept in their place(s), so to speak.

–Cryss Godoy–

As a non-smoker, I can see why many places and organizations are prohibiting smoking in public areas. However, I have never had a real problem with students smoking on the UHCL campus. For the most part, it seems that students are fairly considerate and, if they choose to smoke, tend to do so in areas that would be less offensive. I don’t believe that non-smok-

ing students will actually call attention to a student who is smoking in a place that is not a designated smoking area. While I’m sure some would be bold enough to tell a fellow student to put out their cigarette, I don’t think that most would actually report such activity to the campus authorities.

–Wendy Westmoreland–

I would not turn in a student for smoking as long as they are not smoking in the classroom or in my car. It is not really an issue for me. When I see students smoking, most of the time they are a far enough away from the entrances that if I wanted to avoid the smoke, I could.

–Krystal Mongan–

I would not turn in a fellow student for smoking in a non-smoking area. The smoke does not bother me when it is

outside. I think that smokers just need to be conscious of the people around them and understand that breathing smoke is a health hazard for some people.

–Aubrey Harbin–

No, I would not turn someone in for smoking on campus, unless they were smoking crack.

–Stanley White III–

While I do not appreciate having to walk behind someone that is actively smoking, I would not turn a fellow student in for smoking in a non-designated smoking area. It certainly wouldn’t be worth my time or effort.

–Mandy Hess–

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Yue Minjun,
Spirit Away, 2006



Sui Jianguo,
Jurassic Age, 2006



Joel Shapiro,
Untitled, 1990



D. Mark di Suvero,
Bygones, 1976

With \$185.8 million, the Museum of Fine Arts Houston led all arts organizations in the U.S. in private donations in 2006, according to a survey by The Chronicle of Philanthropy. The Houston Museum of Natural Science, with 3,171,690 tickets sold in 2006, is the third most visited museum in the U.S., following only the Smithsonian Institution and The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Having trouble getting your art on?

Houston's best cheap thrills

Story, photography and design by Kourtney Pace, The Signal Staff

You don't even need \$5 to have a good time in the Houston Museum District. Many art lovers enjoy champagne thrills yet are on a beer budget. Many dream of traveling to Paris to get a glimpse of the Mona Lisa at The Louvre or even to get a sneak peek at the Sistine Chapel in Vatican City. Though beautiful, not everyone can be so lucky. But, as a young art lover, be thankful you live in the great city of Houston, where you can see art of all forms without spending a penny.

On Thursdays, college students can visit the Museum of Fine Arts Houston for free. Do not think that just because it is free you are going to be viewing paint-by-number pieces behind a velvet rope. MFAH has more than 45,000 works on display by renowned artists such as: Jackson Pollock, Vincent Van Gogh, Pablo Picasso, Andy Warhol and Claude Monet, just to name a few. Even if you have seen these painters' infamous artwork in your textbook from your required art appreciation course, you have not had the full impact. Art must be experienced in person to fully appreciate it.

When you see the brush strokes and cracks in the paint, it allows you to appreciate the genuine effort that goes into every inch. For example, any painting by Monet appears entirely different when you are two inches from it than when you are completely across the room.

Even with some of the country's largest art museums in our backyard, you do not have to go inside an actual museum to see magnificent works of art. Art is everywhere in Houston. From cars painted with mementoes of Jimmy Hendrix in parking lots to gardens filled with exquisite abstract sculptures at the Cullen Sculpture Garden, art can be found everywhere. Then there are entertainment theaters like Miller Outdoor Theater and chapels such as the Rothko Chapel.

The MFAH houses more than 45,000 works, one of the largest and most outstanding collections in the country, and is

open until 9 p.m. on Thursdays. Directly across the street from MFAH is Cullen SculptureGarden, often referred to as the most beautiful acre in Houston.

Just drive past The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston. The building is a piece of art in itself, not to mention everything inside. Mario Cuellar of the CAMH, says that they open the Steel Lounge on the last Friday of every month. The event is described as an "artsy happy hour" where you can view the new artwork while you sip cocktails named after the current exhibition.

Just around the corner, the Menil Collection, considered to be one of the most important privately assembled collections of the 20th century, includes approximately 15,000 paintings, sculptures, prints, drawings, photographs and rare books.

The only ecumenical center of its kind in the world, the Rothko Chapel, featuring 14 huge canvases by abstract artist Mark Rothko, is a chapel, a museum and a forum — a place where religion, art and architecture intermingle. The beautiful non-denominational sanctuary is open to people of all faiths, free of charge, 365 days a year.

"The skylights allow natural light to flood the chapel which constantly changes the shadows and the appearance of the paintings," said Hanna Tiric, a docent with the chapel.

Another famous chapel in the Museum District, The Byzantine Fresco Chapel Museum, is the repository for the only intact Byzantine frescoes in the entire western hemisphere. Nancy Shaver, a docent of the chapel, states that the chapel "is definitely one of the top 10 things to see in Houston and is completely free of charge."

Although you might not understand every piece of art just remember, "one man's art is another man's treasure." If you do not like one museum, another gallery with free admission is just around the corner. Next time you are looking for something interesting to do on a limited budget, get your art on.

Houston's cultural events and exhibitions report 9.2 million visits per year. This is more than twice the number of people who attended Houston's three major league professional sports teams in 2005.



Raymond Duchamp-Villon,
The Large Horse, 1914

The Houston Museum District is one of the largest in the country, with 18 world-class institutions within walking distance of one another.



Barnett Newman,
The Broken Obelisk, 1963-67

For more information on the art scene in Houston, log onto www.visithoustontexas.com/media/statistics/Houston_Stats_Arts.



David Smith,
Two Circle Sentinel, 1961



Art can even be found in parkings lots near the Museum District.

Will YOU Speak for the DEAD?



Brandon White
The Signal Staff

As CBS' hit show CSI's lead investigator Gil Grissom says, "The dead can't speak for themselves." That is exactly what visitors to the Houston Museum of Natural Science's *CSI: The Experience* exhibit get a chance to do. Adults and children alike get the opportunity to answer those questions that the "recently deceased" cannot. Lovers of the show will have a great time at one of the museum's newest exhibits. Visitors will fill the shoes of their favorite CSI character and play "who-dun-it" as they become crime scene investigators for a day. They must first obtain their own clues using everything available at one of the three crime scenes. Afterwards, visitors take the evidence from the crime scene to the lab where it is processed. Finally, they go to the autopsy room and find out exactly what happened and how.

"We are very excited to have it here [in Houston]," said Kathleen Havens, director of youth education at the Museum of Natural Science and curator for the CSI exhibit. "I think it brings science down to a level where people can really understand it and have fun with it. Instead of being something way out there that takes a lot of study, it gets kids excited about the process because they can actually view the science in the exhibit with their own hands."

CSI: The Experience is not your everyday exhibit. Visitors at the CSI exhibit get the opportunity to have a hands-on experience rather than just walking through it.

"This exhibit is actually really neat because it actually

gets people involved in a hands-on kind of way where another kind of static exhibit where you are just looking at things doesn't," Havens said. "People have been pretty excited about it, especially teenage kids or preteens that work in big groups to go around solving it, which is kind of cool seeing them interact in a positive way. Instead of shoving and pushing, they are actually into it."

Crime scene one is called "A House Collided" in which a car has smashed into a house in the suburbs. There is a dead body in the car, but the question is whether or not the person was dead prior to the accident. Crime scene two, named "Who Got Served," features the body of a dead young waitress near an overflowing dumpster behind a Las Vegas motel. Crime scene three, "No Bones About It!" tells the story of a hiker who encounters a skeleton with a threadbare coat and backpack while hiking in the desert.

While the exhibit can be very fun for kids, it can also be disturbing for younger children due to the violent nature of the topics. Havens says the museum recommends all visitors be 12 years of age or older.

"You have to know your kid, and I think parents should be involved in that decision, asking themselves 'Is this something I want my child to see?'" Havens said.

CSI: The Experience runs through April 30. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and children ages 3-11, and \$9 for college students with a valid student ID.

For more information, contact the Houston Museum of Natural Science at 713-639-4629 or visit their Web site at www.hmns.org.



The exhibit offers three mind-boggling crime scenes. **From right to left:** "A House Collided," "Who Got Served," and "No Bones About It."



Above: Visitors' first stop in their investigation is to label where they record evidence from the crime scene. **Below:** The autopsy room offers visitors the opportunity to see why and how each victim died.



Visitors examine the evidence and make their own findings.



CSIs for a day can work with digital evidence to help them solve the crime.

Photos by Brandon White
Design by Wendy Westmoreland

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* Any individual requiring a special accomodation for a specific disability should contact the Student Life Office at least one week prior to the event.



Congratulations to the New SGA Executive Council!



At the Student Government Association meeting held on March 25, 2008, the 30+ Student Organization Representatives in attendance selected the new 2008-2009 Executive Council.

Congratulations to the new Executive Council:

President: Patrick L. Cardenas

Vice President-Committee Coordinator: Steven Steiner

Vice President-Student Outreach and Communications: Jessica Williams

Vice President-Administration: Connie LaFayette

Please support the new council for the upcoming school year!!

We invite you to participate and have a voice in the decisions affecting the student body!

ALL students are invited and encouraged to attend the weekly SGA meetings, held on Tuesdays in the SSCB Lecture Hall at 11:30 a.m.

CONTACT THE SGA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:

Joyce Delores Taylor, President
Michael Phillips, VP-Committee Coordinator
Nida Ajaz, VP-Student Outreach & Communications
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NOT YOUR MOMMA'S ROLLER DERBY, YET!



Cryss Godoy
The Signal Staff

Roller derby is alive and well in Pearland, Texas. Complete with fishnet stockings, a roster of pseudo-names and profanity-infused encouragement from the sidelines, the South Side Roller Derby league is rolling strong.

In March 2006, to physically prepare herself for a Houston Roller Derby try-out, Brenda Holley taught four of her friends the derby basics, added a few upper-body strengthening exercises and called it Roller Derby Boot Camp.

A classically trained figure skater, Holley, aka "Dick Tater," was disappointed when she was not chosen for Houston's team, but the derby fever had hit her hard, and she liked it. Not wanting to give up on roller derby, she encouraged women attending the boot camp to play in the South Side Roller Derby league soon after the creation of its four teams: the Devil's Rejects, Disorderly Conduct, Las Muertas and the Mobstars.

One of the toughest things she had to do was teach the intricate game of derby itself. Rules and standards of play can vary from league to league, so if you plan to make your way to the Pearwood Skate Center to see the South Side Girls in action, here are the basics:

A game consists of four 12-minute segments. During these periods, two teams of five players each attempt to get their fastest and most agile skater – the jammer – to the lead jammer's position. After skating once around the track, each jammer scores one point for her team every time she laps each of the opponent's players. But, only the lead jammer has the added benefit of "calling off a jam," thereby allowing her team to regroup without giving the opponents additional time to score points for themselves.

Sound complicated? To add mayhem to what would amount to team speedskating, the other eight players on the track create a barrier with teammates that intentionally impede the opponent jammer's progress while simultaneously elbowing, hip-checking and pushing the opposition's blockers in an effort to move their own jammer to the front of the mob. Once there, a jammer still has to pass the other team's pivot whose job it is to make the mob impassable.

"It looks like chaos," said Brenda Mahan, aka "ManHandleHer," of the quick-paced sport. "You have to be willing to get beat up a little, but it is so worth it."

The boot camp, the first of its kind, is held every Monday from 8 to 9 p.m. and is open to all women, regardless of size, shape or skating experience – four wheeled skates only, please.

"Being able to attend the boot camp, knowing I

would be taught what I needed to know at my own pace was a huge incentive to join the workouts," said Johanna Smart, a University of Houston-Clear Lake staff member in academic records and a Disorderly Conduct team member. "Being able to train to derby from scratch made it sound less intimidating."

Smart, aka "Rad Racer," also pointed out that the camaraderie among the South Side Girls, regardless of team assignment, is a large incentive for members to faithfully attend Monday night practices and Wednesday night scrimmages.

"Even though we're four different teams, we work out as a league and we support one another," Smart said. "We're a family and the best thing is we're growing."

Officially begun in June 2006, SSRD fully populated its four teams for the first time at the March 25 boot camp meet, and the March 30 game between the Devil's Rejects and the Mobstars had representatives from CNN in attendance. The little league that could is getting noticed.

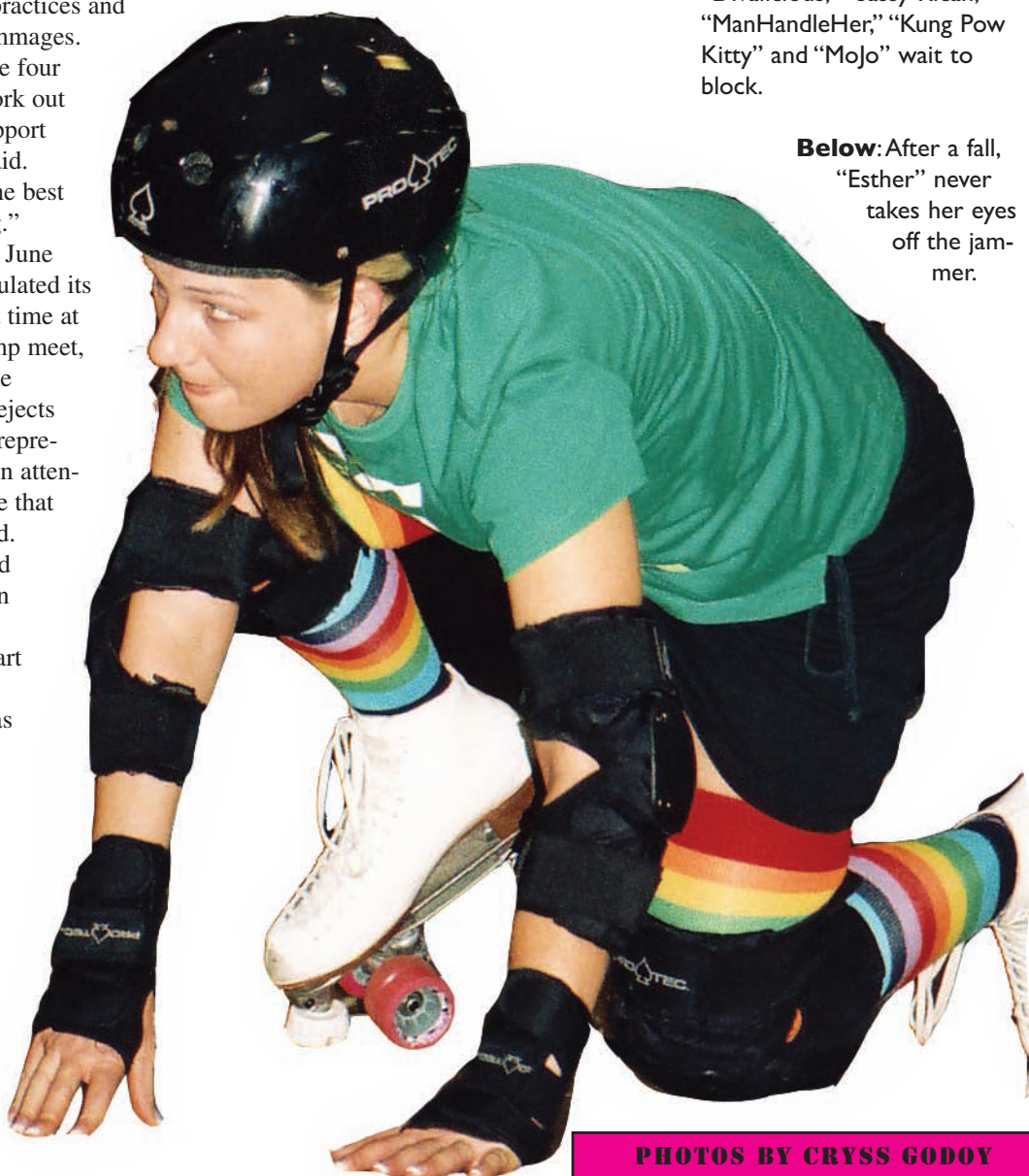
Soon, a new banked track, one of only 10 in the nation, will set the SSRD even further apart from their flat track counterparts. SSRD has raised money for the \$30,000 project through fundraisers that have included accepting donations at exhibition games and selling shirts and fleece jackets on their Web site.

"When you think of roller derby you imagine women skating on a raised, banked track," said Holley. "It has been the plan for our league all this time and we are getting so close."

Clockwise from left:

"Divalicious" risks getting a penalty to take out her frustrations on "Sassy Rican," while others on her team cheer her on. "Esther," left, assists "Copperhead," right, as she tries to keep Marlo from passing with "Mojo" cheering from behind. The mob follows the jammers' progress. "Hispanic Panic," visiting from an Austin league, "Copperhead," "Esther," "Divalicious," "Sassy Rican," "ManHandleHer," "Kung Pow Kitty" and "Mojo" wait to block.

Below: After a fall, "Esther" never takes her eyes off the jammer.



**PHOTOS BY CRYSS GODOY
DESIGN BY AMY GARCIA**



Cycling for Charity

Jennifer Ferguson
The Signal Staff

On a brisk spring morning in Houston, cyclists flooded the streets of downtown in the name of charity. From first-time families to avid cycling enthusiasts, approximately 4,000 riders gathered at Tranquility Park March 15 for the Fourth Annual Guaranty Bank Tour de Houston.

The Tour de Houston is a recommended ride for the BP MS 150 Bike Tour and is produced by the City of Houston Mayor's Office of Special Events. Proceeds from the event benefit neighborhood parks through the Houston Parks Board. And while the final profits have not yet been calculated, this year's ride was the largest in its history.

"We're pretty excited," said Eileen Quan, event coordinator for the Mayor's Office of Special Events. "It was a great, beautiful day and that really added to the ride."

Cyclists began their rides on McKinney near Louisiana Street and traveled the 20-, 40- or 70-mile route. Upon their return to Tranquility Park, participants were treated to live music, free food and drinks, and information on upcoming rides and other charity events.

Among the charities represented at the park was the American Red Cross. Dory Cayten, assistant director of fund development for the Houston chapter of the American Red Cross, promoted the inaugural ride of the Tour du Rouge coming up Oct. 18, 2008.

This first annual, 538-mile ride from Houston to New Orleans will benefit five Red Cross chapters. Organizers began planning the six-day tour more than a year ago and have been promoting the event at other ride rest stops and finish lines like Tranquility Park.

"I love this," Cayten said. "The cyclists are devoted to the mission and fund raising."



After the ride, cyclists Janice Chapman of Austin and Debbie Frizzell of Houston follow the route of the upcoming Red Cross Tour de Rouge.



Clockwise from left: Riders enjoyed live music and free food and drinks at Tranquility Park following the ride. Both teams and individual riders participated in the Guaranty Bank Tour de Houston March 15.

Also promoting a charitable cause was the Houston Golf Association's Shell Houston Open. The SHO tent provided cyclists the opportunity to try their hands at golf while providing them with information for their upcoming event.

Beginning March 31, the week-long golf tournament will raise monies for more than 200 charities including Texas Special Olympics, Make-A-Wish Foundation, American Cancer Society and MS 150.

The BP MS 150 Bike Tour is a two-day ride from Houston to Austin. The upcoming ride (April 12-13) is a fund raising event for the more than 17,000 Texans served by the Lone Star Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. All MS 150 riders raise a minimum of \$400 for the cause.

The MS 150 organization not only keeps its own mission in mind. Many of the organization's 30 recommended rides benefit charities and nonprofit causes across the state.

Upcoming recommended rides include the Pedal Power Wildflower Ride in Stonewall April 5 that will benefit the Hill Country Children's Advocacy Center and the Camp For All Hilltop Bike Ride in Burton, also April 5, benefiting Camp For All and The Kiwanis Foundation of Houston. Also, proceeds from the Space Race at Gulf Greyhound Park in Houston April 6 will benefit the Ronald McDonald House.

For more information on the MS 150 Bike Tour visit <http://www.ms150.org>. There you will also find links to recommended rides. For information regarding the American Red Cross Tour du Rouge visit <http://tourdurouge.org> or <http://shell-houstonopen.com> for details on the Shell Houston Open.

Photos by Jennifer Ferguson
Design by Amy Garcia

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CAMPUS
CALENDAR

March 31 _____
Writing Center Workshop: Non-Native Speakers, 1-2 p.m., SSCB 2.105

Speaker Series: Mapping Crater Depths on Mars in Search for Shallow Ground Ice, 7 p.m., SSCB 1.100.03

April 1 _____
Writing Center Workshop: Using Sources & Avoiding Plagiarism, 5-6 p.m., SSCB 2.105

April 2 _____
Career Services Workshop: Electronic Job Search Strategies, 5-6 p.m., SSCB 3.101
Registration encouraged. Call 281-283-2590.

April 4 _____
NSLS Leadership Training Days Videoconference, 9 a.m.-noon, SSCB 1.202.07 or 1-4 p.m., SSCB 1.202.07
Registration required. Call 281-283-2560.

April 5 _____
Chili Cook-Off to the 20th Degree, noon-4 p.m., SSCB Lawn
Chili tasting kits \$3

April 7 _____
Speaker Series: Comets and NASA's Stardust Mission, 7 p.m., SSCB 1.100.03

April 8 _____
Spring 2008 Teacher Job Fair, 12:30-2:30 p.m., Bayou Atrium II

Co-Op Orientation Session, 5-6 p.m., SSCB 3.101
Call 281-283-2590 for information.

NSLS Videoconference: How to Put More Money in Your Pocket Today: A College Personal Finance Boot Camp, 6-7:30 p.m., SSCB Lecture Hall
Registration required. Call 281-283-2560.

April 9 _____
Career Services Workshop: Writing Effective Resumes, 5-6 p.m., SSCB 3.101
Registration encouraged. Call 281-283-2590.

April 11 _____
Career Exploration Workshop 4, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Location TBA
\$25 for UHCL students. Requires intake appointment. Call 281-283-2590.

April 14 _____
Speaker Series: Aerospace Applications of Plasma Physics, 7 p.m., SSCB 1.100.03

April 15 _____
Social Services Networking Reception, 5-7 p.m., Bayou Garden Room
Sign up deadline: April 9, 5 p.m. Call 281-283-2590.

April 16 _____
Cinco de Mayo Celebration, all day, UHCL Alumni Plaza
Featuring food, mariachis, guest speakers and music.

Career Services Workshop: Successful Interviewing, 5-6 p.m., SSCB 3.101
Registration encouraged. Call 281-283-2590.

April 16-18 _____
14th Annual Student Conference for Research & Creative Arts
To find out about events, times and locations call 281-283-3374.

Monopolizers trounce Lucky Leprechauns

Amber Zainfeld
The Signal Staff

University of Houston-Clear Lake's Professional and Administrative Staff Association held its annual Spring Break Break March 20. The event included breakfast and a friendly game of PASA Pictionary.

Members of the audience, which consisted mainly of faculty and staff who work for either the Office of Academic Affairs or for the Office of Administration and Finance, were encouraged to sit on either the blue or green side of Atrium II in support of their teams.

The two teams were: the blue team representing Academic Affairs named Monopolizers, and the green team representing Administration and Finance named Lucky Leprechauns. Approximately 200 participants played the game, most of whom shouted out their guesses of the word being sketched.

This year pictionary, a game where teams guess a word that is represented by a drawing projected onto a screen using a document camera device commonly called an Elmo, replaced Family Feud, UHCL's friendly rivalry game of choice for the past seven years.

Carl Stockton, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost served as team leader for the Monopolizers. Michelle Dotter, vice president for administration and finance, was team leader for the Lucky Leprechauns. Each chose their best "sketchers" from within their respective departments.

Sketchers for the Monopolizers were Charise Armstrong, executive secretary to the provost; Janis Bigelow, associate director of




Amber Zainfeld: The Signal

Michelle Dotter, vice president for administration and finance, handcuffed herself to the trophy and only reluctantly relinquished it to Carl Stockton, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost, during PASA Pictionary.

admissions; and Betty Brown, counselor and testing coordinator for career and counseling services. Sketching for the Lucky Leprechauns were Rosie Pineda, account specialist; Fran Davis, stores clerk; and Paul Willingham, police chief.

After about an hour of rebel-rousing fun and guessing, it was finally declared that the

blue team was so far ahead of the green team there was no way they could be defeated. When academic affairs was declared the winner, Stockton playfully wrestled the trophy away from Dotter, who had handcuffed it to her wrist.





The Code Blue Police Emergency Phones on campus are now operational. If you find one out of order, please report it to the UHCL Police.

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April 16-18

Volunteers needed for the conference!

For more information about events, times and locations, visit www.uhcl.edu/ResearchArtsConference/.

For further assistance contact
M. Hunt at 281-283-3375 or huntm@uhcl.edu
or contact
P. Goyarzu at 281-283-3390 or goyarzu@uhcl.edu.



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Thanks,

Dr. Darlene Biggers
281-283-3037

Dr. Simone Tiu
281-283-3008

Smoking: continued from page 1

the Bayou patio will become smoke-free. It is one of the few designated areas around the Bayou Building that will still allow smoking.

“I would rather that the Bayou patio be designated to a non-smoking area because I would like to be able to go read or study outside on sunny days,” said Cheryl Romig, literature major. “Even when there is nobody out there smoking at the time, the area still reeks of stale smoke.”

UHCL Police Chief Paul Willingham said that going smoke-free is an ongoing initiative throughout the country, and it can be a fierce debate between smokers and non-smokers.

“At this point we are trying to get everything in place,” Willingham said. “A subcommittee the police are participating in will walk the campus and plan out where the correct signage needs to be and what needs to be set up to show people where they can and cannot smoke.”

There will be places designated for smoking at every building. Smokers will also have to contend with the state law that requires every smoker to be a minimum of 10 feet from a building entryway. To contend with these limitations, every smoking area is going to be covered. Committee members also wanted to make sure that staff who do smoke will not have to go out of their way.

Enforcement-wise, the police officers are going to handle the policy with a softer approach. They have many different tactics at their disposal, from ticketing to, ultimately, arrest. Police could cite someone who refuses to move to the designated smoking area or extinguish their cigarette based upon Education Code 51.202, which would be a Class C misdemeanor. If the person refuses the citation, police can also arrest them under Texas State statute: 38.15: A person is considered to have committed an offense if the person, with criminal negligence, interrupts, disrupts, impedes or otherwise interferes with a peace officer while the peace officer is performing a duty or exercising authority imposed or granted by law, which is a Class B misdemeanor requiring custodial arrest.

“Honestly, anybody who would get problems from the officers would have instigated the issue to begin with by not cooperating with the officer,” Willingham said.

UHCL Police and the University Life Committee will be education oriented in letting everyone know how the new policy will work throughout the summer and into the fall 2008 semester. Willingham said that down the line, ticketing might go in the same way that parking is enforced; if you are in the wrong place, you will be given a citation.

For now, police are encouraging faculty, staff and students to politely direct people they see smoking in non-smoking areas to the designated ones. If this fails, students are encouraged to ask police for assistance or notify them of the offense.

“When you bring a uniform, people get uncomfortable,” Willingham said. “If people want to smoke that is their own given right, but where they smoke is becoming a matter of social concern, so we do not want to treat them like criminals.”

The enforcement section of the new policy involved a significant amount of discussion between committee members and police.

“We did not want to send the message that we were making life difficult for our smoking colleagues,” Jenkins said. “I think as educated people they will continue to identify where the smoking areas are and use those. I think we would have had more of a challenge and more of an issue if we attempted to make the campus smoke-free, and it would not have been fair to all of us. Trying to find that balance was one of our major goals and we have done that.”

Professorship: continued from page 1

Johnson decided to create the professorship because of her interest in the education field.

“I believe education is critical to anyone’s career path,” Johnson said. “This endowment is a way for me to give back to the education field. The people that inspired me were teachers.”

The benefit of the endowed professorship to Barrios Technology, Ltd. can be described as a pipeline effect.

“The majority of people we hire have college degrees,” said Johnson. “If we continue to improve the quality of primary and secondary education, that will inspire more people to pursue a college education, which in turn helps our efforts of hiring qualified individuals.”

The Educational Leadership Program has several areas of study involving a large master’s program. It enrolls about 500 students, and is one of the largest programs at the school and trains students for principleship and leadership in schools. Dennis Spuck, dean of the School of Education, notes that the doctoral program has 35 students right now.

“The endowment would help support research activities,” Spuck said. “It is set up to run on a three-year cycle.”

Nominations for faculty members to receive the three-year award will be based on their research activities, instructional or teaching effectiveness, outreach to pre-kindergarten through 12th grade and leadership characteristics.

Faculty members in the university’s School of Education Doctor of Educational Leadership program are eligible for the professorship. The dean of the School of Education will recommend and appoint professorship recipients with concurrence of the provost and president.

For information about the professorship or other endowments at the university, call the Office of University Advancement at 281-283-2021. To find out more about the educational leadership program, call the School of Education at 281-283-3615 or e-mail education@uhcl.edu.

Stories: continued from page 1

tional students or students who encounter personal challenges during their college educations. Diepenbrock thought of the “Stories to Share” project, on her way home from a meeting in Austin, because she feels that “a lot of [the legislators’] experiences with higher education are anecdotal.”

“I wish I could bring some of my students to Austin and just have [legislators] meet them so they could see and hear the people who are going to school in Texas,” Diepenbrock said.

Diepenbrock prepared the first pamphlet, which contains four such stories from students she has come into contact with in the Writing Center. The experiences in “Stories to Share” provide proof of student diversity. The stories represent who the students actually are that comprise the public higher education system in Texas. The students who relayed their experiences have had various setbacks and their success as students was contingent upon the flexibility of terms that have previously existed in Texas.

One international student who participated in the “Stories to Share” project, for example, came to Texas to earn a degree, but was unsure about which academic course she wanted to pursue. One of the new legislative revisions will stipulate that students not exceed 30 hours past their degree’s plan of study without being penalized. The 30-Hour Rule, will hinder such a student’s enrollment in courses that may otherwise provide insight into pursuing interests that could potentially lead to a more fulfilling career path.

The ultimate goal for Diepenbrock, whose own education was funded independently, is to have a wide range of student experiences that can be presented to the legislators who are responsible for the restrictions, conditions and intrastate tracking of the higher education process. Diepenbrock, as a state employee is restricted from sending the stories to legislators, but as they could be sent by anyone else, it is her wish that students will get involved and send them on their own behalf.

“Our representatives need to know about these stories because I think they do care,” Diepenbrock said. “They just need to know about who we are and where we come from and how we struggle to pay for this – how we struggle to be successful and what it means to us.”

The “Stories to Share” pamphlet is available at the Writing Center and on the UHCL Web site. All students are encouraged to share their own experiences that will, or would have been, affected by the changes coming in the fall. Students should e-mail their completed profiles, with no more 1000 words, as a Word document to writingcenter@uhcl.edu.

The effects of the changes to higher education remain to be seen. Diepenbrock suggests, however, that with active participation from the unique student bodies that contribute to and take part in Texas colleges, the diverse range of those tales can be told to the people who make decisions regarding how degrees are earned in Texas.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SYMPOSIUM



Stanley White III: The Signal

Immigration attorney Gordon Quan gives a lecture on immigration status.

Stanley White III
The Signal Staff

The second International Student Symposium was held March 14 in the Bayou Building. The ISS was created to lend a helping hand to international students.

Immigrating to another country is often confusing and the symposium gave international students a chance to receive advice from immigration attorneys and potential employers.

Imee Liong, human resources manager for General Electric, gave the international students a lecture on how to write resumes, act during an interview and research companies.

“She showed me how to look for a job and how to market myself to the employer,” said Tien Ho, a management information system student.

Liong is an alumna of University of Houston-Clear Lake and she started the symposium on our campus one year ago. The number of students in attendance has doubled since last year.

Employees from General Electric, DiCentral, NovoLink, StevensFKM and Tietronix were present to give the students some insight on what companies look for in potential employees.

“[The lecture] was very nice, it helped me prepare for interviews,” said Anjani Vadlamani, a computer engineering student.

The students were treated to a free lunch before the final lecture of the symposium titled “Dealing

with Legal Issues for Employment.” The lecture was hosted by Gordon Quan and Jose Perez Jr. who are both immigration attorneys for Quan, Burdette & Perez, P.C.

“Our goal is to educate the students because everything changes so fast,” Quan and Perez agreed.

Quan and Perez held an in-depth discussion on how important it is to maintain F-1 visa status, how to sign up for Optional Practical Training, what happens when you do not maintain F-1 status and how to seek reinstatement.

“Always maintain F-1 status because the consequences are severe, meaning it could result in deportation charges being brought against you,” Perez said. “The foreign student adviser is your friend, but if you don’t maintain status they have to purge you out of the system.”

The students seemed to respond well because they were also involved with asking Quan and Perez many questions.

“I got more information about status,” said Maggie Pham, a finance student, “whatever I want to know, I know I can get it here.”

“I think this is a very good program here at UHCL and I commend the school for doing this,” Quan said.

If you would like to know more about the International Student Symposium, please contact Chuck Crocker, associate director for career services, at 281-283-2590.

FeatherFest swoops onto Galveston Island

Aubrey Harbin
The Signal Staff

Galveston Island welcomes FeatherFest 2008, the sixth annual birding festival focused on raising awareness of nature tourism and educating people of all ages about the natural resources and wildlife habitats that exist on Galveston Island.

April 3-6 birding enthusiasts will flock to Galveston for workshops, seminars, field trips and social receptions led by professional authors, photographers, nature columnists and other nature experts.

“It’s a different experience from a typical birding festival that one might attend in other small communities,” said Renee Adame, director of special projects for G-1 Corporation. “We try to let participants in FeatherFest enjoy nature, history and art while they visit Galveston.”

Indoor seminars and workshops will be hosted at Old Galveston Square building located at 23rd and Strand streets. Events will educate participants not only about birds, but also about landscaping, photography and nature writing, as well as other animals such as bats, turtles and butterflies.

Boats, buses and kayaks will provide transportation for field trips to numerous locations on the island, such as Pelican Island, East End Lagoon Preserve and High Island. These excursions allow bird watchers to observe birds in their natural habitat.

“[Local people from the Audubon Society] took me out to East Beach and put a pair of binoculars in my hand, which I really didn’t know how to use that well, but it was amazing to me,” Adame said. “Once they started pointing out all the different types of birds, I kind of got hooked.”

Jonathan Wood, “The American Birdman,” and his 15-20 raptors of all sizes including eagles, hawks, falcons and owls, will light on Saengerfest Park located at 23rd and Strand streets. The Raptor Project affords spectators up-close and personal experiences with these majestic birds. Exhibitions for FeatherFest are free and show times are 10 a.m., noon and 3 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 10 a.m. and noon on Sunday.

“We feature the historical ambiance of Galveston by holding some of the receptions in our Victorian buildings,” Adame said.

Thursday night’s opening reception for guests and volunteers will be at the Tremont House Rooftop. Friday night’s

festivities include a reception and silent auction with Kenn Kaufman, author of “Birds of North America” and other birding field guides, as the dinner speaker. A closing reception and social encompassing “An Evening of Art and Music” is on Saturday.

“The Golden Age of Ornithology and Printmaking” is on display at the Galveston County Historical Museum through May 30 as a part of FeatherFest. The exhibit features printmaking from the 18th and 19th centuries. Notable works include depictions of birds by Mark Catesby, Alexander Wilson and John James Audubon, reproduced by famous printers Robert Havell and W. H. Lizars, as well as original engravings from the 18th century, limited prints of the original Havell-engraved Audubon works, and limited reproductions of Audubon’s original full-size paintings. A collection of eggs and nests on loan from the Mayborn Museum Complex at Baylor University is also on exhibit.

FeatherFest is sponsored by the Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council, a nonprofit organization composed of local naturalists and enthusiasts dedicated to promoting Galveston’s tourism industry.

“A very minimal amount of experience with FeatherFest can do a great deal in changing your whole attitude about life around you and nature, and birds, and other kinds of things that make life worthwhile,” said Herb Price, vice president of GINTC.

“There is something for everyone at FeatherFest,” Adame said. “Some attractions appeal to avid birders, such as the Atwater Prairie Chicken, a rare bird sought out by serious birders to add to their life list; but it is also a great event for novice birders because it is easy to see a lot of birds in one day. Teaching young children to be respectful of nature and to protect the island is a goal of FeatherFest, especially since young children are the future of the community.”

“It changed the way I live my life here on the island because it brought home to me the importance of preserving the natural habitats of the island,” Price said. “It brought home to me the things we can do as residents and people who live in the area to encourage the migration of birds through here.”

For more information and a complete schedule of events, visit the FeatherFest Web site at www.galvestonfeatherfest.com or call 409-392-0841.



Above: A Little Blue Heron, one of the many birds FeatherFest participants can expect to spot around Galveston.



Left: Spectators experience an up-close encounter with one of Jonathan Wood’s raptors. Wood’s Raptor project will be located at Saengerfest Park at this year’s FeatherFest.

Recreational sports provide a kickin’ good time on campus

Tosha Griffin
The Signal Staff

While the University of Houston-Clear Lake does not have sports programs, there are ways to get involved in sports on campus. Recreational sports can be an outlet for students and a way to network and meet other students.

Jessica Williams, an undergraduate communication major and newly elected Student Government Association vice president of outreach and communication, began her own organization to accomplish just that.

While attending the student life biannual leadership retreat, she taught some of the international students how to play kickball. After seeing how much everyone learned and enjoyed it, she decided to develop a sports organization to expand on the experience. The UHCL Sports Association became official March 26 and currently has 12 officers and more than 30 members.

The organization will host one sporting event each month where they teach the rules to everyone and then get together to play that sport for one day. Some of the sports they plan on hosting include: kickball, dodgeball, cricket, softball, tennis, basketball and soccer. The first event will, hopefully, begin in April, but Williams says for sure in May.

Williams hopes that the UHCL Sports Association will give students a “different experience at school and provide

a chance to network with other students.” She recalls how miserable she was at UHCL before she became involved in student organizations. Now she enjoys school and feels that her organization can “build confidence, self esteem and team-building skills” in other students just as other student groups did for her.

The focus of her organization is to reach out to international students and all UHCL commuter students who have not found a way to get involved. Her goal is to “boost morale” in the student body and “get them to enjoy their time at school.”

To be involved in the UHCL Sports Association you do not have to be a student, but you must be at least 18 years old. The membership fee is \$5 per semester or \$10 for the year. To be added to the mailing list, you can e-mail Williams at jwilliams191@mac.com.

The Rugby Club is another recreational sport option open to all students and supporters. Practice is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. near the tennis courts behind the Delta Building. Games are usually played on Saturdays at a field in Pasadena.

All skill levels are welcome and there are two divisions to enter: the “A” side, which is where the more serious and experienced players play; and the “B” side, which is for those still learning and perfecting their game.

The “A” side is limited to 15 starters and five back-ups. The “B” side has many positions available.

William Chastain, vice president of the Rugby Club, joined the club six years ago as a beginner. He says that they “work with all people in all skill levels” and are always looking for more players and support.

Speaking of all levels, the Indian Student Association’s cricket team is open to anyone who wishes to participate. This year will be their 8th annual cricket tournament. It is scheduled for June 29 - July 29 and will be held at the Delta Building parking lot. Times are still to be announced. In the past, the tournament has generated as many as 15 teams and 150 players.

“UHCL has never had an athletic program,” said David Rachita, assistant dean of student life. “There were intramural sports in the 1990s, but the interest declined and the university began to refocus on wellness programs.”

Michelle Kaltenbach, coordinator of student life – student organizations and special events, points out that the decline was due, in part, because this is a commuter campus and many students either work during the day or leave campus immediately after their classes.

Change is on the way, however. Not only can students look forward to the new UHCL Sports Association, but the school is also looking to hire a fitness coordinator who will help the school create and oversee recreational sports.

For more information on how to get involved, visit the Office of Student Life at room SSCB 1.204.

Spring into a healthy lifestyle for summer

It's that time again. Time to start pulling out those shorts and tank tops from the back of the closet. Spring is the right time to start working out and eating healthy to look great for summer.

Working out and eating healthy should not be stressful; it should be a time to



Krystal Mongan
The Signal Staff

boost self-confidence and create a positive outlook on life. When people look great, they feel great.

Although it is easier said than done, living a healthy

lifestyle does not have to be a chore.

Everyone knows what he or she can do in order to live a healthy lifestyle: take the stairs instead of the elevator, eat at least five servings of fruits and vegetables a day, and drink eight glasses of water per day.

Although this information has been told over and over, it still feels as if everyone has to go out on a limb every day to be healthy.

Keep in mind that everything can be done in moderation.

Never skip meals to lose weight. Food is what gives people energy. Without energy, people are not as productive as they could be during the day.

It's OK to snack, just replace junk food with healthier snacks such as a bowl of grapes or a cup of yogurt.

Although a healthy diet is important to maintain, there should be some kind of physical activity included each week.

A good way to ease into a healthy workout routine is to find something enjoyable. Dancing, martial arts, running, swimming and basketball are some examples people may find pleasing.

Golf can even be enjoyed without a caddy and a golf cart.

People should not start their routines with the mindset that they have to lose 50 pounds in a month. They need to pace themselves.

Try to make realistic goals each week to build up to the main objective in order for it to last long term.

It is also important to know muscle weighs more than fat. When people work out, they may expect to lose a few pounds, but the scale says they gained weight. Talk about a self-esteem crusher.

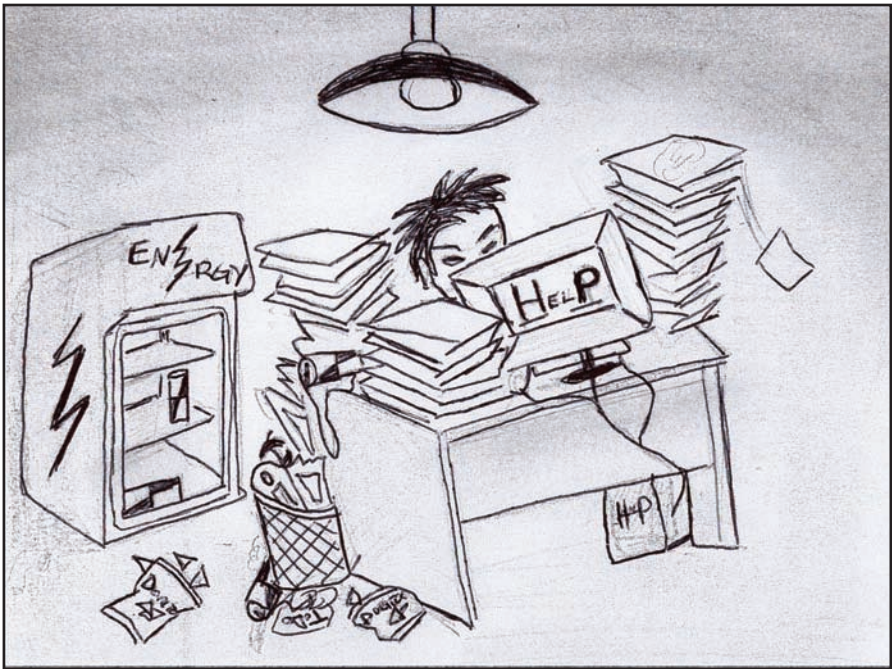
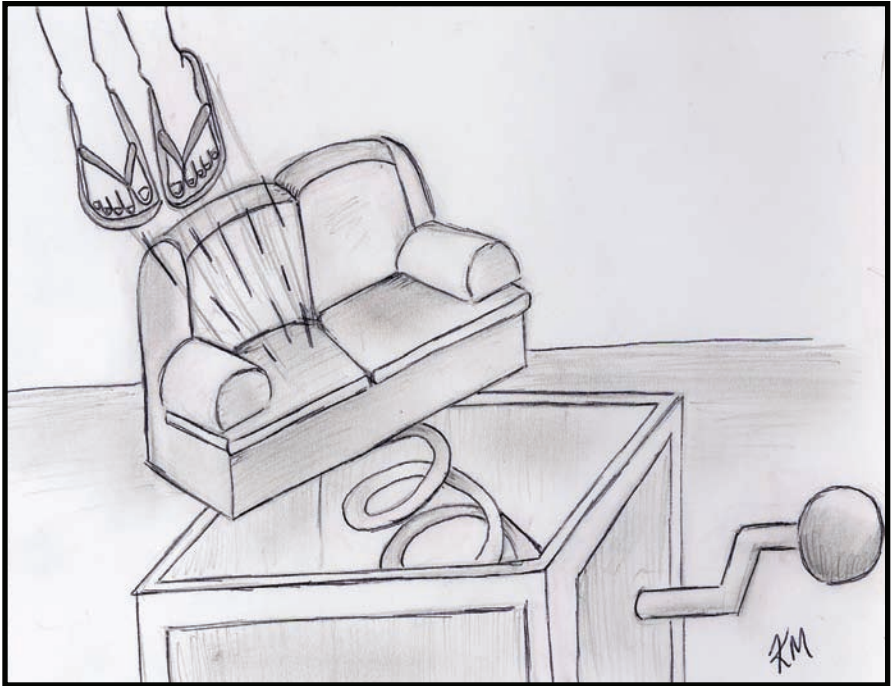
One way to see if the fat is being burned off is by measuring arm, stomach, waist and thigh circumferences. Keep a list handy and write down the number of inches each month and compare the inches lost.

When working out, it is a good idea to have a workout buddy with similar goals and interests. If nothing else, it is always fun to gossip and lose weight at the same time.

Doing what you love is the key to losing weight successfully. When someone is not interested in what he or she is doing, chances are that person will give up and never look back.

At first it is difficult to start a new routine, but the more people keep up with their routines, the easier it gets.

Krystal Mongan:The Signal



Jorge De La Garza:The Signal

Breaking the foundation of procrastination

Sitting in front of my computer with an energy drink in hand, I begin to panic. With only two hours left until my research paper is due, I've only typed my introduction paragraph. As I take the last gulp of my energy drink, I frantically search through the stacks of paper on my desk for the research paper requirements. Aha, there is hope! I find them under the empty bag of Doritos and bean dip.

I look up at the clock and notice 20 minutes have gone by. (It is amazing how time flies when you need it the most.)

After 70 minutes of rushing to insert random quotes and meaningless thoughts, I take a word count and, at last, I think, "Yes! I've met the 2,500 word requirement."

With only 30 minutes left, I try to print and realize that I am out of ink! I'm sure that will be a valid excuse, so I save my document, pull out my jump drive and speed over to the university to print my paper.

Five minutes before class, I arrive at the library only to find that all of the computers are being used so, impatiently, I wait my turn.

Finally, I plug in my jump drive to print out my research paper. Oh no – I suddenly realize that I only saved the paper to the "My Documents" folder on my computer at home. Once again, I go to class empty handed and have to face the fact I should never wait until the last minute to complete

an assignment.

With today's technology you would think that PDAs, cell phones and laptops would keep me organized and on track. Not so. I must find a way to break the cycle of procrastination and disorganization.

Disorganization is my biggest problem. The main reason I procrastinate on writing a research paper is because I spend

so much time researching it that when it is time to begin the writing process, I get overwhelmed by information overload. The proof of this is in the mounds of papers stacked and scattered all over my desk, usually spilling out onto the floor or nearby table/counter tops.

When I first enrolled at UHCL, I was an education major. While studying to be a teacher, each class required us to turn in a neatly organized binder with dividers and all. Although I thought it was a waste of time, for the first time I had passed the majority of my classes with A's.

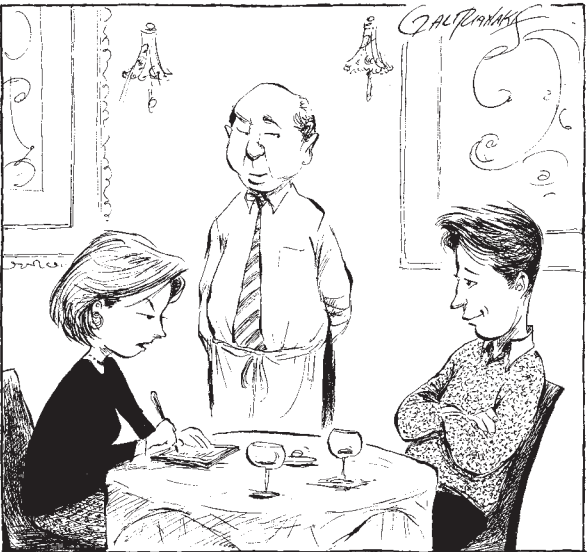
I got out of this habit when I switched majors and the binder method was no longer required. But, I have learned my lesson. I realize that, required or not, I need the discipline. So I'm going back to it.

Murphy's Law will always exist; however, by staying organized and allowing room for error, I will be able to triumph no matter what goes wrong. Surprisingly, by being organized, fewer things seem to go wrong.

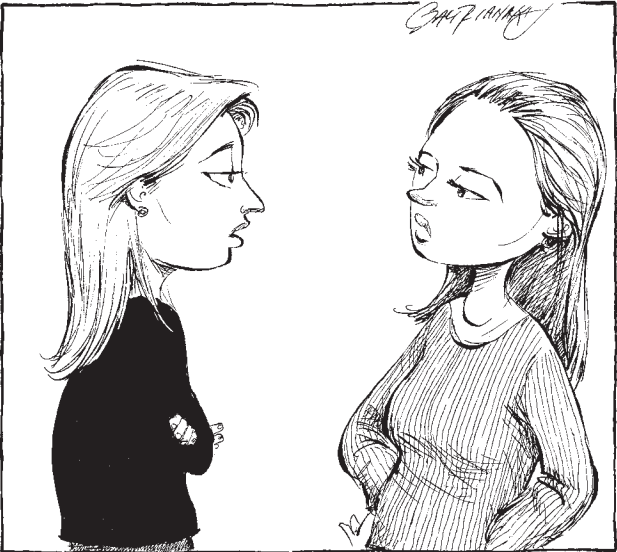


Jorge De La Garza
The Signal Staff

Tell Me About it



I THOUGHT "THE FAIR SEX" MEANT WE WERE PRETTIER.



WELL IF YOU REALLY CARED ABOUT ME, I WOULDN'T NEED TO BE SELF-ABSORBED.



GREAT NEWS! I FOUND A WAY FOR YOU TO COMPROMISE THAT DOESN'T INCONVENIENCE ME.

by Nick Galifianakis