

E-waste recycling on campus

Courtney Brodbeck
The Signal Staff

In most homes in the U.S. today you can find at least one television, printer, computer, cell phone and radio. The majority of homes offer multiple electronics. These devices eventually break down or need to be upgraded with the latest technology. What do you do with them after they have run their lifespan?

Computers and related components contain hazardous materials that can leech into the community's water supply including: cathode ray tubes, circuit boards, batteries, and mercury switches contain hazardous materials, such as lead, cadmium and chromium.

Recycling is one of the best options for human safety and the environment. The Environmental Protection Agency encourages the recycling of electronic waste, or e-waste as it is commonly known, to protect the overall well-being of the public.

"Electronic waste contains hazardous materials, especially lead in electronic circuitry, which if improperly disposed, can pose a risk to public health and the environment," said David Bary, spokesperson for the EPA. "Recycled e-waste not only reduces solid waste sent to landfills but allows for the reuse of lead and other materials and greatly diminishes human exposure to hazardous wastes."

At the University of Houston-Clear Lake, electronic equipment that has been permanently retired from

E-waste: continued on page 6



Christine Crump: The Signal

An example of the Powerlots green project at the University of Houston Green Building Components exhibition.

Build green, power solar

The Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture at the University of Houston is starting to design, develop and implement sustainable, renewable, green building components across the architecture, engineering and construction industries.

An exhibition called "University of Houston Green Building Components" showcases nine "green" projects that exemplify this concept. This exhibition is in the atrium of the Architecture building.

The UHGBC lets you view concepts and production-ready green projects. One of the projects is "Recompute." "Recompute" is a recyclable cover that goes over a computer tower so it is easy to take off to get to the parts inside the tower to recycle and you can also recycle the cover itself. Another project is called the "Power Pack." The "Power Pack" is a solar power unit designed to provide electricity to things such as lights, cell phones and laptops.

Seven other green projects are included in the UHGBC exhibition. The exhibition is free and open to the public. For more information visit the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture Web site at www.arch.uh.edu. There are two YouTube videos on the College of Architecture's Web site that talks in depth about UHGBC and their products.

Tier-1 proposition to appear on Nov. ballots

Alison Schwamkrug
The Signal Staff

An amendment to the Texas Constitution, Proposition 4-Tier One, will appear on statewide ballots Nov. 3 to assist in the creation of seven more Tier One universities.

Texas has three Tier One universities: University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M, and Rice University. While there is no specific definition for the term "Tier One," it generally refers to nationally competitive research universities.

In testimony before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education in February 2009, Commissioner of Higher Education Raymund Paredes listed peer assessment, faculty quality, quality of graduate academic and professional programs, extramural research and academic support, undergraduate education, academic outcomes, and demographic and economic considerations as criteria for national research universities.

By voting for Proposition 4, Texas voters would establish the National Research University Fund, a constitutionally dedicated fund available for the allowance of seven emerging research universities that meet specific national standards.

"I think University of Houston has the greatest potential to meet the benchmark," said State Senator Mike Jackson. "UH becoming a Tier One university would be a great opportunity for

Houston economic development. We will be attracting many new jobs and people to the Houston area, which will only prosper growth."

By becoming a Tier One school, UH hopes to enhance the academic programs, student success and, in the long run, the value of a degree from UH.

"The Tier One initiative would not only help to elevate the national recognition of the University of Houston, but the University of Houston System," said William Staples, UHCL president. "Tier One status for UH would positively impact UHCL's partnerships with UH including the Environmental Institute of Houston and the Institute for Space Systems Operations. Having a Tier One university in Houston would benefit the city of Houston, the Houston-Galveston region and the state of Texas."

"I don't foresee a tuition raise based on Proposition 4 alone," Jackson said. "Tuition has been raised across the country every year without the impact of Proposition 4. Besides, there is other fund money out there provided by the NRUF that would cover the program."

The UH System Board of Regents have been working for many years to pass Proposition 4.

"Their goal has been to bring higher education to the Houston community, Jackson said. "They have been working very diligently and I would like to see them rewarded."

Share a ride to campus

Ashley Tobar
The Signal Staff

This fall, the University of Houston-Clear Lake arranged a new program for students called "Rideshare." Dean of Students Anthony Jenkins summarized this program as a way to better assist UHCL students who come across transportation difficulties in getting to and from campus, as well as to and from the medical center.

The new program was introduced to UHCL at the new student orientation this fall. E-mails were sent to all students informing them of the service. In a nutshell, Rideshare is similar to a "Craigslist for carpoolers."

Students who are in need of rides can find information on Rideshare under the students tab on the UHCL Web site. There, students may post a listing for a "ride request" by including their contact information and home location in order to network with others who may be located near them.

Students who would like to donate rides or carpool with others may also post listings on the site informing other students of their offer. Students who are interested are encouraged to view the listings every two to three days in order to see the most up-to-date listings for offers and requests.

Listings of any kind are set to expire 30 days after each post, and students will need a valid UHCL login to view or post any listings.

"The program was designed to address the needs of our students," Jenkins said. "That is what my office does so well. Through assessment efforts, we identify gaps in student needs and we address them."

Although the goal of Rideshare is to help students with transportation issues, the university also hopes the program will generate more networking among students. Students are encouraged to use the free service whenever possible as a benefit to the environment as well as the assistance

Rideshare: continued on page 6

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EDITORIAL

‘You’ve got mail’ and lots of it

If you are lucky, weekend breaks provide relief away from the staring matches only a computer screen could win. But once that loyal student or employee is back to the daily grind on Monday, that toxic love affair with e-mail is back in the swing of things. The mouse leads the cursor to the Internet icon and all of a sudden, ‘you’ve got mail’ greets the user. Seven hundred e-mails? How is that possible?

Online pollution is on the rise to the detriment of all Internet users. Not only is nature turning in to a wasteland polluted with trash and other hazardous materials, computer inboxes are beginning to reflect the exact same image of unwanted garbage piling up and causing havoc on all Internet users.

Though there are many types of online spam, none is more annoying than e-mail spam commonly referred to as junk e-mail. It is not unusual to filter through an inbox of 50 e-mails and find that only 10 are from known contacts. The rest are advertisements for Viagra, random diet plans and other useless spam that is quite often very offensive.

Homeowners are easily able to avoid the soliciting of a door-to-door salesman; simply, do not open the door. However, spam is not so easy to ward off. It is no more than online soliciting by way of unwanted e-mail and, though it can be deleted without ever being opened and read, it requires sifting through countless, mindless items that becomes a cumbersome and time consuming task.

The introduction of spam to a person’s e-mail address is brought about in many ways, such as the users’ e-mail being sold to spammers, or the user casually visiting different Web sites and attracting an invasion of cookies even the Cookie Monster would not want.

Cookies, a small amount of data that



Rami Schindler: The Signal

usually includes a unique number or string of characters to identify your computer, are also a burden in the world of Internet users. Some, but not all, Web sites send cookies to the users’ hard drive once they have visited that site. There are many disadvantages to this scenario, mainly the issue of privacy. Having cookies on a hard drive allows the users’ activity to be tracked and, for the most part, Internet users feel invaded by this. Your Internet browser can also delve information including e-mail addresses if they are listed within the options or cookies and thus, one’s e-mail inbox is flooded with junk mail.

Spam has been an ever-growing problem since the mid ‘90s when the Internet became available for the general public. Advertisers saw an opportunity to reach the masses without spending much financially and

exerting little or no effort; all it takes is a click of the mouse. The electronic meaning of spam was derived from a 1970 skit on the television series, Monty Python’s Flying Circus. In the skit, a couple is trying to order their breakfast in a restaurant, but everything on the menu has spam, processed meat, included in the ingredients.

There are several instances when spam can be misleading to the user. A message from ‘John’ shows up as new mail. John is a generic name. Most people know at least one John. So the user opens the e-mail only to have the entire computer infected with a virus or treated to a pornographic image that would make a stripper blush.

Recently, there have been scam spams polluting e-mail inboxes, such as persons disguised as Nigerian natives asking random users to route them money. Sadly, the elderly are often the victims of this deception and it has cost some of them most of their life savings.

Making spam illegal has proven to be a bit of a challenge because unless the message received is soliciting something illegal, it is acceptable. Even when it is illegal, the culprits are hard to catch because these criminals are very clever about IP addresses.

The avoidance of turning e-mail inboxes into landfills of unwanted, hokey advertisements is the responsibility of Internet users. It is stemming on the brink of invasion of privacy and Internet users must protect their identity and choose wisely how they use their e-mail. Internet users must become educated on ways to block junk mail with spam blockers. Spam blockers block the user address to prevent the unwanted mail from getting through.

Unlike our physical world where we cannot always stop the polluters, in the virtual world we do have some control over arresting the influx of trash.

COLUMN

Get your carbon footprint off mother nature’s back



Ruth Garay
The Signal Staff

Mother earth is dying a slow and agonizing death as she is poisoned daily by people who litter. It could be as small as a cigarette butt or as large as a mattress. No matter the size, its end effect is toxic.

Why do people litter?

The number one litter bugs in America are smokers. They flick cigarette butts out of their car window, on the street sidewalks, at the beaches and other public places. But, why do they do it?

Some smokers think the cigarette butts are not litter because the filters are biodegradable. However, nothing could be farther from the truth.

Cigarette filters are made of cellulose acetate tow fibers, not cotton. It takes decades to decompose, so when it rains, toxic chemicals can end up in the soil and water supply.

Many fires that are started each year by cigarette butts also impact the environment. The cost of smokers’ dirty deed is contaminated soil, polluted water and deadly fires.

Equally guilty of littering are lazy people. Lazy people are inconsiderate, ignore the consequences of their actions and have no respect for the environment, nor do they care to protect it. They don’t have time to find a trash can and, if they did, the sloths wouldn’t walk 10 feet to throw it away. Instead they rely on others to pick up their slack.

Some litter does get picked up by volunteers who take time out of their day to participate in programs like Adopt-a-Highway; however, most of the time, a third party company hires people to pick up the litter at the expense of the taxpayers.

Litter that doesn’t get picked up has a big impact on our environment. Paper takes two to five months to break down, plastic-coated paper cartons take up to five years, tin cans take 50 to 100 years, and styrofoam

containers can take up to one million years. So laziness plays a huge role on the health of our world.

Some littering is accidental. “Keep America Beautiful” conducted research and found that 40 percent of litter comes from debris that blows out the back of pickup trucks or other types of unsecured loads. Drivers who toss litter like paper, cans, glass bottles and other items into the bed of their trucks often find that it’s mysteriously gone by the time they reach their destination.

The driver might not see his litter, but other people do because it ends up blown all over the freeway. In fact, litter is sometimes the cause of accidents. Pick-up drivers are not the only offenders. Sometimes ladders, mattresses, furniture, landscaping and construction materials fall off of trailers because commercial drivers don’t secure them properly. All drivers are responsible for taking the necessary precautions to prevent accidental litter.

Some people go to great lengths to dispose of heavy trash items, but can’t be bothered to take the time to find out how to dispose of the items properly. These people seem to think it’s OK to litter if no one sees them.

The scoundrels illegally dump their litter in dark places. Alleys, vacant lots, wooded areas and dead-end streets end up being hot spots for illegal dumping. Out of sight and out of mind. However, continued dumping in these areas has an adverse consequence. Not only is it an eye sore, it also has the potential to become the breeding ground for mosquitoes, rodents and other unwanted inhabitants.

Can you imagine what it would be like if everyone threw their litter wherever they pleased? According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the average American produces about 4.4 pounds of garbage a day, or a total of 29 pounds per week and 1,600 pounds a year. One of the direct repercussions of living in filth would be vermin, not to mention the stench and disease.

There are many excuses people can give for littering. However, all the excuses in the world are not strong enough to hide the fact that we are killing the environment that sustains us. It is our responsibility as custodians of mother earth to insure that litter ends up where it belongs – in the trash.

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CACHE IN, TRASH OUT

Preservation and adventure in geocaching

Todd Blair
The Signal Staff

Geocaching is a high-tech game of hide and seek played around the world by adventure seekers equipped with GPS devices. The basic idea is to track down and locate hidden containers, called geocaches, and then share your experiences online.

“Geocaching participants include a large variety of people from all age groups,” said Jen Sonsteli, spokeswoman for Groundspeak.com. “There are significant groups of families with children, college students, adults and retirees that enjoy geocaching.”

The word Geocaching stands for GEO, for geography, and CACHING, the process of hiding a cache. Cache is a term used by hikers and campers as a hiding place for concealing and preserving supplies and food.

“Since September of 2000, geocaching has grown from 75 geocaches to over 900,000 active geocaches worldwide,” Sonsteli said. “We estimate that there are between 2 and 3 million active geocaching participants around the world.”

One way that geocachers stay in touch with each other is through the organization’s online forums at www.geocaching.com. The forum presents participants with a way to provide feedback anonymously.

“I got back into hiking three years ago,” one member said. “I bought a Garmin Vista HCX. The instruction booklet mentioned geocaching when referring to certain features. I looked it up. I was very excited to see that there was a cache near my house. It was a good few weeks before that ‘there are these hidden items all around us!’ feeling wore off.”

A common practice for geocachers is “Cache In Trash Out” where in the process of hunting for the cache, participants clean up the trash in the area along the way. CITO is an ongoing environmental initiative supported by the worldwide geocaching community.

Geocachers have always been dedicated to cleaning up parks and other cache-friendly places around the world; helping to preserve the natural beauty of our outdoor resources.

Participants are encouraged to practice CITO on every geocache adventure.

As stated on geocaching.com: “You should bring a trash bag along with you on your walks in the woods and pick up the occasional piece of trash you see on the trail. Even this small act can make a huge difference.”

“We estimate that there are between 2 and 3 million active geocaching participants around the world.”

- Jen Sonsteli
Groundspeak.com

There are a wide variety of cache “treasures.” A cache can be something as simple as a container with a logbook in it. Some caches contain items such as toys, trinkets, jewelry or even money. One cache contained a rock from a Mount Everest Base Camp.

Geocaching is a process of catch and release. When participants find a cache, they are supposed to leave whatever they find behind and/or leave something of equal or greater value so there is still a cache in place for other geocachers to find.

In most cases, a cache contains a logbook. The logbook contains information from the owner of the cache, notes from other geocachers and, often, valuable, rewarding and entertaining information.

The caches are located in hidden places all over the world, including three sites on the UHCL campus.

A group of students on the newspaper staff recently went caching in the woods behind the Arbor Building and found all three caches after several hours. Students found Jamaican coins, buttons and even a toy snake in one of the caches — and lots of trash.

While they were searching for the caches, the students practiced CITO, cleaning the woods behind the university on their search.

“I had a great time looking for the caches,” said Christopher Curry, assistant editor. “I’m interested in searching for more caches around the Houston area.”



Ashley Tobar: The Signal

FROM LEFT: The Signal staff, Christopher Curry, Matt Griesmyer, Lindsay Humphrey, Daniel Benitez and Christine Crump, cache in and clean up the woods behind the Arbor Building.



Ashley Tobar: The Signal

FROM LEFT: The Signal staff Matt Griesmyer, Caroline Fry and Armand Shafaii help each other cross through the mud behind the Arbor Building.



E-READERS: So easy a caveman can read it

Vivian Volirakis
The Signal Staff

From the beginning of time, man has searched for ways to communicate messages that will leave behind a permanent mark.

In the Stone Age, Neanderthals scratched pictures with a sharpened rock onto the walls of their cave dwellings. Mesopotamians carved simple objects and pictures onto wet clay tablets with reeds and baked them in the sun.

Egyptian scribes used hieroglyphics, a series of picture words, on buildings and tombs and kept records of events on papyrus. Phoenicians replaced drawings

with symbols, creating the first alphabet that represented sounds.

When German inventor Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press in 1440, books and literature could be produced on a mass scale.

Fast-forward to 2007, when Amazon launched its e-book reader, the Kindle. Electronic readers allow people to consolidate print book collections into digital files by downloading e-books onto the digital device. Communication has come a long way since the Stone Age.

The Kindle wirelessly downloads books, magazines, newspapers and personal documents onto a high-resolution portable screen display that mimics

genuine paper. The reading device uses the same 3G wireless networks that many cell phones use, eliminating the hunt for Wi-Fi hotspots.

The wireless device is also unbelievably portable, unlike textbooks that can weigh up to four pounds. Amazon's Kindle is .36" thick and weighs just over 10 ounces, much lighter than an average paperback book.

With 2 GB of memory, the Kindle can store up to 1,500 books, and each book takes less than 60 seconds to download. Slow readers should have no worries since the Kindle's battery power can last up to two weeks with the wireless setting turned off and about four days with the wireless setting on.

Since the launch of Sony's e-reader in 2006, Amazon and other electronic companies are making their best effort to keep up with the e-reader trend. This June, Samsung launched the Papyrus in Korea and China with possible plans of launching the product in the U.S.

"We are still looking at this market and would like to launch something early next year...stay tuned," said Jason Redmund, senior manager of strategic marketing for Samsung electronics of America.

E-readers could become a solution to improve the environment and take the strain off of college students' backs both physically and financially with prices around \$259, comparable to the cost of one average textbook and downloads around \$5 each.

Kindles will not be found in a pile of trash or at a 'half-price-Kindle' store like books and other printed materials. Unlike paper books, publications downloaded to e-readers can simply be deleted rather than ending up as pollution in a landfill.

Currently, the Kindle store offers more than 350,000 books, including textbooks, in their e-library available for downloading plus top newspapers, magazines and blogs. Amazon's vision for Kindle is to offer every book ever printed, in any language, in less than 60 seconds.

There are extra perks to owning an e-reader. Several of the digital devices allow readers to choose a larger font and magnify the screen for those who have vision problems. Many of the most recently released e-readers have bookmark, highlight and touch screen keyboard text features.

"I think it is great," said literature major Naomi Gonzales. "It is still cheaper to get a Kindle for the cost of one text book,

especially if you are at the beginning of your college career. It is actually on my Christmas wish list."

While it sounds like students' dreams have come true, e-readers may lack some of the qualities that original books and textbooks offer. Sometimes the low-tech simple way of doing things is best. E-readers are built to read like paper without a glare, but are they still lacking a personal touch? You cannot highlight, post sticky notes, flag pages nor scribble in the margins on an e-reader: conveniences that readers are accustomed to with traditional paper pages.

Not to mention, the ability to hold a special edition hard bound book in the palm of one's hands would become obsolete, home libraries would become a waste of space and Sunday afternoons spent drinking coffee and rummaging through book shelves in Barnes & Noble would become a dying habit if we scrapped the "old fashioned" way of reading.

Instead of shelves lined with books and bedtime stories read by a roaring fireplace, home libraries would transform into the cold, sterile environment forewarned in Fahrenheit 451.

"If I am buying a book I really care about, I would still buy the hard copy," Gonzales said. "As a lit major I get most of my books from Half Price Books."

As e-readers eventually become more popular, will financial aid keep up with the growing technological trend? Financial aid is distributed to students as a lump sum so students can decipher which categories need the most financial assistance, whether it is for tuition, housing, books or materials.

"When we budget financial aid for students, we assume what it will cost for a student to go to school and we factor in the cost of books and supplies so that students can use the funds with their own discretion," said Billy Satterfield, interim executive director of student financial aid. "I do not see any reason why financial aid would not continue to provide students with the materials necessary to use for their education."

E-readers are a major leap in the way our world communicates. Once again, they have left us standing at the crossroads of the information highway. Just like the way society was impacted by the launch of the printing press, telephone, radio, television and the Internet, e-readers have the same potential to alter how society functions. For better or for worse, e-readers are here.

Documentary warms up controversy

Christopher Curry
The Signal Staff

Environmentalism has always had its fair share of supporters, but a new documentary "Not Evil Just Wrong" attempts to reveal a darker side of the movement that is making some viewers take a second look at the costs of going green.

This documentary, directed by Phelim McAleer and Ann McElhinney, explores the history of the environmental movement focusing on Al Gore and the affect his film "An Inconvenient Truth" has had on society.

The directors mark the origins of environmentalism with the successful campaign started by Rachel Carson to ban the use of DDT, a pesticide she labeled as environmentally irresponsible in the 1960s.

Several pro-DDT advocates were interviewed including Roy Innis, chairman of Congress of Racial Equality. The film claims that banning DDT allowed mosquito populations to flourish in developing continents such as Africa, causing millions of lives to be needlessly lost from malaria.

Innis' son, Niger Innis, national spokesman for CORE, attended the film's premier at the River Oaks Theater in Houston Oct. 19, as a guest speaker.

"My father and I are very proud of what Ann and Phelim have produced," Niger Innis said. "We got them interviews with members of the African government who have been wrestling with the issue of malaria and how to overcome the ban on DDT, which is the most effective way of dealing with this disease."

Catherine Engelbrecht, organizer for the Houston premier of "Not Evil Just Wrong," thinks that this film will help build awareness about cap and trade legislation. She feels cap and trade will devastate the community if it passes because it may prohibit certain companies from operating at their full potential in order to cut emissions of carbon dioxide, which may lead to massive job losses.

The film claims that carbon dioxide is not harmful to the environment and harmful pollutants from burning fossil fuels are already being kept out of the atmosphere by strict regulations of American and European companies.

"When we found out about this film we thought what better place than River Oaks Theater in the heart of Houston to show the premier," Engelbrecht said. "This movie is not about politics. The directors could care less about politics. They want people to know the human cost of falling into the global warming hysteria."

The documentary focuses on the effect that legislation based on regulating supposed man-made climate change

will have on working-class Americans, citing Gore as a key figure influencing the drafting of such legislation.

In the film, McAleer interviews a diverse body of experts from many different backgrounds and knowledge on both sides of the issue, but his method of interviewing does have an affect on the way the audience views certain speakers.

For example, when supporters of man-made climate change speak, McAleer includes all the pauses in conversation when the speakers were thinking of words to say, which makes them seem uninformed on the issue. The speakers against man-made climate change had no such pauses included in their interviews.

After interviews with experts, McAleer cuts to an animation or a clip from an old silent film relevant to the topic being discussed, effectively recapturing the audience's attention.

Adherents of man-made climate change may naturally be skeptical of "Not Evil Just Wrong," but it is one of those films everyone should see at least once because it provides an opportunity to take a look at both sides of the climate change debate.

Visit noteviljustwrong.com to find out more information on the experts involved with the film and on how to get a copy of the DVD, which is available now only through the Web site.



Electronic waste that is no longer used is stored in the University’s storage facility – nicknamed the “computer graveyard” – until sold or recycled.

Courtney Brodbeck: The Signal

E-waste: *continued from page 1*

service is disposed of in accordance with state property accounting policies and equipment that is not computer-related is sent to public auction. The state provides three options for recycling electronic equipment: trade-in for purchases of similar equipment, transfer to a Texas public school, or transfer to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Computer Recovery Operations.

“UHCL’s preferred method is the trade-in option because trade allowances reduces the final cost of new equipment,” said Greg Scoggins, asset management coordinator.

The equipment is traded back to the vendor after the three-year warranty has expired and dispose of the computers.

“After it goes back to the vendor, they ensure us that they take every step possible to make certain the equipment is treated environmentally friendly,” said Jerry Jones, director of technical services at UHCL.

Houston has a program that allows residents to recycle outdated or broken electronics to avoid the dangerous toxins found in computers and televisions.

The new pilot program is called Electronic Scrap Recycling and the items accepted by Houston waste managers are monitors, televisions, printers, keyboards, scanners, VCR’s, CPU’s, cellular phones without batteries, fax machines, telephones headsets and other small consumer electronics; however, only a five-piece maximum amount of electronic scrap is allowed per trip.

To prevent environmental exposure of hazardous material, residents can drop off the electronic scrap at the Westpark Consumer Recycling Center, located at 5900 Westpark, or the Environmental Service Center, located at 11500 South Post Oak.

Some manufacturers also accept electronics for recycling. Dell will take any make or model free of charge when purchasing a new computer, but they charge \$15 when not buying a new computer. HP offers an online hardwire recycling service charging from \$13 to \$34 per item. Another option is to donate working electronics to various charities and receiving a tax-deductible receipt. California passed the Electronic Waste Act in 2003. Since then the California Integrated Waste Management Board has collected 700 million pounds of electronic waste by promoting conscious thinking before consumers buy. “Even the efforts of one person can make a big difference in the environment,” said Beatriz Sandoval, public information officer with the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

Rideshare: *continued from page 1*

of mass transit. An initial concern to students may be the hesitation of riding with strangers. Students are always advised to proceed with caution; however, the university has confidence that a program enacted solely to benefit students will see positive results. “I have been unable to use the system because I believe that none of the students that live in my immediate area know about the service,” said Marcelina Washington, psychology and sociology major. This is really sad since we are faced with the dilemma of economic sanctions. I also believe that students are unable to get in the car with strangers because we’re innately influenced by caution or our parent words of ‘don’t talk to strangers.’ I would love to see this program work with a little more help from the Student Services Center.” Washington is one of the many students who hope to get some real use out of the new program. She has listed herself on the postings but has yet to find anyone near her area with whom to ride. The best way to use the service is to post often and check in often in order to get the most opportunities in which to carpool. To find out more about Rideshare, call the Office of the Dean of Student’s at 281-283-2567 or email RideShare@uhcl.edu.

Fire department on campus



Matt Griesmyer: The Signal

On Thursday, Oct. 22, people occupying the Garden room on campus reported smelling smoke to University of Houston-Clear Lake police. The source of the smoke was unidentified, so UHCL police contacted the Houston Fire Department. HFD responded by sending a fire truck and team to campus, but it was later determined that there was no need to evacuate the bayou building.



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- All graduates & teacher certificate seekers admitted in Fall 2006 or later

Open Lab Sessions

will be available to assist on running and reading your DPR on the following dates:

Tuesday, Oct. 13 4-5 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 19 4-5 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 26 4-5 p.m.

ALL sessions will be held in **B2132**

**"How To" guides available
at www.uhcl.edu/records
under Degree Progress Report section**

** Student Life **

Student Government Association



**SGA is proud to announce the
second annual canned food drive!**

**Please bring non-perishable
food items and place them
in the collection bins
located around campus.**

**We will be collecting food items
October 21st thru November 16th.**

**One small can for man
One giant lunch for mankind**



**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
Steven 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

The Tournées Festival

a program of FACE

New French
Films
on Campus

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).

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

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

ALL FILMS ARE IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

A Taste of French
Prior to each film, a mini French lesson will be sponsored by
UHCL Foreign Language Program. www.uhcl.edu/fl

University of Houston Clear Lake

Film & Speaker
SERIES
www.uhcl.edu/movies

University of Houston Clear Lake
CULTURALarts
www.uhcl.edu/culturalarts

additional sponsorship provided by:

TRAVEL LEADERS®
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Strand Releasing

Sunday, Nov. 8/SSB Lecture Hall/3 p.m.

UN SECRET/A Secret

On his fifteenth birthday a family friend tells Francois (Quentin Dubuis) a shattering truth - tying his family's past to the Holocaust - that may enable him to develop his own sense of self. Until then, the secret had lain silent, known only to a few, including his mother Tania (Cecile De France), his father Maxime (Patrick Bruel) and lifelong family friend Louise (Julie Depardieu).



Film Movement

Saturday, Nov. 14/SSB Lecture Hall/7 p.m.

LE FILS DE L'ÉPICIER/The Grocer's Son

When Antoine offers to lend money to Claire, his best and only friend, he is far from imagining where his promise will lead him. Because Antoine doesn't in fact have any money. At 30 years of age, he drifts from one dead-end job and disaster to the next. In order to keep his promise, he has no other choice than to agree to cover for his father, a travelling grocer, who is in a convalescent home recovering after a heart attack.



Sony Pictures Classics

Saturday, Nov. 21/SSB Lecture Hall/7 p.m.

ENTRE LES MURS/The Class

French director Laurent Cantet's THE CLASS is an absorbing journey into a multicultural high school in Paris over the course of a school year. François Begaudeau--an actual teacher and the author upon whose work the film was based--is utterly convincing as François, an openminded teacher in charge of a classroom of youngsters from a wide variety of backgrounds.

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.

University of Houston Clear Lake
CULTURALarts
www.uhcl.edu/culturalarts
SEASON 11



Micheal Harrison

Friday, Nov. 6/7:30 p.m./Bayou Theater

Michael Harrison is an extraordinarily talented ventriloquist, puppeteer and comedian. He has worked alongside numerous acts from The Muppets to Boyz to Men. You may also recognize him from his appearance on the television show, "America's Got Talent." This is a show the whole family can enjoy! Complimentary reception will be held after the concert.

Presale \$10 General Admission \$6 with
UHCL I.D.
At the door \$12 General Admission \$8 with
UHCL I.D.

CAMPUS LIFE

From trash to treasure

8

October 26, 2009

Jeffry Tupa
The Signal Staff

The Office of Procurement and Payables provided a recycle day for faculty and staff Oct. 13 as a way to redistribute unused items in offices and promote recycling efforts on campus.

On the second Tuesday of the month, about every two or three months, a recycle day is held. Recyclable items include folders, binders, adding machines, letter trays, stacking trays, computer software, printer cartridges and office furniture.

“About 12 or 13 years ago, the head of the department decided that we should start a recycling program,” said Jeanne Cumpian, director of procurement. “The recycling program does not receive funding for its recycle efforts, but it is part of what we want to contribute to the recycling program that state has.”

On recycle days, faculty and staff can go out into the hallway in front of the OPP to browse and pick up recycled office supplies and furniture.

“We approximately had 45 faculty and staff members who picked up items,” said Alicia Gookin, staff assistant for OPP about the latest event. “We had quite a few other departments that brought office supplies that were no longer needed by the

department and was dropped off. Recycle day is good for the environment because we are not disposing of it in our trash.”

Gookin points out that recycle days are essential in saving departments money. When one department no longer has a use for an item, another department may use it instead of purchasing a brand new one.

“It was great, there were a couple products that we used and at any other time we would have had to purchase,” said Dmitri Melendez, printing technician.

Recycle day varies in the kinds of office supplies and furniture that faculty and staff donate.

“The first year I worked in my suite, I contributed a number of un-needed but useful items to the event when I was reorganizing my office,” said Leigh Ann Shelfer, faculty suite secretary of School of Human Sciences and Humanities. “Some of the items that were donated each year are ‘past their prime,’ such as worn or damaged binders, a broken space heater, old software or software manuals, but for the most part, there are useful items. The best items are snatched up early, like at a garage sale.”

Gabrielle Rodriguez, a library associate, has some new ideas to help promote future recycle days.

“For future recycle days, I



Jeffry Tupa: The Signal

Recyclable items lay on the tables for faculty and staff to view outside the Office of Procurement and Payables.

think it would be nice to have a small display of contributed pictures of how the newly found items were creatively used,” Rodriguez said. “For example, I noticed there were a lot of old unused floppy disks. I didn’t think about it then, but a few of them could have been repurposed to make a box to hold your pens.”

Terri Culbert, suite secretary of HSH, has gone to the last three recycling events and brought back many items not only for her office but also for other professors who work in her department.

“I enjoy all the recycling days,” Culbert said. “I was able

to get a nice conference table from one of them, which met our office’s needs very nicely. We use it for lunch, to get together and to talk and share ideas. We also use it for our meetings when we need to be able to get together.”

Culbert said that the recycling day also provides a good networking opportunity for people to meet from different departments.

“It’s a great program and I hope it continues,” Culbert said. “I would like us to move forward with more recycling programs at the university.”

Rhett Fest

A play on words...and punctuation

Lesli Cokley
The Signal Staff

Thanks to the National Council of Teachers of English, Oct. 20 has been declared the National Day for Writing.

In honor of this first-ever national holiday, the Writing Center held Rhett Fest. Promoted as a “quirky festival,” the goal was to bring literature to life through a variety of events ranging from costumed characters to a giant scrabble board.

“I think we had an excellent turn-out,” said Chloe Diepenbrock, director of the Writing Center. “We fed over 100 people, gave away some nice prizes and, most importantly, celebrated writing with several fun word-related games.”

The event also featured literary characters such as Miss Havisham from “Great Expectations” who handed out bookmarks with student’s names written in calligraphy, “Sir” John Gorman, professor of literature, judged the poetry slam.

“We were very pleased to have four of the writing faculty, Pat Cuchens (the Diagram Queen), Judy Hatcher (the Diagramming Princess), Hunter Stephenson, (Boggle Player Extraordinaire), and Deborah Griffin (another Boggling Fool), and John Gorman, our distinguished poet-in-residence, all participating,” Diepenbrock said.



FROM LEFT: Chloe Diepenbrock, director of the Writing Center, and Alicia Costello, receptionist, show off their costumes – a semi colon and a grammar fool.



FROM LEFT: Amy Smith, program coordinator, Zahabi Damania, receptionist, and Britney Menconi, trainee, serve free food and drinks.



FROM LEFT: Lori Arnold, tutor at the Writing Center, and Judy Hatcher, writing lecturer for the School of HSH, play Boggle at one of the many booths.

Campus Calendar

Oct. 26
Workshop:
Resume/Cover Letter
4-6 p.m.,
SSCB 2306

Oct. 28
Employer Spotlight:
PTP New Media
5-7:30 p.m.,
SSCB 3109

Oct. 30
Workshop:
Interviewing and
What Not to Wear
10 a.m.-Noon,
SSCB 3303

Cap and Gown
Reservation Deadline
for December
Graduates: UHCL
Bookstore, Bayou

Nov. 4
NSLS Live Video
Conference: The
Leadership
Challenge
1:30 p.m.,
SSCB 1202.07

Nov. 6
Event: Michael
Harrison
7:30 p.m.,
Bayou Theater



Visit our website to view photos from
Halloween events in the area.
www.uhclthesignal.com



Read the story online at:
www.uhclthesignal.com