



Adventure by ground or by sky, pg. 4

Student adrenaline junkie, pg. 5

SOCIAL MEDIA (R)EVOLUTION

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Kristin Manrique
The Signal

Egyptians have surprised the world with their technological ingenuity, which resulted in the overthrow of a government dictator. The uprising in Egypt is a prime example of youth effectively using social media to bring about social reform.

The nearly 30 year reign that President Hosni Mubarak held over Egypt ended Feb. 11 due in part to the country's younger generation creating a viral message of defiance towards the Egyptian government.

People posted videos on YouTube, tweeted protest locations and documented on Facebook the atrocities committed in their homeland. Communication through social media played a vital role in instilling change and promoting democratic reform in Egypt.

Everette Penn, assistant professor of criminology, was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship that allowed him to teach in Egypt, as well as absorb the culture.

Penn observed Egypt's technological modernity firsthand. Penn said, once

technology merged with a strong political message, an uprising was only a matter of time.

"A revolution for a deprived people is only one meal away," said Penn. "The question is not if, but when. Social media provided the means to communicate quickly and broadly to a wide array of people in Egypt. I believe once people access information and have the ability to discuss, verify and analyze change occurs

because an alternative is discovered. This is what we are seeing in Egypt and throughout the Middle East."

Nearly a year ago, Wael Ghonim, the 30-year-old Google executive and Internet activist, began voluntarily organizing a Facebook page that promoted democratic reform in Egypt and chronicled the work of Egyptian Nobel Prize winner and politician Mohamed ElBara-

Wall

Info

Photos

Discussions

Notes

Video

More

Wael Ghoem: Courtesy Ghoneim, a public figure from Cairo, Egypt used Facebook to aid in organizing protests last month.



Tonya Torres: The Signal

Amani Abuel Fadi displays the peace sign during a solidarity demonstration in support of the mass protests in Egypt held Friday, Jan. 28, 2011, in Houston. Three hundred gathered outside the Egyptian Consulate on Westheimer.

Chat (1)

Social Media: continued on page 6

Senate passes sonogram bill

Jennifer Cox
The Signal

Texas Sen. (R) Dan Patrick proposed the Sonogram Bill that will require women seeking an

abortion to have an ultrasound at least 24 hours before having the abortion performed. The bill entails viewing ultrasound images and hearing the fetus' heart-

beat in addition to an explanation of what the doctor may find.

The bill passed the Senate in Texas Thursday, Feb. 17, with a vote of 21 to 10. The bill makes an exception for cases of rape, incest and fetal abnormalities. Even though doctors are required to do an ultrasound, women do have the choice to not see the images or hear the fetus' heartbeat.

Some organizations have strong feelings against the bill forcing women to have an ultrasound prior to getting an abortion.

"The leading cause of abortion is unplanned pregnancy," Rochelle Tafolla, vice president of communications & marketing at Planned Parenthood stated.

Tafolla feels having women get an ultrasound before an abortion will not prevent them from proceeding with the abortion.

She said there needs to be affordable birth control in order for the number of abortions to

Sonogram: continued on page 6



Roberta Cowan: The Signal

House bill eliminates funds for public broadcasting

Carissa Puls
The Signal

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill sponsored by Rep. Hal Rogers Feb. 19. Known as the Continuing Resolution Act of 2011, this bill eliminates all funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

The bill arrived in the Senate on Feb. 28, but before it can be put into effect it still has to win the Senate's vote and be signed by the president.

CPB promotes public telecommunications services for the American public. This includes TV and radio stations such as the Public Broadcasting System and National Public Radio. Many Americans depend upon these stations for news and entertainment.

"I listen to NPR every day," said Ashley Packard, professor of communication and digital media

studies. "I think it is the best source of news available because it is informative and engaging. I also use clips from it regularly in my classes."

Texas Rep. Kevin Brady wrote The Cuts Act of 2011, which is parallel with the Continuing Resolution Act. Brady's description of his bill states that the current CPB funding level is around \$400 million annually and is the highest it's ever been.

"We can't afford it anymore," said Brady, on the NPR Diane Rehm show. "Its not an issue of the value of NPR because in truth, you know, your programming in many ways is wonderful."

NPR is mainly dependent upon loyal supporters who help fund the majority of the program.

"[Government funding] is a steady revenue stream NPR could use to do the work they

Public Broadcasting: continued on page 6

INSIDE

Editorial.2
Column.2

Adventure by ground or by sky. . . . 4
Student adrenaline junkie. 4

Campus Life8
Campus Calendar8

ONLINE

Video: UHCL professor of literature Tom McCall memorial service

Social: Follow The Signal on Twitter and Facebook

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- The editors reserve the right to refuse letters, announcements and contributed articles deemed libelous.

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EDITORIAL

Social networking changes history

Most of us go to our Twitter and Facebook sites to engage in our daily lives and activities. Having this technology helps us understand what is going on worldwide.

Google marketing executive Wael Ghonim helped create a Facebook page devoted to a victim of police brutality in Egypt. Ghonim fought against the poverty and corruption of his country by exposing the body of a young businessman beaten to death for trying to take a stand against police corruption.

Facebook and Twitter have played a big role in the Egyptian uprising. Social networking helped protestors organize and communicate with one another to bring about the downfall of President Hosni Mubarak.

Ghonim, 30, is Google’s head of marketing in the Middle East and a father of two. He was arrested Jan. 27 after joining the protest in Cairo’s Tahrir Square and held for 12 days before being released.

Youth of today engaging in social networking sites such as MySpace, Facebook and Twitter are able to not only communicate with one another but also have more opportunities for engagement in civic and political issues. Ghonim’s Facebook page helped in promoting democracy and organizing protests in Cairo.

Social media has come a long way from its original purpose – to provide a way to connect with another person. Today we rely on social networks to conduct everyday business. We are active participants who receive news through networks we have created. We are, in turn, able to pass that news along to one another.

Social networking has encouraged younger people to get involved in politics. In Egypt, Google and Twitter have helped protestors have a voice.

Social networking sites have helped broaden horizons and allowed us to see what is going on in the rest of the world.

Imagine a protestor display-

ing a picture of a wounded man on a cell phone for all the world to see. This alone gives us a picture of reality. The impact of what we read is heightened through the use of social network sites and the user’s ability to post videos and photos within minutes of an incident.

Ghonim’s heroic act in creating the Facebook page that started the protests in Egypt was felt around the

world. Communication through the media and social networks is

an expedient way to tell the world what’s happening.

WANTNEEDO

by Kalan Lyra



COLUMN Did he just say ‘Penis MAN-ologue?’

Roman Roma III
The Signal

With all the discussions surrounding “The Vagina Monologues,” which was recently performed on campus, I thought really hard about the whole empowerment of women topic this show brings, and I’m with it all the way.

I support anyone who can take charge of life and succeed. However, I do wish there was a way to add another version of the monologues. What about a guys’ monologue, or should I say MAN-ologue?

How about “The Penis MAN-ologues?” They could depict many known and unknown problems guys go through.

Believe it or not, guys do have issues too; we just “man-up” and hide them inside our masculin-

ity – one of our problems. Some of the difficulties guys encounter include: erectile dysfunction, the social edict to not cry in public, bottling up our feelings, occasional sweating, pressure to commit meeting women’s expectations, body hair, providing for our family, the famous “does size matter” issue, hair loss, height issues

(since most girls like tall guys), occasional morning wood and casual odor problems.

Bringing all our manly problems together, the main theme to my show “The Penis MAN-ologues” would revolve around the popular saying “nice guys finish last.”

Why is that phrase true? Why do some women say they want a nice guy but then actively pass him up for a bad boy who doesn’t treat her right?

I have been both the bad boy

and the good guy. Of course, I started off as a good guy until I had my heart broken by ex’s who cheated on me with bad boys.

Fed up and single, I started caring less and turned into a bad boy myself. I started dressing differently, picked up a cocky attitude (being a football player helped with this), and dated multiple girls at the same time. I projected a totally different image and girls started to notice. Now that I think about it, I remember being appealing to women who were in relationships with some really good guys.

Playing the bad boy helped teach me what I really wanted in life. Even though it attracted more women and made me feel good about myself, it only satisfied me for that moment. There were no long-term opportunities I could get with women using the bad boy act.

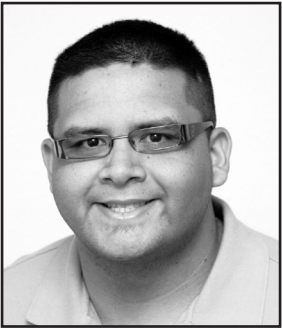
It wasn’t until a couple years later that I realized I wasn’t going anywhere with the bad boy act

and just decided to be myself, which for the most part is a good guy.

Catching myself back at square one makes me think about the phrase “nice guys finish last.” Women tend to think there aren’t any more nice guys out there, while I tend to wonder how many more nice guys left in today’s world are going through the same thing I am.

The play “The Vagina Monologues” deals with real issues of brutality that women have gone through and still go through today. Real men would never treat women disrespectfully. To good guys, any man who chooses to use force or disrespect a woman is considered a coward.

“The Penis MAN-ologues” would be a great follow up play to “The Vagina Monologues.” It would show women that there are nice guys out in the world today who would pull out a chair and open a door.



Roman Rama III

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hello,
My name is John and I recently came across your article about the bill currently proposed in the Texas Legislature concerning Concealed Handgun License holders being able to conceal on campus. I had a few concerns about it.

1). The image portrayed shows a tactical shotgun in the main compartment of the backpack. This bill doesn’t have anything to do with shotguns at all. It is referring to the legal concealment of HANDGUNS. Therefore, your image gives a false impression of the issue at hand.

2) Those who legally conceal would avoid using their backpacks to do so. Mainly because of the fact that they access it throughout the day and can be prosecuted if someone was able to see their firearm. Search Google “deep concealment holsters” for more appropriate images to portray how a CHL holder would chose to conceal.

3) When visiting your webpage I clicked the story link on your News tab to view the article online. The link lead me to a similar article from 2 years ago. It was basically plagiarized from a previous writer.

After the main article being 2 years old, how would I know if the Editorials on the subject aren’t either?

Thanks,
John Cavuoti, II

Editor’s Note:
The 2009 article Mr. Cavuoti references was written by former Signal reporter Mark Guillory about House Bill 1893. Given the similarities of the gun bills, it’s not surprising that some of the same issues were readdressed. The article that ran in the Feb. 21 issue was an original piece written by Mark Bownds.

Corrections:

In the Feb. 21 issue of The Signal, in the article “Loss of funding threatens TexShare,” Kevin McNamara was mis-titled as an associate professor. He is in fact a professor of literature.

Also in the same issue, the article “UHCL event raising awareness, funds, and eyebrows,” the cutline describing the bottom photo should read, “Rachael Gunter, playing The Vagina Works.”

UHCL MASCOT SEARCH

Help UHCL Select a Mascot!



Great things are happening at YOUR University and we want you to be a part of an amazing and exciting endeavor! On behalf of UH-Clear Lake, the Mascot Leadership and Advisory Teams request your participation in the collection of ideas for an official university mascot.

A fun, spirited and memorable mascot can strengthen initiatives for engaging key audiences, building organizational awareness, and enhancing the UHCL experience. Recently, a leadership team was formed to respond to feedback and requests to address the absence of an official UHCL mascot. Traditionally, college students rally around a beloved mascot as a way to share their school spirit. UHCL is the only university in the University of Houston System without a mascot. UH Cougars, UHD Gators and UHV Jaguars do not reflect the pride and spirit of UHCL, so we need your input.

Be a part of UHCL history by submitting your ideas for a university mascot. Visit www.surveymonkey.com/UHCLMascot to complete the brief survey by March 11, 2011.

www.uhcl.edu/mascot

Take a Mid-term Break!

Tuesday, March 8
5 – 7 p.m.
Bayou Building, Atrium I



Wednesday, March 9
5 – 7 p.m.
Delta Building

Thursday, March 10
5 – 7 p.m.
SSCB Lobby



Stop by on your way to or from class and meet David Rachita, Interim Dean of Students.

Cookies, coffee and punch will be served.

• Student Life • Student Life • Student Life • Student Life •

MID-TERM MADNESS

When: Monday & Tuesday March 7th & 8th

Time: 3-7pm

Where: Bayou Atrium II



What: Come relieve some stress with fellow students during mid-term week by enjoying some games, music, popcorn, and more.



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

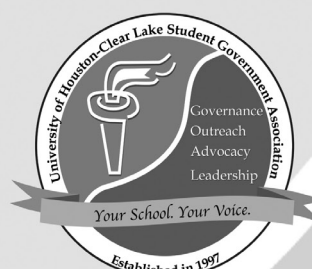
Student Government Association

Wonder what's happening on campus?

Guest Speakers:

March 8th – Chief Willingham
March 15th – Spring Break (no meeting)
March 22nd – Executive Council Voting
March 29th – Cary Hair (Fitness Zone)

All meetings are at 11:30 am
in the SSCB Lecture Hall (1.100.03)



"The goal of education is the advancement of knowledge and the dissemination of truth."

- John F. Kennedy

For Details Contact The SGA Executive Council:

Rebecca Smith – President
Prashanti Pandit – VP Committee Coordinator
Amanda Schoolcraft – VP Outreach & Communications
Clare Leonard – VP Administration

Your School. Your Voice.

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Spring Break

Adventure by ground or by sky?

Matt Candelaria

The Signal

With spring break right around the corner, most students are already excited and ready to blow off some stress. The everyday routine of college momentarily comes to a pause for a week and gives students some free time to get out and have some fun.

Instead of going to a bar, heading to the beach or staying at home and watching a movie, go out and have some adventure. Do something that can be a highlight of a lifetime.

Tired of getting tickets, but have that extreme need for speed? Luckily, Grandsport Speedway in Hitchcock is the place to put the brakes on the tickets, and put the peddle to the metal.

Racing Adventures, held at the speedway, offers a speed track where anyone can take his or her car and really test its engine. They also offer two cars for racetrack driving.

First, weighing in at 3,000 pounds is the corvette. This vehicle holds a V-8 engine to deliver the type of power that can make anyone smile. Also, there is a Cobra Repliracer. This open top car can go 0-60 in 4.2 seconds.

"I think it's ingrained in our society," said David Zubick, chief instructor and operator. "We are a car society. We love our big, fast, V-8 powered, rumbling cars; we've grown up with it and people just want to go fast. I think a lot of guys and girls have always dreamed of driving a racecar, or being a driver, or at least just trying it out."

Racing Adventures offers two types of driving schools, the Racing Adventures driving school and Groove Union.

"Racing Adventures is a higher end professional school," Zubick said. "Groove Union is a more casual type of school."

Both schools are offered at least four times a month at Grandsport Speedway. The schools last no more than two days.

Racing Adventures also offers ride alongs for those wanting to trust the professionals. The ride

alongs last five laps.

The track offers specific dates to drive a private car or take a ride with one of the drivers. For more information on the track, go online to www.racingadventures.com.

Want something a little more uplifting? Some adrenaline junkies set their sights to the skies. Skydive Spaceland offers a stay-on-site bunkhouse, with equipment needed for the jump, a pro-shop and a shower house with laundry facilities.

After filling out a waiver, jumpers take a 20-minute course, then it's time to take to the skies. First-time jumpers do a tandem skydive where they are strapped to the back of a professional jumper so they can enjoy the ride.

"They're initially attracted to the excitement and adventure, and doing something that they see in the movies that looks exciting," said Jason Hyder, manager and chief instructor. "In almost all cases they're very excited with brief moments of anxiousness and maybe a moment or two of fear that turns into elation very quickly."

Age is typically not a concern on jumps. Skydive Spaceland has societies for the young at heart, Parachuters Over Phorty and Skydivers Over Sixty.

"It really is for anyone from ages 18-80," Hyder said.

Be forewarned, this can be an extremely addicting activity.

"My first time was very nerve wracking, but it was fun," said Becca Waisath, radiology major at Lamar University. "I decided to come back and jump again because I love it; I would do it every day if I could. It's just so much fun. It's addicting."

Jumping out of a plane is not an everyday activity for most jumpers, but for instructors it is done frequently and the nerves are always there.

"I feel a cross between excitement and nervousness before I jump," said Jon "Boston" Hartley, Tandem Instructor, who has been on

nearly 5,000 jumps.

Skydive Spaceland's website is www.skydivespaceland.com.

Take a hot air balloon ride for a more relaxing yet still exciting trip. Texas Air Adventures, owned by Dale and Laura Tibodeau, is located in Houston. To get an idea of how big this hot air balloon is, compare it to a soccer ball. A soccer ball is 1 cubic foot of air. The hot air balloon is 105,000 cubic feet of air. Passengers get a view of the Texas landscape around the greater Houston area.

"Our passengers describe their balloon ride experience with words like amazing, surreal and wow," said Laura Tibodeau. "They typically tell us this was one of their top life experiences." More than one person can go on a ride.

"The number of passengers is a result of the weight and balance for that balloon," expalined Dale Tibodeau. "For our balloon, we can take 650 pounds of passenger weight. But, as our flights are all private flights, the number of passengers is typically two."

Balloons can fly in Houston all year. Taking a flight during spring, passengers will be able to check out the bluebonnets. Flying during fall, passengers can witness the beauty of the fall foliage from above. Each season offers something different. For some people this is a trip that they want to experience more than once.

"Absolutely," Laura Tibodeau said. "In fact, some couples book their next flight at the conclusion of their first flight."

For more information about Texas Air Adventures go to www.texasaa.com.

Editor's Note:
These sports are not called extreme without reason and unfortunately accidents do sometimes happen. On March 2, two skydivers collided in mid-air, causing the parachutes to get tangled. The skydivers fell 100-200 feet. Scott James died at the scene; Arthur Bill died later that day in the hospital.

extreme:
 existing in a very
 high degree

passion:
 intense or driving
 feeling or conviction

adventure:
 an undertaking involving
 danger and unknown risk



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Hickman Ranch
 2403 Miller Rd.
 Posharon, TX 77583
 832-689-2285

extreme sports

Jessica O'Rear The Signal

At 14,000 feet in the air, Diana Cotter stepped out of the door of a small airplane and descended toward land. The free fall lasted for about 30 seconds at a speed of 120 mph. In a short period of time, Cotter fell from 14,000 feet to 7,000 feet. At 6,000 feet Cotter deployed her parachute and, after a few minutes of floating in the sky, arrived safely on the ground.

"I remember that after I landed, I was the happiest person on earth," Cotter said. "Skydiving was one of the most exciting and intense experiences that I've encountered."

Cotter, a 23-year-old communication major, is a self-proclaimed "outdoor girl" who enjoys exciting and intense activities. After moving from Houston to Mexico as a child, Cotter found she liked trying new experiences.

"The exposure to new people, culture and language was crucial for my interest for adventure," Cotter said. "Since I was a little girl, I have always felt the need for adventure."

One of Cotter's earliest outdoor activities occurred at a summer camp where she learned how to put together a tent. Cotter fell in love with the outdoors. Since then, she has tried many outdoor sports including skiing, skydiving, kayaking, rafting, snorkeling and playing paintball.

"I performed many activities that made me feel passionate for adventure," Cotter said. "Cliff diving was one of the first activities that made me feel an adrenaline rush. We had to climb to the top of the cliff, probably 20-feet high, and when we got to the upper part I looked down and saw excitement."

Some of Cotter's friends and family members have accompanied her in these extreme sport quests.

"I wouldn't necessarily say that Diana is into extreme sports," said Jessica Faz, a fellow communication major. "It's more than that. Skydiving and parasailing are her way of experiencing the world. The first time I saw Diana after she went kayaking, she was absolutely beaming. The next thing I knew, I was canoeing down a creek."

When Cotter tries a new sport, she never gives up – even if she doesn't excel at first. The first time Cotter went skiing, she fell and hurt her knee. However, she got back on her feet and tried to ski again; Cotter was determined to get it right.

Angeline Cotter, Diana's younger sister, thinks of her sibling as an adventurous person and encourages her to try new things. Angeline is always willing to try out new activities with Diana, no matter what adventure they come across.

"She is a risk taker," Angeline Cotter said. "For Diana, new adventures mean new ways to learn and appreciate life and nature. To share adventures, like skydiving or kayaking next to a 13-foot alligator, with Diana makes me feel secure."

Diana's mother, Gloria Cotter, also supports her daughter's extreme activities, even though she was nervous about Cotter's first time skydiving. Gloria was concerned for Diana's well-being.

"I could not be opposed to the idea because she was really passionate about it," Gloria Cotter said. "Of course, as her mother, I could not avoid worrying about her safety. As her mother, I have to support her and motivate her to always be herself."

Diana believes life is too short to not experience new things and encourages UHCL students to try new sports. She also emphasized that students do not have to travel far to partake in new activities.

"Try out new sports or new adventures in life," Cotter said. "You never know, you may discover a new and exciting hobby."



**Diana
Cotter**

Student adrenaline junkie



Left: Cotter skiing in Denver, CO.
Above: Cotter skydiving over Texas.
All photos courtesy of Diana Cotter.



Skydive SpaceLand
16111 FM 521
POSHARON, TX 77583
1-800-SKY-DIVE



Texas Air Adventures
14722 North Eldridge Pkwy.
HOUSTON, TX 77070
281-379-3165

Social Media: continued from page 1

dei. Ghonim noticed his Facebook pages’ progress at providing information, conversing and sharing ideas with likeminded individuals.

This inspired Ghonim to launch another page campaigning against police brutality in Egypt, spur strong camaraderie amongst users and produce volunteerism throughout the country.

Ghonim would adopt the alias El Shaheed, or The Martyr, to secure his anonymity. Unfortunately, Egyptian security forces discovered his identity. He was abducted and held for two weeks while the movement continued. He was later released and became known worldwide as the face of the Egyptian social media revolution.

Marcus Messner, associate professor of journalism and mass communication at Virginia Commonwealth University, researches social media’s influence on media coverage, as well as media organizations’ embrace of these sources of instant communication. He has published books per-

taining to this specific subject, created his own website and blog, and written articles for various academic journals.

“It is very difficult to monitor all of so-

friends and family has shifted into a whole new realm of communicating. SixDegrees launched in 1997 and the application style became known as “Web 2.0.” Friendster

the message, communication combined with technology has the ability to drastically alter life as we know it.

Throughout history dictators have understood the importance of establishing power by gaining control of its country’s media. These tactics only acknowledge one side of an issue and push a specific agenda. The Egyptian government overlooked or underestimated the ferocity and influence of new-technology and the younger generation’s embrace of social media to communicate.

“Almost all print and broadcast media in these countries are state controlled and give no coverage to opinions or movements critical of the government,” Messner said. “YouTube gives protesters an additional channel to report what is really happening on the ground. If you just look at the uprising in Libya, you can see that we would hardly know anything about protests without social media and mobile technology.”

“It is very difficult to monitor all of social media as millions of users can access them. Once a message is posted, it is very difficult to censor tweets and retweets.”



- Marcus Messner
associate professor of journalism and mass communication
at Virginia Commonwealth University

cial media as millions of users can access them,” Messner said. “Once a message is posted, it is very difficult to censor tweets and retweets. Some of the technology advancements that are common to us by now also seem to have surprised the rulers in these countries.”

What began as a way to catch up with

established a social media service in roughly 2002. MySpace became the trend when the site bowed in 2004, but Facebook (also introduced in 2004) as well as Twitter (2006) will forever be associated with giving youth a voice to implement social reform campaigns.

History has proven that, regardless of

Public Broadcasting: continued from page 1

do,” Packard said. “However, the amount of funding they get from government is pretty miniscule, relatively speaking. It would be more accurate to say the government has been giving them crumbs and is proposing to take the crumbs away.”

“About only 15 percent of NPR’s budget is dependent upon the federal funding,” said Tracee Evans, press secretary for Brady.

Brady’s description of the Cuts Act reveals that the government spends almost \$20 million more on unnecessary office printing.

Of this year’s \$1.4 trillion deficit, about \$420 million is attributed to CPB.

“It doesn’t make sense to cut something so minor in the budget,” said John Hesse, the PBS Houston Channel 8 station manager.

PBS is working on a case to present before Congress that addresses the importance of its programs to the public.

“The elimination of funding for public broadcasting threatens millions of citizens

throughout America with the loss of services that they rely on, especially parents and children,” stated a Feb. 19 PBS press release.

During this period of time with the U.S.’s economic situation, and the cuts in education nationally, Hesse argued, “the educational value that PBS has brought to this country is enormous and is being undervalued by those looking to cut it.”

A portion of the federal funding for CPB goes directly to help fund national productions such as “NOVA” and “Sesame Street,” both of which promote education.

“If that money is not there, then those programs may not be there either,” Hesse said.

Although the cut will not affect the immediate year, it will have a ripple effect through the CPB stations.

“Nearly 360 member stations will be

severely impacted,” PBS stated in a press release. “Smaller and rural stations, those that operate in areas with the most limited media choices, would feel the most dramatic effects.”

Only about 15 percent of the Houston PBS budget is dependent upon government funding.

“Channel 8 doesn’t depend upon the government funding as much,” explained Hesse. “However, smaller systems will go completely dark because

a much higher percentage of their budget, sometimes up to 40 percent, is dependent upon federal money.”

PBS Houston Channel 8 is running pretty “lean” already with their employee base, Hesse said. “Depending upon what happens, we have to look at the possibility of cutting back services.”

For more information regarding those opposed to the elimination of funding for CPB visit www.170millionamericans.org, or write to your local state representative.

“It would be more accurate to say the government has been giving them crumbs and is proposing to take the crumbs away.”

-Ashley Packard
UHCL professor of communication
and digital media studies



Sonogram: continued from page 1

decrease and making the decision to get an abortion is hard enough and having a required ultrasound complicates the situation for women.

Even though women have the choice not to view or hear the images of the ultrasounds, Tafolla feels there is really no choice, asking if women are supposed to “close their eyes and cover their ears?”

Sen. Patrick, on the other hand, wants to ensure that women who are considering abortion have all the facts before making the decision.

“This bill is about a woman’s right to know,” Patrick stated in a press release Sunday, Feb. 13.

He feels that if a women has an ultrasound prior to an abortion, it could possibly change her mind about going through with the procedure.

Patrick also stated in the press release that the bill will provide a “high level of informed consent” and that it would ensure there are “no barriers preventing women from receiving the information to which they are entitled

for such a life-changing decision.”

Sara Cleveland, executive director at NARAL Pro-Choice Texas, does not see the bill in the same light as Patrick.

“This bill is an attack on women, plain and simple,” Cleveland said.

Cleveland said the bill “shames women, as if women are daft creatures unable to make personal, private medical decision without the paternalistic oversight of legislators.”

Cleveland also feels Patrick proposed the bill hoping that women would stop and think about the decision they are about to make and possibly change their minds.

Cleveland argues that once women are at an abortion clinic, they have already thought about their decision and have consulted friends and family members – no bill will

change their mind. Vicki Schnell, a physician at The Center of Reproductive Medicine, feels from a medical standpoint it is a good idea to have an ultrasound to make sure a woman is not too far in her pregnancy before having an abortion.

The standard procedures for having an abortion as listed on the Texas Department of State Health Services states that a doctor who is to perform an abortion must tell the woman that assistance may be available to help with

Tafolla feels there is really no choice, asking if women are supposed to “close their eyes and cover their ears?”

- Rochelle Tafolla
vice president of communications
& marketing at Planned Parenthood

medical care before, during and after childbirth.

The father is required to help support the child whether or not he has offered to pay for an abortion.

Government and private agencies can counsel the woman in preventing pregnancy, or refer her to a doctor for medications or devices to prevent pregnancy, including emergency contraception for victims of rape and incest.

The woman has the right to look at printed information. If she chooses to see the material the law describes, the doctor shall give her a copy at least 24 hours before the abortion is scheduled.

The doctor may, instead, mail her the materials, with delivery restricted to her, at least 72 hours before the abortion is scheduled.

However, Schnell feels the bill will not make women change their minds about getting an abortion. Schnell believes that the bill will only “make women feel guilty and not help the decision they have already made.” As for the government, people are given rights but with limitations, and Schnell wonders what’s next.

As it stands, organizations like Planned Parenthood and NARAL are lobbying to get this bill revised.

For more information about the Sonogram Bill, go to www.reuters.com or contact your local state representative. For more information about Planned Parenthood, call 281-337-4618 or NARAL call 805-955-7675.



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Students and alumni speed through Interview Dash



Norma Villarreal: The Signal

Jana Fichtner with Fichtner & Associates, interviews Mychael Houck, an alumnus from the University of Houston, Monday, March 1, during the Interview Dash in the Bayou Forest Room.

Norma Villarreal
The Signal

Interview Dash, sponsored by Career Services, was held March 1 to help students and alumni practice their interviewing skills with local companies, receive feedback from employers and network with peers.

“Interview Dash is speed interviewing, similar to speed dating with multiple em-

ployers,” said Caitlin Weekley, employer relations coordinator. “The job search is something you will be doing for your entire life and these are really valuable skills. The Interview Dash is only practice, not for an actual job, but it could build networking for a potential job.”

Weekley brought the event to UHCL after having a similar experience during her time as a student in college.

“I did something similar when I was in college, and I felt like I learned,” Weekley said. “It was extremely nerve racking because you are getting interviewed over and over again and, you know, it is not for a real job but you’re sitting in front of someone who hires people and critiques interviewing all day every day. The student should be able to seal the deal in a job search.”

Students had the opportunity to perfect their interviewing skills by getting feedback from an actual employer on how to correctly answer interview questions. Twelve employers attended including Harris County Department of Education, IRS, DQ Technologies, Omnipotech and Target.

Manager for the IRS and University of Houston-Downtown alumnus Terry McIntosh was one of the employers who attended.

“Although most students will assume that they will be able to find jobs after they graduate, students may be unaware that their interview skills may need a little polishing,” McIntosh said. “Answering an interview question the wrong way can keep you from getting the job. People need to think. It is not as if, though, you have to continuously talk because once you say something, you cannot take it back. It would be better to say nothing than to have spoken words that make you seem less intelligent.”

The Interview Dash operated on the same principal as speed dating. The employer asked the interviewee a typical question, comparable to a question that would be asked in a regular interview, and the student had one minute to respond with

an answer. The employer then had one minute to give instant feedback. If there was a better response than the one given, the interviewer informed the student of the proper way the question could have been answered. After the two minutes were up, the student moved on to the next employer and started the process over again.

“I am hoping to be able to interact with multiple employers, find out what employers are looking for and to polish up on my interview skills so that I can land that job that I am looking for in the future,” said Connie Lafayette, human resource management major.

“Before I got here I had no idea what to expect, but I got a lot of good feedback after speaking with the employers,” said Patricia Hansen, geography major. “I think the university should hold this type of event every semester. However, the time needs to be longer than the two minutes they are allowing. We also need more employers at this event; my overall experience was great.”

Half of the room was set up as a network arena so that students could practice with UHCL Career Services staff. The network arena consisted of shaking hands, making eye contact and having conversations, replicating what a student could expect at any other kind of networking event.

“With the appropriate training, students will be better equipped for answering the interview questions,” Weekley said.

The next event will be an information session with Reynolds and Reynolds, Wednesday , March 23, in the Student Service Building room 3109. For more information on future job events, visit uhcl.edu/jobfair.com.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div>6</div> <div>Film: Inside Job 3 p.m., SSCB Lecture Hall</div>	<div>7</div> <div>Midterm Madness 3-7 p.m., Bayou Building Atrium II</div>	<div>8</div> <div>Midterm Madness 3-7 p.m., Bayou Building Atrium II</div>	<div>9</div> <div>Voices of Colour 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Bayou Building Garden Room</div>	<div>10</div> <div>NSLS Fundraiser 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Bayou Building Atrium II</div>	<div>11</div> <div>Workshop: Deal- ing with Difficult People 10 a.m.-noon, SSCB 1202.07</div>	<div>12</div> <div>Gamers’ Guild ConJour 2011 9 a.m.-11 p.m., Bayou Building</div>
<div>13</div> <div>Gamers’ Guild ConJour 2011 9 .a.m.-4 p.m., Bayou Building</div>	<div>14</div> <div>Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Kid Rock 6:45 p.m.</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo KISS 6:45 p.m.</div>	<div>16</div> <div>Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Miranda Lambert 6:45 p.m.</div>	<div>17</div> <div>Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Zac Brown Band 6:45 p.m.</div>	<div>18</div> <div>ISA Meeting noon-2 p.m., SSCB 1202.07</div>	<div>19</div> <div>Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Brad Paisley 3:45 p.m.</div>
- - - - S P R I N G B R E A K - - - -						
<div>20</div> <div>Art School for Children and Young Adults Registration due by April 19</div>	<div>21</div> <div>SGA Hunger Hero Food Drive Feb. 21 through April 18</div>	<div>22</div> <div>NSLS Live Speaker 6-7:30 p.m., SSCB Lecture Hall</div>	<div>23</div> <div>Reynolds & Reynolds Employer Spotlight 5:30-6:30 p.m., SSCB 3109</div>	<div>24</div> <div>Oceaneering Lecture “Visions in Our Midst” 5:30-7 p.m., Bayou Building Garden Room</div>	<div>25</div> <div>Team and Organizational Effectiveness Workshop 10 a.m.-noon, SSCB 1437</div>	<div>26</div> <div>Cultural Extravaganza 7 p.m., Bayou Theater, Atrium II</div>