

The low-down on TSA airport security pat-down

Roman Rama III
The Signal

Two new bills have recently been introduced in Texas, prohibiting some of the Transportation Security Administration's security procedures.

House bill 1938 will make it illegal for an airport operator to have body imaging scanner equipment, and HB 1937 will criminalize agents who search another person without probable cause, or search by touching the anus, sexual organ, or breast of another person, including offensive touching through clothing, without probable cause.

State Rep. David Simpson, R-Longview, wrote these two bills claiming TSA's security procedures are a violation of the U.S. Constitution's 4th Amendment and Section 9 of the Texas Bill of Rights.

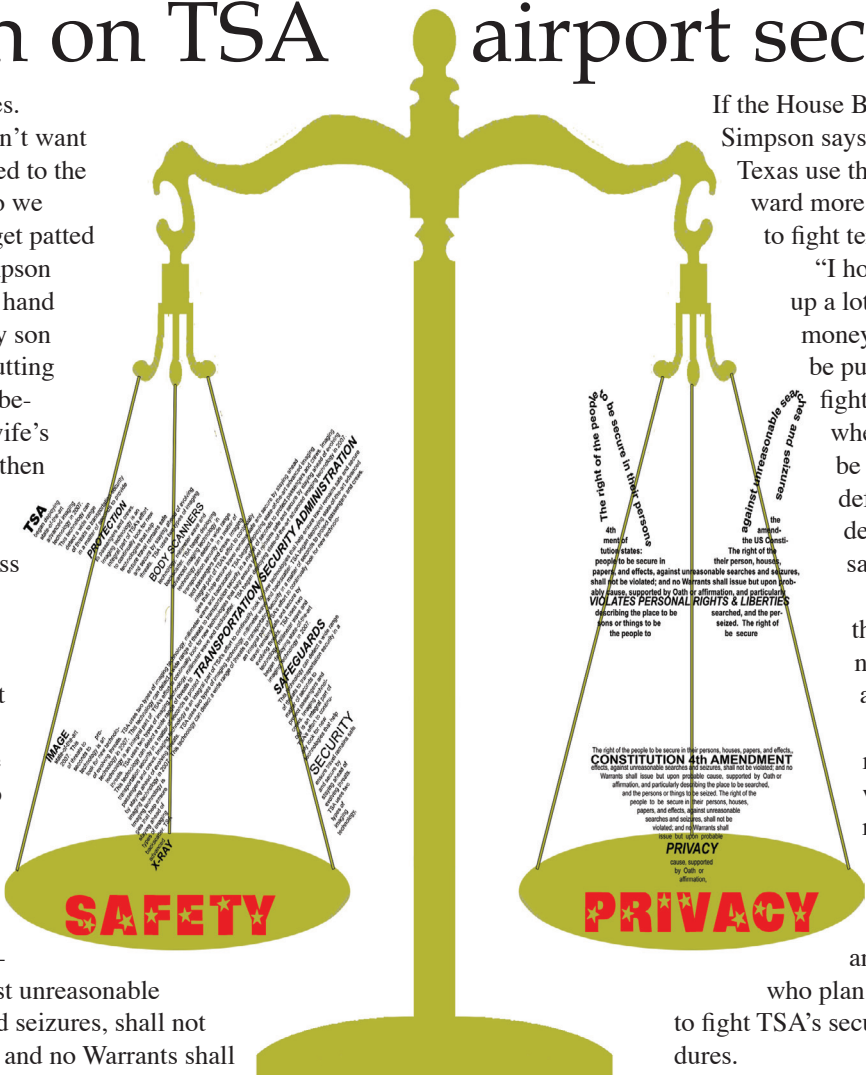
"The fourth amendment and Section 9 of the Texas Bill of Rights are there for a purpose," Simpson stated. "Traveling is not a criminal act."

Simpson and his family has had multiple encounters with TSA's security and views existing security measures as a violation of

civil liberties.

"We didn't want to be exposed to the radiation, so we decided to get patted down," Simpson said. "They hand searched my son and wife, putting their hands between my wife's breasts and then down my son's pants in the process of searching."

The 4th Amendment states that people have the right "to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the



Tonya Torres: The Signal persons or things being seized." Section 9 in the Texas Constitution supports the 4th Amendment.

If the House Bill passes, Simpson says he wants to see Texas use that money toward more effective ways to fight terrorism.

"I hope it will free up a lot of tax payer money that could be put to good use fighting terrorists where they should be fought and defend our borders," Simpson said.

Simpson says that Texas is not in this fight alone.

He has had many meetings with other state representatives from New Jersey, New Hampshire and Pennsylvania who plan on teaming up to fight TSA's security procedures.

Not everyone feels the same as Simpson. Some would rather see the search procedures continue and find in them a sense of

security.

"As a flight attendant, I'm all for my safety," said Sherlina Harmon, flight attendant for Continental Airlines. "I think people should just comply. When you comply and have nothing to hide, I don't think you will have any problems."

Harmon said that even as a flight attendant, she and her staff are still forced to go through the body scanners and do so without a problem.

Harmon views the passage of HB 1938 and HB 1937 as a major concern to airline staff who have to fly everyday and worry about their safety.

"I think that America is such a free 'rights of this and rights of that' that they're arming the terrorist and taking our weapons away," Harmon said. "Let the people do their job so that they can secure the airplane."

This issue is not only a concern to airline staff; travelers have mixed feelings about body scanners that have the capability to see through clothing.

"It felt overly invasive," said Karen Ham, a Houston native

TSA: continued on page 6



David Miller: The Signal

Family planning clinics may lose federal funding

Ashley Smith
The Signal

A house resolution that would cut federal funding to Planned Parenthood, introduced by Indiana Representative Mike Pence, is headed to the Senate after the House passed it with a 240-185 vote last month.

H.R. 217, known as the Pence amendment and introduced in

January, would prohibit any institution that offers abortion services, such as Planned Parenthood, from receiving any federal funding. The bill has stayed along party lines with the majority of representatives voting for it being republican, while the majority of those voting against it being democrat.

If the bill passes, Planned

Parenthood could lose \$363 million in federal grants, which equates to 33 percent of their revenue. Planned Parenthood's website states that six in 10 women who access care from a women's health center like Planned Parenthood consider it to be their main source of health care. Those who oppose the bill say that Planned Parenthood plays

a critical role in providing health care to low-income women.

"If the Pence amendment is passed, it will come at a high cost of basic preventive health care for the women of Texas who have relied on Planned Parenthood for nearly 75 years," said Laura Leon, marketing specialist at Planned

Funding: continued on page 6

Mayor Parker 'Pushing Progress'

Roberta Cowan
The Signal

Houston's 61st mayor, Annise Parker, returned to the UHCL campus Wednesday, March 23, as the featured speaker for the Intercultural and International Student Services' Women's History Month "Pushing Progress" event.

In his introduction of Parker, UHCL President William Staples pointed out that the mayor is the second of only two female mayors of Houston and is the "only person in Houston's history to be a city council person, the comptroller of the city and now, obviously, the mayor." As part of

her opening comments, Parker elaborated on Staples' comment.

"I am proud to be only the second woman mayor in Houston's history," Parker said. "Interestingly enough, of the major American cities, the cities over a million in population, there's only been 10 of us; two in Houston. When you think about it, there has never been a woman mayor of New York, there has never been a woman mayor of L.A.; I think there has been one in Chicago way back."

In keeping with the event theme "Pushing Progress" Parker said, "In both mayoral positions and in positions for governor, the

CEO-type positions, there is definitely still something of a 'glass ceiling' and it is still significant when a woman achieves those positions."

A native Houstonian, Parker was inspired by her mother and her grandmother, both of whom worked outside of the home in a time where that was not common practice.

"They both had very high expectations of me to succeed," Parker said.

She was also influence by her father and grandfather, who she said, "taught me to compete."

Progress: continued on page 6



Roberta Cowan: The Signal

Houston Mayor Annise Parker spoke to UHCL students, faculty and community members during UHCL Women's History Month celebration March 23.

THE SIGNAL

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COMMENTARY

Pornography, pat-downs & protection

Matt Candelaria

The Signal

The Transportation Security Administration scanners have been under fire from the public for some time. Not only can the device take x-ray photos of those who go through, but it can also save and send the images.

Some view the images as being nearly pornographic. How far does security need to go before crossing the line? If they choose to opt out of being virtually undressed, they are taken aside and patted down. This procedure is as intrusive, if not more so, than the scanner. It includes being patted down in the breast and genital region.

The 4th amendment guards Americans against unreasonable searches and seizures. Is the scanner and pat-down unreasonable, or could we reason that this is being done out of safety for American citizens?

The scanner, comprised of more advanced technology than one's laptop, should be more than capable of saving images. Although TSA openly claimed that the scanner is incapable of saving any image. CNN reported that the scanner is not only capable of saving an image, but it also has the ability to send images. With that in mind, what would stop those who have access

to the machine from taking your naked body and posting it on the Internet?

Rep. David Simpson (R-Longview) has introduced Two House Bills (HB 1937 and HB 1938) that would make both security measures illegal in the state of Texas.

Some Americans do not object to being patted down or scanned. They find it a necessary process to save lives and protect the public. Others feel extremely violated and that their civil liberties have been invaded; they believe there is a better way to go about protecting the public.

After 9/11 there was an American flag sticker on nearly every vehicle. Patriotism was at an all-time high, and that's how Americans wanted security to be. Americans were scared to fly. They feared there might be another hijacking. Does the fact that there hasn't been another U.S. plane hijacked mean that the security measures are no longer necessary – or that they are working?

How would the public react if the scanners and pat-downs were done away with, and someone made it onboard the plane with a weapon and caused harm? What if you voted to have the security measures done away with and someone in your family was

WANTNEEDO

by Kalan Lyra



murdered while on vacation?

It should not be hard to take a stance on a subject such as this, especially if you think back to the terrifying days following 9/11. Although we do have to give up a moment of privacy, it could allow a person to live out the rest of his or her life. It could allow sons and daughters to come home to their

families.

Freedom is not free. I am willing to be seen naked or intrusively patted down if it will save the life of one person. Turn your focus on something that is harming America, not something that is trying to protect it. Love your freedom, but be willing to pay the price that comes with it.

COLUMN: There's light at the end of the tunnel

Jennifer Cox

The Signal

I have seen my world crumble before my eyes on more than one occasion; in the past five years I have lost my mom, my unborn baby and my husband.



My mom's death was expected because she was sick with cirrhosis of the liver due to diabetes. The losses of my unborn baby and my husband were totally unexpected. No matter if a loss is expected or unexpected, the experience is heartbreaking.

My mom became extremely ill in November 2005 before passing

away in November 2006. That was one of the hardest days of my life.

When my mom passed, I started drinking and dropped out of college; however, I did learn my lesson the hard way. I started counseling and went back to college because before my mom passed, I told her that I would "walk across the stage one more time."

A few months later, I met my husband; we had our first child in June 2008 and were trying to have a second one. Three months into the pregnancy, I went to the hospital to find out we had lost the baby. Despite the traumatic loss, I was back in school, working and had a child to raise, so I couldn't afford to fall apart. I had responsibilities to help get me

through the rough time; keeping busy really does help.

In June 2009, as we were about to celebrate our son's first birthday, I received a phone call that changed my life forever. My neighbor called to inform me that my husband had been in a truck accident and died at the scene.

For a moment I was in shock and speechless. A few seconds later, I lost it. I was beyond angry. I was inconsolable and furious because our son would have to grow up without his dad.

This time I had to learn to channel all these feelings of loss more responsibly. I went back to counseling to help deal with the many emotions that I felt at one time.

When it seems like your world

is closing in on you, it's important to seek help. It took professional counseling and the support of family and friends to help me get through my losses.

At UHCL, students can seek help from counseling services, psychological services and health services.

Just know that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. I am living proof of this. I am in my last semester of college and my son makes every day a pleasure to wake up to. Without the help of family, friends and counseling, there is no way I would have gotten to where I am today.

Editor's Note: Links to the services listed above can be found embedded in this article online at www.uhclthesignal.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I sometimes wonder where our tuition money goes. I mean I know they give us the fee statement that shows at least 130 different charges, but where does our money really go? This is a school of higher education and you would think some of our tuition money would go to amenities and the upkeep of the facilities. Example, the local high schools and junior colleges have child care facilities on site for their students but we don't. "We are a school of higher education for everyone, especially those that don't have children. If you have children, good luck with that childcare thing." Think about it...the local high schools and junior colleges have child care and we don't. And has anyone really looked

at our facilities here? Some of the water fountains in the Bayou Building have no water pressure. You would think maybe our tuition money would go to hiring a plumber to fix that? Maybe having broken water fountains is a way to generate more revenue because of the upcoming budget cuts? "Hey, let's cut off the water fountains so students have to buy their own water, we could make a couple of bucks!" Or maybe just cutting back on the general upkeep of the facility is another way to reduce cost.

Riddle: what is broken on the third floor but is right twice a day? Answer: the clock in front of room 3405. For the last 7 months the clock in front of room 3405 has been broken. 7 months ago

is when I first noticed it, so who knows how long it has really been sitting there broken. At first I told every professor and worker I could find that the clock was broken. Result: nothing. Finally, I just stopped telling anyone and kept it to myself. I don't know about you, but I am constantly looking at the time everywhere I go. So I thought, "Surely others must walk by that clock everyday and notice it is broken?" Apparently not (or no one really cares) because every day, every hour, every minute it shows 5:55. "Get an education, change the world!" we are told, but no one takes the time or effort to fix a broken clock or change a battery? There it is has sat for the last 7 months, my broken clock. Yes; "my broken

clock", because now I have a special bond with it. Instead of coming to school, dropping off my children at the campus childcare and looking forward to the convenience of picking them after class; I look forward to going to the third floor and looking at my broken clock. We have our own little secret, only we know it is broken, because if anyone else knew, surely it would be fixed by now. Hey, just like childcare! Do me a favor, don't change the batteries in my broken clock that you don't notice, change the childcare you don't see. I like it 5:55 all the time.

Paul Garcia,
general psychology
graduate student

Solero Flamenco

Friday, April 1, 2011
8 pm ~ Bayou Theater



Mercury Baroque Ensemble Mozart's Requiem



Friday, May 13, 2011 ~ 8 pm ~ Bayou Theater

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Contact Allison Scahill for more information
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Any person needing an accommodation for a disability in order to participate in this program should contact Allison Scahill in the Student Life Office at Scahill@uhcl.edu or ext. 2560 at least one week prior to the event to arrange for the accommodation.

Student Government Association

Congratulations

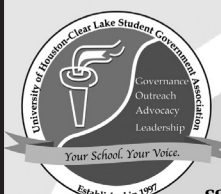
to the newly elected
Executive Council
2011-2012



From right to left: Henry Hodde, President; Sarah Hopson, VP Committee Coordinator; Wardah Ajaz, VP Outreach and Communication; Ashley Harral, VP Administration.

The new executive council members will be sworn in at the
Student Leadership Banquet on April 29, 2011.

Attend the Student Government Association
meetings every Tuesday at 11:30 am in the
SSCB Lecture Hall 1.100.03.



For Details Contact The SGA Executive Council:

Rebecca Smith – President
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ANDROGYNY IS KING

Kristin Manrique

The Signal

The Gendermyn, a drag king troupe who is redefining gender norms and advocating for social tolerance, provided perspective with a workshop on gender as performance March 8 for an audience inside UHCL's Forest Room.

Charlotte Haney, a visiting lecturer in anthropology, brought the drag show to the UHCL campus to introduce, through entertainment, the theory that gender is not a biological construct, but a cultural construct.

Through performance art, the troupe performed two numbers that incorporated a universal, socio-political message of feminism, gender and empowerment.

"The Rosie the Riveter" routine provided commentary on WWII feminist ideology that was prevalent at that point in history and remains relevant today. Haney believes The Gendermyn's use of the feminist icon to demonstrate the progression of gender identity in American society parallels the myriad forms and variations of gender in modern society.

"You get this nice sense of 'wow, this is very complicated, more than I imagined,'" Haney said. "Anthropologists have this

sense of how flexible gender can be. The performance is fun for me, because it really shows that to students."

A portion of the workshop featured gender-bending techniques such as binding, which involves either duct taping or

hide," said Robin Mack, who goes by the stage name Clint Torres. "There is an older generation that is very much welcoming and supportive."

For The Gendermyn, breaking stereotypes and boundaries through gender-bending, artistic

Gendermyn's frank deconstruction and modernization of gender was unanimously positive.

"I thought The Gendermyn were phenomenal and brave; it is always inspiring for me to see fellow young people being amazing activists," emphasized Morgan Hopkins, a UHCL student pursuing her master's degree in general psychology concurrently with a certificate in women's studies. "The Gendermyn's type of youth education on the necessity of gender liberation is the future for the fourth wave of feminist movement. It allows a more intersectional approach to feminism that has been lacking previously in regards to other identities, i.e., race, class and sexual orientation. I think it is imperative to include gender identity as a fluid category rather than binary in our understanding of feminism."

The roughly five-year-old, Houston-based performance troupe's mission to educate, impart and fight for individuality through their performance art has led to other creative endeavors devoted to the cause.

By day, the troupe members pursue affiliated projects including The Gender Book, The Koomah Show and Ultraviolet Productions.



Koomah, Clint Torres, Pedro and Rife L. Cox of "The Gendermyn" show UHCL their true masculinity.

wearing a specially made vest to conceal breasts. Additionally, the lesson included proper beard application and the final physical transformative touch: packing below the belt.

Motivating and empowering all individuals is a primary goal of The Gendermyn's performances and workshops.

"I would like to educate, especially the youth, on gender-variant ways, that they can be who they want to be without getting hurt; they don't have to

self-expression is a way to not only communicate to others, but a process that allows every performer to develop their signature style as well as his or her gender identity.

"Performance offered something that I wasn't really getting," said co-founder Jay Mays, aka Pedro Asty. "Being onstage grows you and grows my experience of my gender and how that's an evolving and personal process is really, really fun."

Audience reception to The



Roberta Cowan: The Signal

The Gendermyn's dedication to equality and acceptance for all people may come in alternative packaging, but the message is a universal one.

"Our vision is that health care professionals, university faculty and administrators, lawmakers, consular corps, families and faith communities respect the inherent dignity and worth of all humans by seeing the whole human," Mays said. "And our vision just happens to include pasties."

Information regarding the Gendermyn's upcoming performances and links to associated projects can be located at www.houstongendermyn.com.



Carissa Puls: The Signal
Performers Pedro and Rife L. Cox take the spotlight.

Review

'MARS' LACKS DEPTH, EMOTION:



All "Mars Needs Moms" photos courtesy of Disney

Ashley Smith The Signal

Recently, filmmakers have abused 3D like a child who discovers a new toy and refuses to play

with anything else. Either filming movies in 3D that shouldn't be, "Drive Angry," or converting movies into 3D that don't need to be, "Clash of the Titans," have ended up catastrophes.

Disney's newest 3D venture, "Mars Needs Moms," is a shining example of 3D done right. Using the same motion-capture animation as "Avatar" and "Polar Express," "Mars Needs Moms" has a more life-like and epic feel that allows audiences to become part of the experience.

Sadly, the special effects are the shining point of this film. "Mars Needs Moms" tells the story of Milo, played by Seth Green and voiced by Seth Robert Dusky, who can't seem to understand why



his mom constantly berates everything he does.

When aliens from

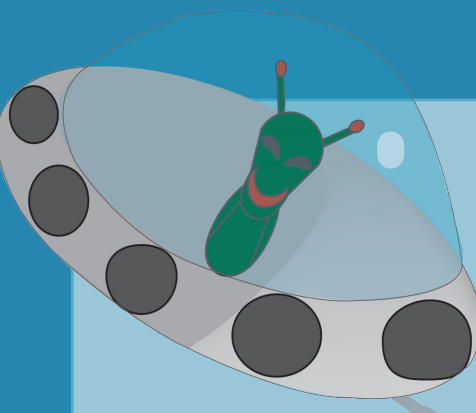
Mars kidnap Milo's mom, played and voiced by Joan Cusack, he goes to the ends of the earth and beyond to get her back.

To film the movie, actors had to wear body suits filled with sensors, including on their faces, and 124 cameras surrounded the sound stage capturing everything down to the smallest movement. This type of filming creates a life-like version of the actors. Think Gollum from "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy.

After trying to get over the awkwardness of seeing a miniature version of Seth Green with the voice of a child, I find the story lacks the one thing that cartoons of late have been able to offer beautifully: emotion.

The potential is there; the society on Mars is very dystopian with constant marching and propaganda being shown on giant

Gamers Guild hosts fantasy horror convention



Roberta Cowan: The Signal

Natalie Epperley The Signal

Roaring chainsaws, busting ghosts and mingling with stormtroopers were all part of ConJour 2011 held at UHCL March 11-13.

For the third consecutive year, Gamers Guild hosted the event where fans of fantasy, horror and sci-fi convene to discuss films and books within those genres.

Game designers and developers brought in their own equip-



Norma Villarreal: The Signal

Guest of honor Jody Lynn Nye poses with storm trooper TB8171 at Conjour 2011.

ment to show convention attendees their latest products.

Full costumes are always encouraged, as well as realistic-looking weaponry, which made it a unique event. Several of the attendees said they enjoyed being a part of the event because it's fun to dress up in a unique way and to get together with other people who share an interest in science fiction and horror.

Admission for the weekend was \$15 per person for UHCL students and faculty, \$20 per person for the general public, and children under 10 were admitted free.

"Normally this event is held in January, but this year it was held in March," said Guild Master James Kent, president of Gamers Guild and a computer information systems major. "Usually the attendees consist of fan communities as well as close friends and family."

Authors and even scientists from NASA took part in ConJour. Louisa Riofrio, Conjour attendee, is a physics major working on her Ph.D. and president of the physics club. She wore a Star Trek outfit and said she enjoyed taking part in this event.

Riofrio is employed at NASA and gave a speech on the theories of the speed of light. She also worked with actual moon samples that hadn't been touched in 39 years.

Beverly Hale is a sci-fi writer who has written many stories. Her latest short story "Pest Control" was featured in the anthology, "To Houston: We've Got Bubbas!" Hale also runs her own



Norma Villarreal: The Signal

Houston-area Ghost Busters attend Conjour 2011 a sci-fi, fantasy and horror convention held in the Bayou Atrium 11-13.

blog, OtherwhenOdditiesonEtsy.com.

ConJour provided guests with a wide range of games and activities.

Houstonian, Chris Smith took part in "light saber choreography" and said that this is the third year for the worldwide costuming organization Star Garrison, that is based on Star Wars. "This is where individuals can actually dress up in costumes and imitate the use of their light sabers from the movie. If Star Wars sparks your interest, Smith can be contacted through email at caands-smith@att.net.

Elle Velie, ConJour photographer and make-up artist, is a part of the ConJour Sci-Fi Horror Film group. She said that what she liked best about this event is that, "it is student run, and it is about having fun and not all about having money to run it."

Simon Nightingale, professional graphic designer and artist of the comics "Dying's Easy" and "Undeath" said this is the second year he has participated in ConJour as well as designed the website.

Founding Gamers Guild president Marion Carpenter has been involved with Gamers Guild for about 10 years and said that, "the event is all about the camaraderie and is sort of a social club," that brings many volunteers together, anyone from friends and families to film authors and scientists from NASA.

Gamers Guild meetings are open to UHCL students, faculty and community members. Meetings are held Friday evenings in the Student Services Building, room 1202.07. They usually run from 5 to 11:30 p.m. and attendees are

welcome to show up early to play games, in fact many members do.

For more information regarding ConJour, go to Conjour.net or email Guild Master James Kent at Slvdragon13@comcast.net.



Norma Villarreal: The Signal

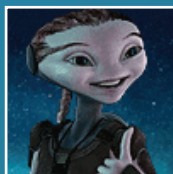
Stormtroopers and other Star Wars characters attended the convention.

Disney's latest venture less than stellar

televisions in a cold, metal environment. The subject matter is dark, with characters dealing with loss of loved ones and loss of freedoms, but the film never quite hit the heartstrings.

The biggest problem with this movie is the comic relief sidekick character Gribble, played and voiced by Dan Fogler. His character, an adult who never grew up, would have been more comfortable in a Judd Apatow movie rather than a heart-warming Disney movie.

From his first introduction he stuck out like a sore thumb. As the movie goes on, his character seems to grow and reveal more depth



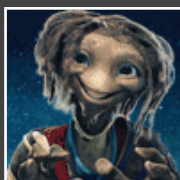
but, sadly, the more he is on screen, the more annoying he becomes.

The movie is borderline heartfelt and if his character never existed in this movie, it would be more enjoyable and emotional.

"Mars Needs Moms" has a great message about respecting and being grateful for parents and about being true to yourself, but with so many missteps, the message becomes muddled.

The ending, as is standard with Disney, is happy and happily, as the credits roll, this movie is only 90 minutes long.

"Mars Needs Moms" is currently in theaters.



Kevin Cahoon, Bay Area Houston Ballet and Theatre Company alumnus, plays the character Wingnut in "Mars Needs Moms." Cahoon is also the recipient of the BHBT Jete Society Award for 2011.

"I've never had an experience like this in my life," Cahoon said. "I did my first acting job when I was nine, so that's many years of acting and auditioning and doing jobs, and I've never had an experience that has been this huge and wonderful. To be a Disney character is just a landmark moment."

Texas colleges team up for mental health research

Eugene Bernard
The Signal

UHCL is joining forces with the University of Texas in an effort to assess the mental health of college students in a National Mental Health Survey.

The Research Consortium at the University of Texas is gathering data from different colleges around the country to get an idea of the mental health issues college students face. The Research Consortium was founded in 1990 under the headship of David Drum and Augustine Barón of University of Texas’s Counseling and Mental Health Center. Since 1990, five research endeavors have been completed.

“The focus of projects initiated by The National Research Consortium of Counseling Centers in Higher Education varies according to issues that are relevant for college students at the time of development.” said Elaine Hess, coordinator of the Research Consortium. “An exact replication of the current study may not occur again; however, in the current study we did have an interest in confirming our findings from the 2006 study, ‘The Nature of Suicidal Crises in College Students’.”

Currently, the sixth national mental health survey that UHCL is supporting, “Undergraduate and Graduate Students Coping with Stressful Experiences,” will

examine student responses and ways of coping with stressful situations.

“Our primary goal is to understand the college student experience, and we aim to use these results to help campus leaders at UHCL understand how to best address the needs of students on campus,” Hess said.

The survey was launched March 3 and runs until the end of April. When launched, 1,000 students, 500 graduates and 500 undergraduates who accepted the invitation to participate, were randomly sent the survey.

“By UHCL joining a national research study, we can get the kind of response numbers that will result in really compelling data,” says Cynthia Cook, associate director for career and counseling services. “We wouldn’t be able to get enough responses to make a statistically sound study if we did it ourselves. UHCL taking part in such a survey allows the student’s voice to be heard and a direct benefit that participating students receive is they are entered into a drawing to win gift cards.”

Currently there are approximately 80 universities involved in this initiative. This will be the first time UHCL has participated in a study hosted by UT’s Research Consortium. Its content is compiled of demographical questions such as age, sex, relationship status,

history of life experiences, as well as examples of ways people cope differently, and how the coping techniques mentioned apply to the student on a scale of 1 to 10. The survey also explores the student’s belongingness and social interaction with various organizations, whether on campus or within the student’s personal community.

“Given how variable turnaround time from study completion to publication is, estimating a publication date would be difficult,” Hess said. “Publication of this data will be advertised on several college mental health and suicide prevention channels, and UHCL’s local campus representative will be informed of the release of the primary publication.”

UHCL has currently implemented other creative ways to reach students regarding counseling. The career and counseling services visit approximately 80 or more classes per semester, encouraging students who may be experiencing mental health issues, to take advantage of their counseling services. Career Counseling Services also offers information about counseling in orientations, as well as educating students with outreach displays around campus highlighting awareness about mental health.

TSA: continued from page 1

who has experienced body scanning prior to boarding a flight to Dallas. “It’s almost silly. It is expensive, it holds up lines, and it could be used for other useful resources. There are other security sources that could be just as useful that doesn’t invade privacy as much.”

Others really don’t mind the new security procedure. They welcome it as long as it helps secure safety.

“Personally it doesn’t matter to me,” said Jay Guerrero, another Houston native who has experienced body scanning during his spring break trip to Phoenix. “I had mixed feelings. After stepping back and seeing what our country has had happen with the 9/11 tragedy, why are we complaining? So if this is just a new change to our routine, so be it.”

Guerrero said his mixed feelings at first were due to media reports about the scanners’ invasion of privacy and risks of radiation exposure.

Dr. Geoffrey S. Ibbott, Professor and chairman of radiation and Physics at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, said the radiation exposure from the scanners are minimal.

“One would not feel anything, no matter how many times one went through an airport scanner (except fatigue from holding your arms up),” Ibbott said. “You would have to go through 30,000 times

to get the same dose as you would from a chest CT scan. You would have to go through 15,000 times (40 times a day for a year) just to effectively double the dose you get from back-ground radiation each year, and you would accomplish the same thing by moving from Houston to Denver. People in Denver claim they don’t feel anything from the increased radiation they get. And seriously, there’s no evidence that they suffer any health effects.”

As a result of the controversy, there has been a new clothing brand developed called “4th Amendment Wear.” This clothing company was created by advertising professionals Matthew Ryan, 28, and Tim Geoghegan, 34.

The clothing consist of shirts, socks and undergarments for adults and children that state the 4th Amendment on the piece of clothing with metallic ink.

With the metallic ink, the 4th Amendment text can be read as the person steps through the body scanner.

Simpson said he welcomes the idea of the clothing and encourages people to look into the issue.

“I welcome anyone to bring attention to the issue,” Simpson said.

To read more about bills HB 1937 and HB 1938 or to contact Texas legislatures, please visit www.legis.state.tx.us.

Title X: continued from page 1

Parenthood Gulf Coast.

There is currently a law on the books that prohibits any federal funding to be used on abortion services. The law, known as the Hyde Amendment, was passed by Congress in 1976 as an amendment to the Title X Family Planning Program.

The Title X Family Planning program, enacted in 1970, is the only federal grant program dedicated solely to providing individuals with comprehensive family planning and related preventive health services.

The U.S. Department of Health and Services website states that the Title X program is designed to provide access to contraceptive services, supplies and information to all who want and need them.

Supporters of the new bill do not believe that the Hyde Amendment is enough.

“The law says that federal funds can’t be used directly for abortion itself, but [Planned Parenthood] still receives all this taxpayer money to use for their propaganda,” said Elizabeth

Graham, director of Texas Right to Life.

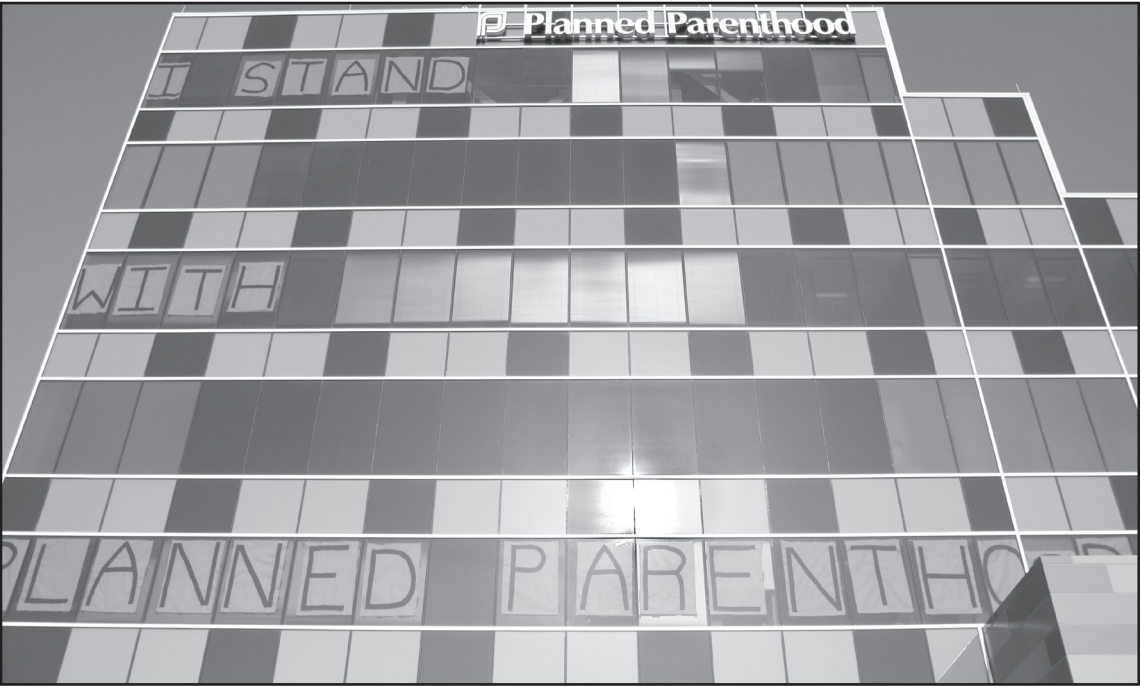
Planned Parenthood created a campaign, Stand with Planned Parenthood, to help promote the services they offer under Title X and to fight against legislation. Members of the campaign organize rallies across the country to garner support. Their website also shows how local representatives voted on the bill and how to contact them.

Those who oppose the bill feel that the Pence amendment will affect the other services that Planned Parenthood offers that are funded by Title X.

Those services include birth control, annual well woman exams, cancer screening tests, treatment for sexually transmitted infections and HIV testing and counseling.

Last year, Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast provided more than 110,400 health care visits last year.

“The efforts by Representative Pence are one of the most misguided and dangerous legislative assaults on women’s



Tonya Torres:The Signal

Windows in the Planned Parenthood building on I-45 display the organization’s anti-Pence amendment campaign slogan, “I stand with Planned Parenthood.”

health in Planned Parenthood’s 95-year history,” Leon said.

Supporters of the Pence amendment, however, feel that Planned Parenthood is capable of continuing on without federal

funding.

“Planned Parenthood is the nation’s largest provider of abortions and they bring in \$1 billion in assets and receive over \$360 million in federal funding,”

Graham said. “Any organization that has \$1 billion in assets does not need federal funding.”

The Pence amendment is currently in the Senate, where democrats have a slight majority.

Progress: continued from page 1

Of the public figures that influenced her, Parker cited her time as a volunteer with the campaign of city councilwoman Eleanor Tinsley, the first woman elected to the Houston city council.

“I am still in awe of what she managed to accomplish,” Parker said. “She probably did more to change Houston, to improve and

modernize Houston, than certainly any other council member and more than a few mayors.”

Parker answered questions from students and community members in the audience, and covered issues from the city budget and how census data results will affect Houston to the repeal of the red light cameras and how this has affected traffic patterns

and the budget.

During the question and answer portion of the event, an audience member asked a question concerning what Parker would tell young women in order to prepare for a leadership position.

“The number one message they get is: education,” Parker said. “Education is the gift you give yourself and education is

your investment in the future.”

Parker also stressed the importance of being engaged in community, saying that the skills she learned through participation with various civic clubs and organizations prepared her for her current office.

Focusing on the legacy that she wishes to leave to the city, Parker touched upon the issue

that she considers most important to Houston.

“This is my city, my hometown, and I treasure ability to change the face of Houston, and one of the ways to do that is to finally address flooding issues in the city.”

UHCL student wins inaugural award

Britney Menconi, undergraduate earth science major, has been tutoring students since childhood.



Photo courtesy of Debra Clark

Sophia Stewart
The Signal

UHCL student Britney Menconi, an undergraduate earth science major, was honored with the Outstanding Tutor of the Year Award at the South Central Writing Centers Association conference hosted at UHCL Feb. 17-19.

Shocked. That is how Menconi felt when she was announced as the winner of the award.

“She is unfailingly positive, enthusiastic and genuine in her interactions with students,” said Chloe Dipenbrock, associate professor of writing and literature and director of the Writing Center, in her nomination essay for Menconi. Dipenbrock is also the conference chair for SCWCA. “[Menconi] can sit down with someone who is frustrated, disgruntled, angry, sad, or even hopeless, and turn what could very likely be a negative encounter into a positive session for both writer and tutor,”

Dipenbrock’s essay went on to say.

Menconi felt humbled during the acceptance ceremony.

“Part of [Dipenbrock’s] essay was read at the acceptance ceremony and I almost started crying,” Menconi said. “I feel like there are so many tutors that deserve that award, but I feel so grateful that they picked me. It is really humbling.”

Debra Clark, associate professor of communication and digital media studies, who is also Menconi’s mother, was very excited to hear Menconi had won the award.

“When she won she sent a picture; she texted it to me,” Clark said.

Clark recounted that ever since Menconi was little, she has tutored.

“Since day one she’s been the teacher’s helper, or if the other students weren’t doing so great, she’s always been their helper,” Clark explained.

Menconi is the first recipient of SCWCA’s Outstanding Tutor of the Year Award.

“We are very proud of Britney and the quality work she represents,” said Valerie Balester, vice president of SCWCA.

Menconi became involved in the Writing Center at UHCL through the pursuit of one of her passions.

“I’ve always loved writing and I enjoy working with people,” Menconi said.

“I’ve done tutoring in science, but tutoring in writing had always interested me the most. I thought it would be interesting to have a science-based tutor in the Writing Center; it is nice to have a variety of different perspectives in the Writing Center.”

In addition to a plaque, Menconi was also given a monetary award.

“Britney received \$200 as part of the honor,” said Allison Holland, SCWCA treasurer. “Balester selected

the plaque that was presented to Britney at the conference luncheon.”

Menconi had no trouble spending her prize money.

“Honestly,” Menconi laughed, “it went to rent. I also bought a meal at Sonic and a journal.”

Balester stated that the prize money came from members’ dues.

Nominations are received from four states including Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma, which make up the SCWCA.



This was the first year The South Central Writing Centers Association awarded the Outstanding Tutor Award.

Brit is a God-sent (gift) to me for my writing class. Thank you

Very, very informative. Learned so much in such a short period of time. Very pleasant tutor, very knowledgeable.

Britney was absolutely Brilliant!!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27 Reminder: Tomorrow is the last day to drop/withdraw (Spring regular session)	28 Foreign language classes open for registration	29 Women’s Empowerment Workshop, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Student Services and Classroom Building	30 Women’s concerns counseling, 5:30 - 6:50 p.m., SSCB 3.3103	31 Teacher Job Fair, 12:30 p.m., Bayou Building, Atrium I & II	1 Unity’s “A Glitter Masquerade Ball Drag and Variety Show,” 7 p.m., Bayou Building, Atrium II	2 22nd Annual UHCL Chili Cook-Off, noon - 4:30 p.m., located between Liberty Park and the North Office Annex
3 Reminder: Summer/Fall 2011 class schedule will be available online this Wednesday	4 Alumni Coffee Table, 6:30 - 8 p.m., Bayou Building, Atrium I	5 IT Networking Night, 4:30 - 7 p.m., SSCB 1100 and SSCB Lobby	6 Open mic poetry reading, 6:30 p.m., Cappuccino Bono	7 Smashing Stereotypes and Forging Friendships: A Cultural Dialogue, Bayou Building, Atrium II	8 Dialogues: Mary Ross Taylor and Margarita Cabrera, 4 p.m., Bayou Building, Garden Room	9 Voices of Colour: Revolution Egypt, featuring keynote speaker Mike McMullen, 5 - 6 p.m., Bayou Building, Garden Room