



THE SIGNAL

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September 28, 2009

FedEx employee charged with theft

Courtney Brodbeck
The Signal Staff

A FedEx delivery man accused of stealing two Dell laptop computers from the University of Houston-Clear Lake and then selling the stolen merchandise across state lines was arrested Sept. 1.

The delivery man, Terrance King, 24, of Houston, was arrested after allegedly stealing two laptops with a retail value of \$4,200 and then selling one to a man in New York City through Craig's List for \$800, said Paul Willingham, UHCL police chief.

The laptops were reported missing Aug. 11 by the Health and Disability Services and the University Computing and Telecommunications Department after they had not received the computers.

After researching the complaint, the receiving dock station at UHCL found that the laptops were technically delivered; thus began the UHCL police investigation.

"We didn't immediately look at the FedEx driver," Chief Willingham said. "First and foremost we looked at the dock employees to see if the laptops



Courtesy: UHCL Police

Terrance King, 24, of Houston was arrested at UHCL campus Sept. 1 on a charge of stealing two Dell laptop computers.

were somehow misappropriated on the dock after being received because, according to the FedEx paperwork, they were signed for."

The UHCL police reported the missing laptops to Computrace, which is a program that can track the computers once someone has logged on to the Internet. The information sent to Computrace identified that one laptop had been logged on in Houston, and the other in New York City.

"We got the information that one of the residents in Houston using the device was Terrance King, who turns out to be the FedEx driver that made our

deliveries," Willingham said.

Upon further investigation, UHCL police discovered that employees on the delivery dock at UHCL weren't actually checking every item. The thefts had apparently occurred on separate days, one July 15 and the other July 17.

"Basically, the way they went unnoticed was because they were ordered in bulk and the driver would apparently pull one off once he realized the dock folks weren't really counting them," Willingham said. "It looked like a pallet of laptops, so they

Fed Ex: continued on page 6

Texas-sized flu season expected

Caroline Fry
The Signal Staff

Flu season has arrived early this year and H1N1 adds additional concern among the population regarding prevention and vaccinations.

H1N1, commonly known as swine flu, is one of many strains of the flu and currently still very active in the U.S. Vaccinations for H1N1 will be available in the U.S. the first week in October. Recipients of this vaccination were originally expected to receive two injections, but it has recently been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration that only one dose is needed unless the recipient is 9 years of age or younger; these recipients will receive two doses.

Common symptoms of the H1N1 virus are similar to the seasonal flu, but include fever, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, chills, fatigue and sometimes diarrhea or vomiting. Noted cases of this virus have ranged from mild to severe, but there have been some that have ended in death.

"Walgreens is expected to give two million vaccinations this year because of the H1N1 virus," said Robert Elfinger, Walgreens spokesperson. "Last year we only gave out one million."

The H1N1 vaccine will not protect people from contracting seasonal influenza; a separate vaccine is needed for this strain of flu. There are two types of vaccines available this year for the seasonal flu, the flu shot and the nasal-spray flu vaccine. The flu shot is traditionally given in the arm with a needle and most people ages 6 months and older are recommended to receive this vaccine. The nasal-spray flu vaccine is available for people ages 2-49 years of age; pregnant women are not recommended to use this vaccine. Vaccines will be available to the University of Houston-Clear Lake community the first week in October.

"The regular flu season vaccine has a six month protection window," said Susan Prihoda RN, family nurse practitioner and

Flu: continued on page 6

Ya Ya! Sisterhood races for the cure



2007 Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in Houston. Courtesy: Mary Ann Shallberg, UHCL Sisterhood.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and the UHCL Sisterhood kicked it off with a rally for the Houston Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, which will take place Oct. 3. This marks the fifth year that the UHCL Sisterhood has participated.

The team is collecting money for donations to the Susan G. Komen fund as well as encouraging people to join the Sisterhood in the race for cancer. Sue Halamicek, team captain, said about 30 people had already signed up to be in the race.

"We would really like to increase the impact of the UHCL presence at the race," said Julie Smith, coordinator of women's and LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) services.

The Office of Women's and LGBT services has many more events planned to promote Breast Cancer Awareness month including a Women's Health Expo and Love Your Body day. For more information on upcoming events, contact Julie Smith at 281-283-2578. To join the UHCL Sisterhood team or donate money, go to www.komen-houston.org.

Laptop area created in UHCL library

Jeffry Tupa
The Signal Staff

The Neumann Library at the University of Houston-Clear Lake created a new study area to accommodate laptop users. The previous study area was presenting a safety hazard for students because of laptop cords stretching across the floor.

"The idea behind remodeling that area was to make it more laptop friendly," said Ashlynn Wicke, a reference and instruction

librarian. "We added plugs so people can plug in their laptops and not stretch cords and trip people in different areas. We are still in the process of getting all the appropriate outlets in place. It's not completely finished."

The library made space for the new laptop area by reorganizing and relocating old index books. It also added new styles of chairs and furniture in the back area to accommodate laptop users and

Laptop: continued on page 6

New dean on the UHCL SCEnE

Ruth Garay
The Signal Staff

The School of Science and Computer Engineering has a new dean. Zbigniew Czajkiewicz arrived for his first day at University of Houston-Clear Lake Sept. 1.

When Charles McKay retired as dean of the School of Science and Computer Engineering in 2007, wheels were set in motion to find a replacement and a nationwide search began. Sadegh Davari, professor of computer science served as interim dean and a 12-member search committee was formed.

Many applicants were interviewed, but Czajkiewicz was selected as the top candidate for the job.

"Dr. Czajkiewicz brings many years of experience and expertise to the position as well as

a philosophy that is a good fit for the school and UHCL," said Carl Stockton, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost. "Dr. Czajkiewicz received strong support from the committee as well as the university community."

Zbigniew Czajkiewicz, pronounced [Z-big-nif Chi-ky-vitch] is a native of Poland. He received his bachelor, master's and Ph.D. in industrial engineering and management from the Technical University of Wroclaw, Poland. He worked in the U. S., Europe and Asia where he accumulated more than 25 years of university experience in education, research, industry and management. In addition, he had a private practice running a consulting company. His last position was at Robert Morris University in Pittsburgh where he served as professor and head of the Center for Applied

Dean: continued on page 6

THE SIGNAL

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Address letters to:
The Signal
UH-Clear Lake
2700 Bay Area Blvd., Box 456
Houston, TX 77058

Reach the staff:
Phone: 281-283-2570
Fax: 281-283-2569
E-mail: thesignal@uhcl.edu

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EDITORIAL
Swine flu, schmine flu
Pandemic creates more hype than facts

Most of us already know flu season has arrived early this year and the panic induced by H1N1 (swine) flu seems to be worse than the virus itself.

Yes, the flu is a serious illness, but rushing to the doctor demanding a flu shot for the common cold will only add problems to the situation. If you have a low fever, a cough, the sniffles or a slight headache, the flu should not be your first worry.

Influenza occurs in three levels of intensity: A, B and C. Class C influenza is the least harmful and class A influenza has the most potential of becoming an epidemic because of its ability to create new strains of itself to which humans potentially do not have immunity.

H1N1 is an influenza A virus so, understandably, there is a cause for concern. In general, the media has overreacted by putting H1N1 in the spotlight focusing on the fact that the virus has taken nearly 600 lives; however, on average 36,000 die in the aftermath of each flu season.

The elderly, 65 and older, compose 90 percent of the annual flu deaths. Infants, pregnant women, and individuals with chronic illnesses such as cancer and HIV are also most at risk during flu season.

The government is now taking extra steps to help curb the potential devastating effects of H1N1, but some of their methods are extremely inappropriate.

Discussions at the International Swine Flu Conference, held in Washington D.C. in late-August, turned some heads when “unwillingness to follow government orders” was proposed as a psychological problem in the event of an H1N1 pandemic.

These government leaders were proposing that all citizens be forced to receive vaccinations for both the normal flu season and H1N1. Regardless of the fact that it is impossible to vaccinate the entire U.S. population, it is dangerous and unnecessary to impose such a mandate.

Viruses are tricky because they are extremely adaptable. Even with vaccination, the flu still affects humans because there is an entire range of different strains of the virus. We can be vaccinated against one only to contract a mutated or new strain.

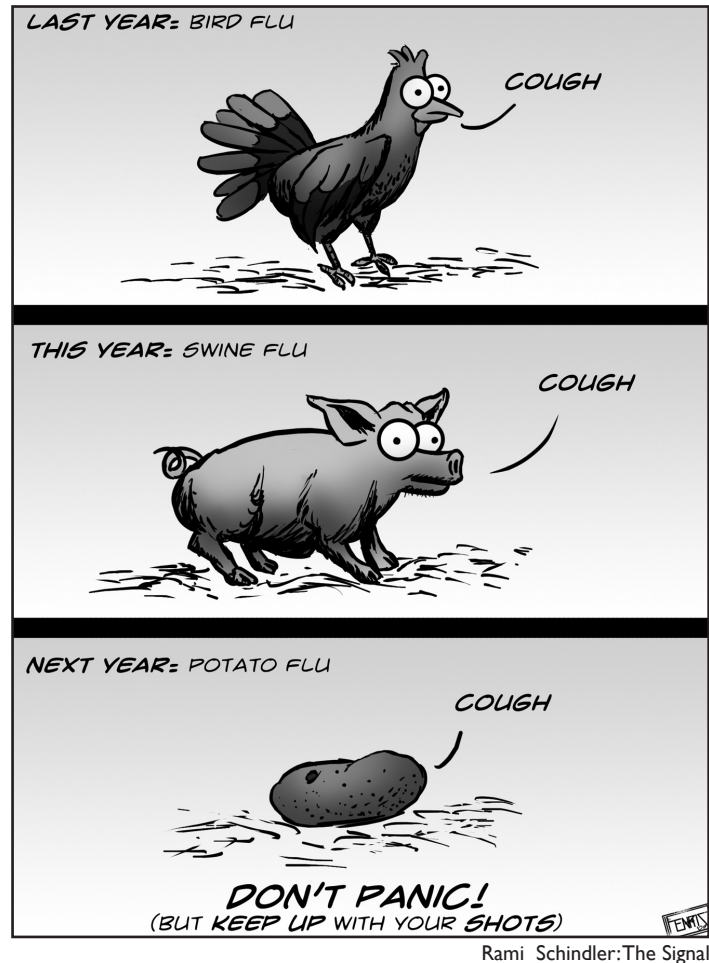
Simple preventative measures, such as routinely washing your hands or coughing and sneezing into your shoulder instead of into your palm, can be an effective way to protect your health during flu season.

The key signs that you may have the flu are a high fever (usually over 100 degrees), muscle aches, chills and constant fatigue. The best way to prevent spreading the flu if you become ill is to stay away from public areas.

Wearing a flu mask is not effective in preventing spread of the flu because most people do not wear them properly, or do not keep them on at all

times, which is necessary for them to work effectively.

Even though this early flu season is rare, try not to be overwhelmed by the hysterics surrounding H1N1. Worrying about such things will lower your immune system, which ironically could make you sick.



Rami Schindler: The Signal

COLUMN
Got a dream ... opportunity rings in America

“Everywhere around the world, they’re coming to America – Every time that flag’s unfurled, they’re coming to America – Got a dream to take them there, they’re coming to America – Got a dream they’ve come to share, they’re coming to America...TODAY!”

Every time I hear Neil Diamond’s song “America,” the feelings of freedom rings like a bell.

This song was perhaps one of my favorite classics from when I was a little girl. The victorious melody always reminds me of my dad’s journey abroad from a tiny village in the mountain, atop a tiny island 7,000 miles away, in a country that fits into the state of Texas more than three times, Greece!

For many who dare to venture the valiant voyage to the U.S, the inner itch for liberty explodes like fireworks, as dreams for new beginnings lie on the verge of reality. Freedom, the sweet word rests on the tips of their tongues. They are home.

Dad was one of nine brothers and sisters who grew up working barefoot in the family’s fields from two years of age. The guy’s poor feet had soles like a leather belt. When he was 8 years old, he was lucky enough to get his first pair of shoes. This explains his obsessive-compulsive shoe-buying fetish.



Vivian Volirakis
The Signal Staff

Imagine growing up in a tiny village nestled between mountaintops, with minimal means and never knowing what the ocean looks like until your teenage years. One day, my grandfather decided to take my dad and his brothers by donkey to see the ocean for the first time. That day, the almighty wind was so strong; waves were churning like clouds of whipped cream. At first sight, the young boys were convinced the crashing waves were herds of sheep plowing through fields. That was all they knew.

Despite the passionate adoration and love for his country, my dad made the life-changing decision to come to America when he was 24 years old.

While most people in Europe go to school to learn English and may even be proficient, there will always be many things that seem to get lost in translation.

One of my favorite stories Dad tells from when he had just arrived in the states is the first time he went to the doctor.

“I had a horrible pain in my side,” Dad said. “The only thing I knew to do was to go to the doctor, but I was nervous; I had never been to an American doctor. When I got there the nurses checked my heart, blood pressure and asked me so many questions! Then, the nurses handed me a plastic cup, pointed towards the end of the hall and said, ‘Mr. Volirakis, now we are going to need a sample of your specimen.’ I thought about it for a second then confidently made my way down the hall when I stopped.

I thought for a second, where I am going? Now what do they want from me? I have NO IDEA! I knew English very well but had never heard the word SPECIMEN...what could this possibly mean? I needed help! I walked back toward the two nurses and said ‘Miss, can I have a hand with this?’ After the giggling girls cheeks’ turned red like beets, I knew instantly what I was supposed to do with the plastic cup!”

This is one of many great stories he has locked in his treasure chest for rainy days. My father loves his country and culture. Like a ball of clay, his background sculpted him into who he is today. He will never forget where he came from, but would never trade his decision to move to the USA, or home, for the world. “On the boats and on the planes – They’re coming to America – Never looking back again.”

Let us Know!

Will You get a Flu Vaccine?

Yes

No


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The UHCL Piper Award Committee, composed of an equal number of students and faculty, is selecting one professor to be honored for Excellence in Teaching. This professor will then represent the university in competition for the 2009 Minnie Stevens Piper Award, a prestigious and valuable teaching prize.

If you would like to honor an outstanding professor, fill out a nomination form and share that information with us. It takes only a few minutes of your time, and it is one way of saying thank you.

NOMINATION FORMS & BALLOT BOXES ARE LOCATED:
At the main entrances of the Bayou Building, Delta Building, Arbor Building, and the Office of the Dean of Students in the Student Services and Classroom Building.

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Kemah uncorked

Boardwalk celebrates first wine festival



Christine Crump/The Signal

A display of oak barrels at the Wine Festival at the Kemah Boardwalk.

Christine Crump
The Signal Staff

Live entertainment, food and wine, oh my! Sept. 19 was the first wine festival at the Kemah Boardwalk. Wine lovers were able to taste wines from 13 Pacific Northwest wineries.

"There's such a great variety of vendors here," said wine enthusiast Michele Jacobs.

One of the wineries that displayed their wines at the festival was Wente Vineyards. Wente Vineyards is America's oldest family owned and operated winery. Started in 1883, they were the first winery in California to reopen right after the repeal of Prohibition in 1939.

"Being in the wine business for so many years, everything we produce comes from our

own vineyards," said Carolyn Wente of Wente Vineyards, "So 100 percent is estate grown and bottled and then everything we do is sustainably farmed."

Fermentation is the process of turning the grape sugar into alcohol. For this process some wineries use oak barrels and some use stainless steel.

"Our white wines go through a fermentation process of stainless steel," said Arnold Gilberg with Alexander Valley Vineyards. "Our red wines go through an oak barrel fermentation."

Wente Vineyards has a different approach to the fermentation process.

"We use both and it depends on the style of wine you are making," Wente said, "For instance, our chardonnay, we do about 80 percent of it as barrel fermentation, 20 percent is stainless steel and then we put the two lots together to further

age in oak."

Wente explained the difference between the oak and stainless steel barrels.

"What the stainless steel does is really retain all the fruitiness of the wine, and when you put a wine into oak for fermentation, it starts adding notes of toast and oak and wood and flavors vanilla that makes it really lush and more weight in your mouth," Wente said.

Wines go through an aging process and depending on the wine, whether it is red or white, they can be aged from several months to years.

"A white wine will generally age if it's in barrel for about six to eight or nine months," Wente said, "For red wine, anywhere from a year to 18 months."

Every winery has its own formula to age its wine.

"It depends on what we're doing, whether it be cabernet, chardonnay or merlot," said Gilberg, "Usually on an average, we age anywhere from three years to twelve months."

The wine festival had

a big turnout and many people were able to enjoy the variety of wines.

"I'm having a good time," said wine enthusiast Candis Phillips, "It's very nice."

If Kemah Boardwalk has another wine festival next year, wine enthusiast Alan Jacobs said he would be attending.

"This is a hit," Jacobs said.

The festival also included a live band playing music for everyone to enjoy as they walked around the winery booths. There was also food from the Kemah Boardwalk restaurants.

Participating wineries in this event included: Wente Vineyards, Chateau Ste. Michelle, Witness Tree Vineyard, Snoqualmie Vineyards, King Estates, Covey Run Winery, Columbia Winery, Sokol Blosser Winery, Dry Creek Vineyards, J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines, Alexander Valley Vineyards, Murphy Goode Winery and Rodney Strong Vineyards.

Kemah Boardwalk event planners consider its first wine festival a success; all the advance tickets were sold out days before the event. Advance tickets were \$35 and tickets at the door were \$45. Keep an eye out for next year's festival by visiting www.kemah.com.



Christine Crump/The Signal

Participants at the Kemah Boardwalk Wine Fest enjoy the samplings various wineries had to offer.

WILLY WONKA AT SAN JAC COLLEGE

Matt Griesmyer
The Signal Staff

Oompa-loompa-doompadee-doo, San Jac has a brand new show for you.

The San Jacinto Community College-Central Campus theater program is rehearsing for its production of “Willy Wonka,” opening Oct. 9 and continuing for a two-weekend run schedule.

“Willy Wonka is based on the novel ‘Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,’” said Jerry Ivins, director of theater and film. “This production is going to be a combination of the first film and the novel.”

The original movie production of the book was released in 1971, with the main protagonist, Willy Wonka, played by Gene Wilder. Later, in 2005, the book was again adapted to film, albeit in a much darker fashion, by director Tim Burton, with Johnny Depp playing the candy maker.

Ivins wants to keep this production in line with the first two incarnations of “Wonka” to provide a community-friendly show for the area patrons.

“Two years ago we did ‘The Rocky Horror Show,’ and the year before that we did a pretty controversial show called ‘The Laramie Project,’” Ivins said. “We felt that having back-to-back shows like that really allows [the theater program] to stretch our artistic muscles, but we needed a few years where we could go back to serving the community. These last few shows have been less focused on the academic challenge and more beneficial to the surrounding community.”

The past productions of the theater troupe have included “The Sound of Music,” “High School Musical” and “The Odd Couple.”

The cast size of San Jac’s production is nothing less than staggering. In named roles alone, the

production has reached upwards of 70 cast members. However, Ivins is planning on doing something a bit more daunting when it comes to the second act.

“We are hoping to cast about 100 Oompa-loompas for the second act, so that they are all pouring in from every direction and participating in the musical numbers,” Ivins said.

Ivins welcomes all, from ages 4 years old and up, to audition.

“If the kids have experience, that’s great, but if they don’t and want to do their first show, that is wonderful,” Ivins said. “[The theater program] sees it as job security. If we can get young kids up on stage, we hope that they will have an interest in the stage for the rest of their lives.”

The story of Wonka revolves around a recluse candymaker who has shut himself in his factory and away from society for several years. An announcement is made public that Wonka is opening his chocolate factory and giving away a lifetime supply of chocolate to the five lucky winners who find a golden ticket hidden in wrappers of his confections. Chaos ensues, sending everyone to flock to their town’s trader of teeth-rotting treats.

Michael Carver, second year theater major, portrays the film’s first candyman, “Bill.”

“Everyone knows me as Bill the candyman,” Carver said. “As part of the theater program, I was required to audition. I first went for Wonka, but was told that I was one of the best dancers, so they picked me as Bill. I serve as the kids’ introduction to this candy. The candy by itself has a unique characteristic, but when Wonka adds his golden tickets into the mix, it adds another flavor. It is not just a sweet treat, but it has this golden opportunity attached to it.”

During rehearsals and interviews, all fingers pointed in the direction of one student for the perfect available man for the

role of Wonka.

Noah Mowry, freshman theater major, fills the candy-coated shoes of Willy Wonka.

“Wonka was my first choice,” Mowry said. “Not because I wanted to be the star, but because he was my favorite character. I want to take Gene Wilder’s character and apply it to the stage. The story, plus the addition of using real kids on stage, gives the show even more potential to be inspiring.”

San Jacinto College–Central Campus will be performing “Willy Wonka” Oct. 9-10 and Oct. 16-17 at 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 11 and Oct. 18 at 2:30 p.m. in the Slocomb Auditorium, located at 8060 Spencer Hwy., Pasadena, TX 77505. For more information, contact the box office at 281-476-1828. Ticket prices are \$15 the day of the performance, and \$13 if picked up at least two days in advance. Purchase tickets at the Powell Arena Box Office on Central Campus, open Monday through Friday, 1:30 – 5 p.m.



Matt Griesmyer: The Signal

Acting a scene from Act 2 in “Willy Wonka,” the characters crowd together to fit in a cramped space. Pictured left to right: Lizz Redpath, theater major; Corie Matthews; Noah Mowry, theater major; and Sarah Kent.

Movie Review: Ackers’ “9” fails to impress

Armand Shafaii
The Signal Staff

“9,” the animated adventure film directed by Shane Ackers is not exactly the cartoon you take your kids to see. Ackers wastes no time reminding us of how close we are to our own destruction, depicting multiple scenes with dead humans. Similar to the Terminator movies, “9” takes place in a post apocalyptic world where machines that man created have destroyed them. Now mankind’s only hope to have their lives avenged lies in the wool-like hands of nine dolls. The movie starts off a little hard to follow and would benefit from more background into the characters’ origins. For instance, the audience has no idea why everything is in total destruction and why little rag dolls are running around until about 15 minutes into the movie.

Ackers started this film as an 11-minute thesis that he completed in 2004 at the University of California in Los Angeles. The film later got picked up by producer

Tim Burton and Timur Bekmambetov, who helped fund Ackers’ thesis into a full-length feature.

The movie does have amazing animation and pays particularly close attention to detail, which helps “9” gain a unique feel of realism. The movie’s release date, 9-9-09, was the perfect premier date, however the film leaves the viewer with unanswered questions and a lack of closure with a running time of only 74 minutes.

The film’s cast are mysterious characters that resemble rag doll looking creatures created by “the scientist” days before mankind’s biggest fears came true. The scientist gives each of the nine dolls a piece of his life. The scientist’s final creation, 9 (voiced by Elijah Woods), is a curious and courageous soul who encounters a twist of emotions throughout his adventures to save the lives of his friends. It often felt as if the movie was an extended cut scene for a video game. Unless you are a huge animation fan, viewers might want to wait for this one to come out on DVD.

Fed Ex: continued from page 1

weren’t actually accounting for each individual laptop in the pallet.”

After obtaining this information, UHCL police filed for a warrant and arrested King on campus when he made his next delivery. When they went to his home the next day to retrieve the computer, the computer was not there. The police did find paraphernalia, however, such as the computer bag it came in.

David Westrick, a public relations spokesperson for FedEx, said that they are “cooperating fully with authorities, and the driver is no longer delivering or working for FedEx at this point.”

“We don’t tolerate any abuse of our system,” said Ann Saccomano, a media relation’s spokesperson for FedEx.

The UHCL police also tracked down the computer in New York, with the help of the New York Police Department. A man in New York City had legitimately bought the computer from Craig’s List for \$800 from King, so he was a victim as well, Willingham said.

Richard Adams, operations support director for the UHCL receiving dock, said they are taking steps to ensure an incident like this will not happen again.

“We would like to thank the UHCL police for their investigation of this situation,” Adams said.

“When you handle stuff and it goes missing, automatically you become the first suspect,” Willingham said. “I thought the employees at the dock were very professional and supported us very well.”

King, who has a prior record, is currently under charges and pending trial for what amounts to felony theft; he is out on bail at this time. The UHCL police are presently working with the FBI to obtain federal charges since stolen goods were sold across state lines. If convicted, King could potentially face a fine and up to a year in prison.

“It’s a good idea to know that when there’s a hole in the processes, there will be someone to look to exploit it,” Willingham said.

Dean: continued from page 1

Research in engineering and science.

Of all his professional experience, Czajkiewicz said working in Asia was one of the most memorable. He helped establish a business training center at the University in Taraz, Kazakhstan, in early 1990s, after the Soviet Union broke up into independent countries.

“It was very exciting and interesting; I wouldn’t mind repeating an experience like that,” Czajkiewicz said. “It was satisfying because I was in a country that was just formed. They had to form all the government agencies, organizations, structure and we were a part of it.”

Of all the locations he worked, Czajkiewicz liked Texas the best so the decision to take the job as dean at UHCL was easy.

“In my first three weeks here, I have met a lot of great people at UHCL,” Czajkiewicz said. “In every organization, especially in higher education organizations, the people are the biggest asset of the organization. I’m sure we will be able to do great things here together and I’m really looking forward to working with everyone on and off of the campus.”

In the next few months, Czajkiewicz plans to expand the UHCL’s relationship with local businesses, research organizations, foundations and government organizations. In addition, he hopes to introduce new science and engineering programs. He feels that the school of science has a very good base to go into forensic science. His second focus is in the computer science and engineering programs, where he would like to go into more advanced programs such as artificial intelligence or robotics. Although he feels UHCL should continue to develop more technical aspects in engineering.

For recreation, Czajkiewicz enjoys sailing and scuba diving. One of his favorite dives was in French Polynesia.

“It was guaranteed that we would see sharks and they were there,” Czajkiewicz said. “We were hoping

that they were not hungry. The guide assured us that it was not very risky, but seeing the sharks swimming by and looking at you created quite a bit of excitement.”

Czajkiewicz understands the dilemma of the current economy and offers words of encouragement.

“Higher level of education is still the ticket to get a good job,” Czajkiewicz said. “I strongly encourage all of our students to get a degree although the economic situation is quite difficult. The economy changes all the time. Hang in there, continue your education, get good grades and, if possible, get a master’s degree.”



Ruth Garay:The Signal

Zbigniew Czajkiewicz, new dean of the School of Science and Computer Engineering.

Pete Olson



Matt Griesmyer:The Signal

Rep. Pete Olson (R-TX 22nd District) speaks at the Clear Lake town hall meeting, Sept. 20.

Discussion at the town hall focused on recent activities in Congress involving NASA funding levels, “cap and trade” energy and health care proposals. The meeting was interrupted by protests on the issue of government run health care and one person had to be removed by campus police. A video of the meeting and an exclusive interview with Olson can be found online at www.uhclthesignal.com.

Laptop: continued from page 1

other people who just want to gather together for a group study.

“These print indexes, they have been placed along the wall and many of them have been replaced by electronically indexes. We have over a 100,000 e-books in our catalog, and we’re in the process of counting them right now,” said Karen Wielhorsky, the executive director of the Neumann Library at UHCL. “We worked very hard to relocate the indexes and get rid of the index’s tables. The old stuff goes to state surplus.”

Some of the partitions in the public computer area were removed to open up visibility in the library.

“You see how all of these are clustered?” Wielhorsky said. “People can see each other and you can see all the way out the front door of the library. It gives a sense of openness, teamwork, whereas before, everybody was

sitting isolated in their little partition cubicle.”

A committee of people from different areas of the library with different expertise was formed to design the new floor plan and choose new furniture.

“It was a joint effort between multiple groups within the library that came up with what we currently see out there today,” Wicke said.

Library personel tested several different chairs on students last fall and bought the chairs students voted as best.

“It did not take away from the books we purchase or the databases that we provide access to,” Wielhorsky said. “We did our best; I had a committee working to identify the type of furniture we should get to make the laptops easier to use in the library and they did it on a shoes string budget. They were able to find the value items.

Flu: continued from page 1

director of health and disability services at UHCL. “If you take it too early, you run the risk of losing your protection before April 2010, with January through March 2010 being peak season.”

Vaccinations for both the seasonal flu and H1N1 are approved to be administered within the same day for each person, but because the H1N1 vaccine is not available yet, it is recommended that individuals get their seasonal flu shot as soon as possible.

All age groups are at risk with contracting the flu virus. Young children, pregnant women, adults over the age of 65 and people with certain health issues, including a weakened immune system, are more susceptible to contracting the virus. Although vaccination is promoted as a key prevention tool, not everyone is recommended to receive the vaccine.

“Anyone who has allergies to eggs or allergies to previous influenza vaccines should not receive a vaccination,” said Dr. Konrad Harms, physician of obstetrics and gynecology at St. Joseph Medical Center.

While vaccination is considered the best prevention, there are many other ways to prevent contraction of the flu. Frequently washing hands with soap and water and covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or sleeve are also effective ways of prevention of catching

the flu.

Seasonal influenza is commonly recognized by a combination of the following symptoms: high fever, dry cough, headache, muscle aches, sore throat and runny nose. The recovery time from the flu is averaged at a week, but people with health risks may experience further illness including hospitalization caused by the onset of bacterial pneumonia, ear infections, dehydration or worsening symptoms of preexisting medical conditions.

The Texas Department of State Health Services currently classifies the flu activity in Texas as widespread or increased flu-like symptoms and recent lab-confirmed flu cases in at least half of the state’s regions.

The flu spreads easily from person to person through coughing or sneezing of someone who already has the flu. It’s a virus that spreads quickly and if prevention techniques are not followed there is always potential of a flu pandemic.

“UHCL has a specific plan for a flu pandemic following the American Collegiate Health Association guidelines based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines specific for universities and colleges,” Prihoda said.

For more information regarding the flu, visit <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/> or <http://www.cdc.gov/>.

“It really was the librarians who realized that something needed to be done and suggested the improvements. The librarians are on top of this, we are very aware of changing technology needs and we are looking for ways to stay relevant for our students.”

Other improvements the library has added include such options as: e-books; a federated search tool, which is a one-search option to browse multiple databases; films on demand, which provides streaming videos online with public performance rights included; IM reference, which allows students to chat directly with a reference librarian; and social networking pages on their Web site such as Facebook and Twitter.

To find out more information about the library’s latest improvements, attend the Library Open House on Sept. 29 from 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Neumann Library.

Take A Break

Take a mid-term break
Oct. 13, 5-7 p.m.
in the
Bayou Building, Atrium I



Oct. 14, 5-7 p.m.
in the
Delta Building lobby



Oct. 15, 5-7 p.m.
in the
**Student Services/
Classroom Building lobby**



Stop by on your way to or from class and meet
Dr. Anthony Jenkins, Dean of Students.

Cookies, coffee and punch will be served.

** Student Life **

Student Government Association

Join us at upcoming campus events:

SGA Open House Tuesday, September 29th from 1pm - 6pm
Join us in the SGA office

Select openings on General Committees and Advisory Boards
Applications are available online or in the SGA office

UHCL Fall Open House Saturday, October 3rd from 9am - 1pm
See us at our table in the Bayou Building

I ♥ UHCL Day Wednesday, October 7th
Campus wide activities provided by the Student Life Office



Attend the Student Government Association meetings every Tuesday at 11.30am at SSCB Lecture Hall 1.100.03.

For Details Contact The SGA Executive Council:

Your School. Your Voice.
Boldly Serving the Student Body.

Patrick Cardenas - President
Steve Steiner - VP Committee Coordinator
Amanda Schoolcraft - VP Outreach & Communications
Chris Greenfield - VP Administration

SSCB Rm.1.205 * 281-283-2556 * SGA@uhcl.edu * www.uhcl.edu/SGA

University of Houston  Clear Lake

CULTURALarts

www.uhcl.edu/culturalarts

SEASON 11



photo by George Hixson

Mercury Baroque Ensemble

Royal Fireworks Thursday, Oct. 8/8 p.m./Bayou Theater

Handel's famed Royal Fireworks music headlines this concert which includes an Orchestral Suite by Bach, a Telemann Recorder Concerto and the Texas premiere of a Sinfonia by Fasch.

Use your UHCL I.D. to purchase discounted tickets in the Student Life Office (SSB 1.204.01)!

The Tournées Festival

New French Films on Campus

a program of FACE

University of Houston  Clear Lake

Film & Speaker

S E R I E S

www.uhcl.edu/movies

University of Houston  Clear Lake

CULTURALarts

www.uhcl.edu/culturalarts

Admission is \$3.75 unless noted.
Festival pass is \$15.

More information is available at
www.uhcl.edu/movies/tourneesfestival
or 281-283-2560.




Friday, Oct. 23/Bayou Theater/8 p.m.
NE LE DIS A PERSONNE/Tell No One
FREE w/UHCL ID

"Kick-off" the festival with our "Café Cinéma" opening reception, scheduled for 6:30-8pm in UHCL's Atrium I prior to the Friday, October 23 showing. Café Cinéma will recreate a French bistro setting complete with French music, a coffee bar, pastries and more!

ALL FILMS ARE IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



Sunday, Oct. 25/SSB Lecture Hall/3 p.m.
ROMAN DE GARE



Sunday, Nov. 8/SSB Lecture Hall/3 p.m.
UN SECRET/A Secret



Saturday, Nov.14/SSB Lecture Hall/7 p.m.
LE FILS DE L'ÉPICIER/The Grocer's Son



Saturday, Nov. 21/SSB Lecture Hall/7 p.m.
ENTRE LES MURS/The Class

The program is made possible with the generous support of the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, the Centre National de la Cinématographie, the Grand Marnier Foundation, the Florence Gould Foundation, highbrow entertainment and the Franco-American Cultural Fund (Directors Guild of America, Motion Picture Association, SACEM & Writers Guild of America).

Any person needing an accommodation for a disability in order to participate in this program should contact the Student Life Office (281-283-2560) at least one week prior to the event to arrange accommodation.

Dropping weight and winning big

Alison Schwamkrug
The Signal Staff

The University of Houston-Clear Lake is helping students become their best physically by holding a “biggest loser” contest. Students will participate in an eight-week challenge hoping to win the grand prize.

Like the reality television show, the 38 students who are participating will have to rely on themselves to complete vigorous daily workouts and follow a strict diet. The eight-week process will allow the students to teach themselves a completely different lifestyle. Contestants will learn to eat healthy and commit to regular exercise as part of their new regimen.

“This is a self-discipline program, meaning there is no one to train participants in their workout or tell them how to eat,” said Julie Cruz, program assistant for the UHCL Fitness Zone. “We offer each participant a cardio calendar and it’s up to them if they use it or not.”

The UHCL Fitness Zone encourages contestants to workout more than three times a week. To help the contestants do this, the Fitness Zone created a cardio calendar. The calendar consists of moderate to easy exercises every other day. The

exercises are broken up into intervals with a total time of 30-60 minutes a day, five days a week.

“I think the hardest part is making time to get to the gym and get the best workout in,” said Maricela Lopez, student staff assistant in the Office of Intercultural and International Student Services. “I do my best to measure my meals and stay away from my vices, such as chocolate, popcorn and Coca-Cola.”

A few seasons back, Lopez sent a tape in to the reality television show, “The Biggest Loser,” to be part of a team that had the same mindset to lose unwanted pounds.

“Since then, I’ve lost 49 pounds and there are so many things I can do now, things I believed were lost to me forever,” Lopez said. “I wanted to join UHCL biggest loser contest to complete the challenge I have already made more enjoyable for myself. Maybe I will meet a few like-minded people too.”

Contestants participating feel the contest is a great motivator to get in shape. With support from the program, losing weight will not seem impossible.

“My reason for getting involved in the contest was to



Alison Schwamkrug: The Signal

Maricela Lopez, contestant in the UHCL Biggest Loser contest, walks on the treadmill to start her goal of losing weight.

motivate myself to lose weight,” said Rebecca Smith, student assistant for the student life office. “I have lost 60 pounds in the last two years and want to lose about 50 more pounds. I expect to actually lose some weight and get in shape during this contest. The hardest thing for me during the competition and afterward is fitting workout times within my crazy schedule. If I can master that, then I really have won regardless of winning the competition.”

The winner of the UHCL

“biggest loser” contest will be determined by who has lost the highest percentage of body fat at the end of eight weeks. The winner will be announced the week of Nov. 23. The grand prize, as well as participation prizes, will be available to all who complete the eight-week program.

“The grand prize winner will receive materials that will help him or her continue losing weight and to continue their healthy lifestyle,” Cruz said.

The Cove breaks giant waves on film

Lesli Cokley
The Signal Staff

After winning The Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival and the Best Feature Documentary in Galway, Ireland, the documentary “The Cove” is coming to the University of Houston-Clear Lake campus Saturday, Oct. 3, at 7 p.m. in the SSCB Lecture Hall as part of the Film and Speaker Series.

This film makes big waves in a small Japanese fishing community, when a team of researchers and filmmakers show up to document a deadly cove.

The Cove begins as a documentary about the inhabitants of a quaint Japanese fishing town who have a shocking secret and want to keep it that way, but Ric O’ Barry wants to get down to the bottom of what is actually happening and will go to extremes

to find out and let the world know. In the 1960s O’ Barry captured and trained five dolphins that

“keep out,” O’ Barry and his team expose the fishermen’s secrets with their hidden cameras and underwater diving.

Michael Hunt, principle investigator, UHCL Dolphin Research Team and featured guest speaker, has spent “somewhere around 25 years researching dolphins” and has a true passion for this marine mammal. Hunt’s team conducts boat surveys around the Galveston Bay area observing the behavior of the bottlenose dolphin; the team is currently researching the

Amazon River dolphin.

“The Cove has some brutal components and is very chilling, but is easy to forget for some because it is so far away,” Hunt said

This is why Hunt encourages

students and the public to come and see this film.

“The Cove” received 13 different awards, and after Andrew Reitberger, assistant director of student life, viewed the film, he agreed that the movie “is amazing, and did not know he would be so moved by the film.”

“From the distress of the treatment of the dolphins to the shock at the elaborate and involved system of hiding facts to the pure joy of seeing dolphins swimming free in the ocean, this movie is certain to strike an emotional chord in anyone,” Reitberger said.

The film and speaker series is free to students with a UHCL ID and \$3.75 to all others. To find out more about “The Cove” and help save the dolphins, visit the movie’s Web site at www.thecovemovie.com.



Courtesy: Michael Hunt:

Two bottle nose dolphins in Galveston Bay.

later played the character in the television series “Flipper.”

The film changes from a concealed documentary into an action-adventure thriller, when in this dark, black cove lined with barbed-wire fence and signs saying

Campus Calendar

Sept. 29
Panel And Film:
Slumdog Millionaire
5:30-7:30 p.m.,
Bayou Garden Room

SGA Open House
1-6 p.m., SSCB
1205

Library Open House
2:30-6:30 p.m.,
Neumann Library

Oct. 3
2009 Fall Open
House
9 a.m.-1:00 p.m.,
SSCB

Film and Speaker
Series: The Cove
7 p.m., SSCB
Lecture Hall

Race for the Cure
Susan G. Komen
7:30 a.m., Down-
town Houston www.komen-houston.org

Oct. 4
Film and Speaker
Series: The Cove
3 p.m., SSCB
Lecture Hall

Oct. 5
Workshop: Leader-
ship Training Day
Programs
5:30-8:30 p.m.,
SSCB 1.202.07

Oct. 7
NSLS Live Video-
Conference: Pursu-
ing Your Passion at
All Costs
1:30 p.m., SSCB
1202.07

Oct. 12
Rape Agression
Defense Class
6-9:30 p.m.,
Bayou Forest Room



UHCL DAY

OCTOBER 7, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE SEE THE ARTICLE ONLINE AT: WWW.UHCLTHESIGNAL.COM