SPECIAL ELECTION EDITION

THE SIGNAL

I VOTE U.S.

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TEXAS PRIMARY 2008

Courtesy

The Texas state capitol building at lit up at night.

Texas will play a big role in this year's election

Aubrey Harbin
The Signal Staff

It has been 20 years since the votes of Texans had a significant impact on the presidential candidate nomination, especially so late in an election year. Because Democratic delegates are not only based on the votes of the primary election, in 1988 Michael Dukakis and Jesse Jackson split the delegate votes almost in half, although the primary votes were split among four candidates.

Registered voters in Texas are urged to vote in the primary election March 4. Of the remaining states to hold primary elections, Texas has the most delegates with 138 Republican and 228 Democratic delegates.

After the primary election in Texas, precinct conventions are held; typically they are hosted at the same location where the voting took place. Voters who vote in the primary are eligible to attend and must participate with the same party for which they voted.

Several states were penalized this year for holding their primary elections too early. The Democratic National Committee stripped Michigan of all 156 delegate votes for holding its primary before Feb. 5. Florida was completely stripped of 185 delegate votes. The Republican National Committee was more lenient. It took away half of New Hampshire's 24 delegates, 27 of Michigan's 57 delegates and 23 of South Carolina's 47 delegate votes.

To win the presidential nomination, a candidate must receive at least 51 percent of the delegate

Primary: *continued on page 10*

Is the country ready for change?

Brandon White
The Signal Staff

For many Americans, particularly women and people of color, the 1960s were a time of trials and tribulations. Both groups were denied their equal and inalienable rights in the United States. To protest, many Americans led marches, sit-ins, boycotts and burned their bras. This led to the Civil Rights and, in some instances, Women's Rights Movements of the '60s.

Before the Civil Rights Movement took place, American society was in a different place. African-Americans were segregated into a society that was separate and certainly not equal. People of color could not eat in the same restaurants, drink from the same water fountains or even attend the same school as whites.

Prior to the Women's Rights Movement, women were expected to, according to the old adage, "be seen and not heard." Discriminated against in the workplace, women fought for equal footing in the career field.

"Time for change is the same now as in the '60s," explained Craig Oettinger, professor of sociology who marched with Dr. Martin Luther King during the Civil Rights Movement. "That sense of hope is back."

That longing for change in 2008 is made evident by the two front-runners on the Democratic ticket: Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. Either a woman or an African-American could very well be the next President of the United States.

"I'm surprised that this is happening while I'm still alive," Oettinger said.

Angela Howard, professor of women's studies, believes that both candidates bring about a change that many Americans desire.

"Barack Obama brings a lot of what the country is hungry for, especially young people," Howard said. "They want things to change. They want things to be different. They want things to be better. He doesn't stand there with the whole history of the established way of thinking behind him."

"What Clinton brings is a chance for over 50

Political Change: *continued on page 10*

Voting as a self defense

Courtesy

Jorge De La Garza
The Signal Staff

The Fifthteenth Amendment in the U.S. Constitution guarantees every citizen the right to vote regardless of race or color.

Historically, Hispanic-Americans have not exercised this right in large numbers.

"After decades of relatively low Hispanic electoral participation, last years more than a million legal Latino immigrants applied to become citizens, with many saying they had done so to be able to vote," writes Julia Preston in her Feb 5 article, "Issues Start Rush to Vote by Hispanics."

With illegal immigration a hot button issue in the 2008 presidential election, more and more Hispanic Americans view voting as a means of self defense.

"Hispanics regard voting this year as a strategy of self defense," said Sergio Bendixen, a pollster based in Miami, as quoted in Preston's article. "The immigration debate has not been about immigration policy; it has been about whether Hispanics belong in America."

Hispanics are voting to defend themselves and the rights of legal immigrants. The hurdles to legal immigration rise every day. There is a sense of an immigrant limbo in becoming a legal immigrant. Currently, it takes six to 12 years to become a legal immigrant. In the meantime, legal immigrants still play an important role in the economy.

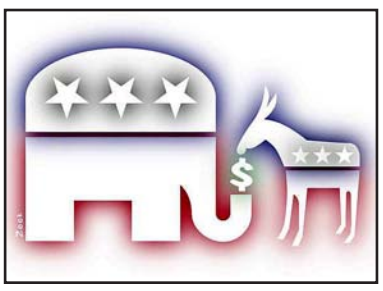
Both legal and undocumented immigrants are exploited by Americans taking advantage of their non-citizen status.

Jose, a day laborer in the Houston area, was hired by a contractor to install pluming in a new housing project. The contractor's terms includ-

Immigration: *continued on page 10*

Artist Sam Coronado
See page 4

Lieutenant of Inishmore
See page 4



The Presidential Candidates
See pages 6-7

Encouraging America's youth to vote

Tired of the high cost of education? Broke from overpriced gasoline? These issues effect most young Americans even if they do not realize it. This is why it is important for young people to vote.

Yet most young people, between 18-29, do not vote. Some do not vote because they do not feel confident about the information they receive about the candidates and their issues, some think their vote will not make a difference and most find the traditional ways of researching information tiresome.

Both the Democratic Party and the Republican Party have different methods to solve these problems. Both parties have reached out to young Americans through the Internet.

The Internet has played a huge part in informing young people about each candidate and their issues. There are several Web sites available for first-time voters (see inset).

From the information provided on the Internet, young people will have a better understanding of how and why their votes will affect the outcome of the upcoming election.

Thanks to the improvement of targeting young voters, the percentage has increased.

The most current poll from Pewresearch.org states that out of the 18 states that took part in the democratic primary, approximately 14 percent of young people between the ages of 18-29 voted. In 2004, only 9 percent of young voters participated in the democratic primary.

With the statistics showing slight increases among young Americans, there are several ways to help attract more young people to vote.

Chelsea Chapman, president of the Houston Young Republicans, contacts young people through Myspace.com and Facebook.com and uses the Houston Young Republican's Web site, www.HoustonYR.com, to motivate young Americans to vote. Chapman also coordinates cross-promotional events with the University of Houston and the Texas College Republicans.

David Hardt, president of the Young Democrats of America in Washington, D.C., also contacts young voters online through Myspace.com and Facebook.com to inform and encourage them to vote. In addition, the organization sends text messages to remind young people to vote on election day, Nov. 4.

Both Hardt and Chapman said that a lot of young Americans are excited to vote for the first time and want to be a part of the election process.

Although there are many ways for young people to access information about the presidential candidates and their issues, some may feel intimidated the first time they register to vote. It can also be confusing.

Hardt said the YDA provides online training on their Web site and shows first-time voters how to register to vote on YouTube.com.

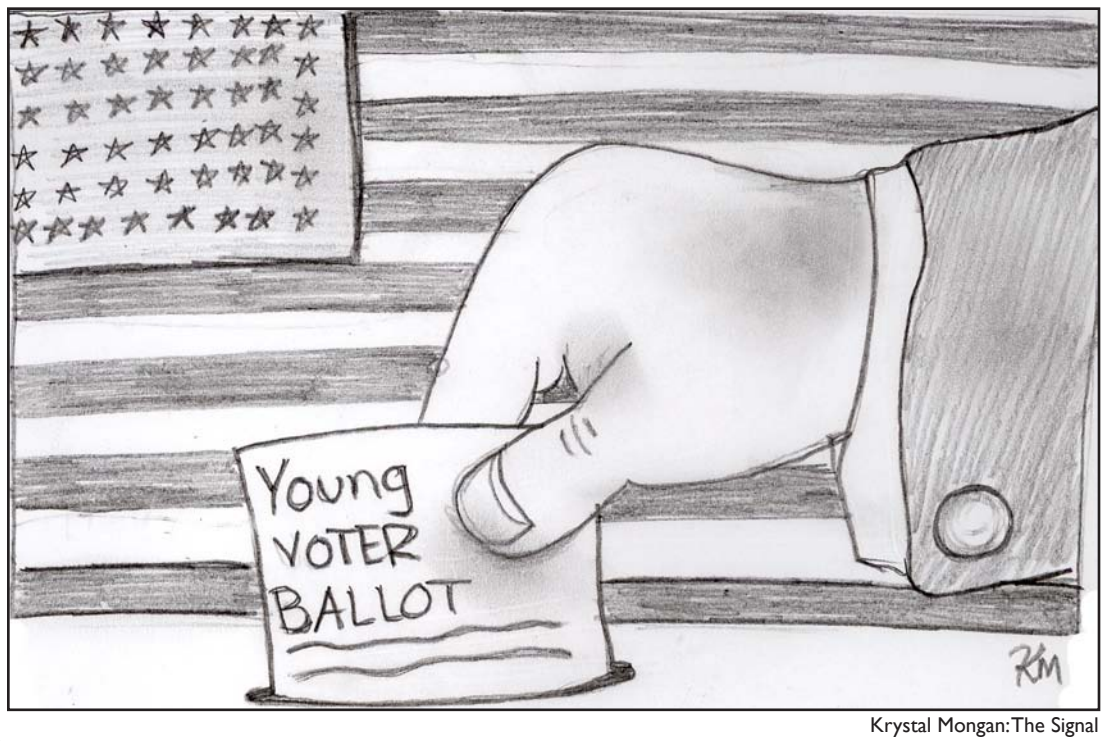
In order to register, first-time voters can go to the Texas Secretary of State Web site, www.sos.state.tx.us, for voter registration information. Young people should send a photocopy of their government-issued identification along with their address at least 30 days before election day. Voters must also be a resident of the state where they plan to register and vote.

Even though there is a 5 percent increase of young people who participated in the 2008 democratic primary, 14 percent is still a very small amount.

Every American has the responsibility to research information about each candidate and their issues before casting a ballot; after all, voting is a privilege.

With the excessive amount of information about the candidates and their issues online, we have no excuse to say the information is unavailable.

We complain about the high cost of education. We complain about expensive gas prices. But if we do not vote, we have no right to complain because we fail to exercise that right at the polls.



Krystal Mongan: The Signal

Web sites for young voters:

http://DeclareYourself.com
http://CivicYouth.com
http://ShapeTheFuture.org
www.YoungVoterStrategies.org
http://RockTheVote.com/home.php
www.HoustonYR.com
http://HarriscountyYD.org
http://YoungRepublicans.com
http://YDA.org

Cross Signals

The Signal staff members share their opinions as to why many young people do not vote. Join the discussion by logging on to The Signal blog at:
www.myspace.com/signal_UHCL

I think most of the younger generation, which does not include my age group, gets their news online. They are tech savvy and all about convenience. Consequently, the actual act of voting is quite inconvenient. You have to drive to a specific location and go stand in line at the voting booth to cast your vote. If voting were more electronic, easily accessible through a cellular phone or laptop, I think the younger generation would participate more.
-Tracy Moody

Well I have to say that I don't vote because I never keep up with the candidates or elections. I don't know much about the issues the candidates believe in or who is the best person to choose for president. I won't vote if I have no idea about the person I'm voting for. I feel that most young people don't vote because they don't think their vote counts; however, that's not the case for me. I do think a vote counts and if an individual believes in a candidate and agrees with their issues then they should vote. I also want to add that not many young people follow the news and that is a very good reason why we don't know much about politics or candidates.
-Britney Samperi

In my opinion, the reason more young people don't vote is because they underestimate the power of their voices. I think many young people feel that their individual votes won't make a difference in the big picture. Obviously, the problem with this way of thinking is that if everyone felt that way, no one would vote and we would lose our opportunity to shape our society.
-Jennifer Ferguson

I think most young people refrain from voting because they feel disenfranchised by political process. Without the feeling that they are voting for someone with their best interests in mind, it is hard for young people to support political candidates. For this reason, young people are easily romanced by politicians who claim to have the "anti-establishment" stance on government. The truth of the matter is that only those politicians that know the system well can use that same system to the advantage of their constituents.
-Cryss Godoy

There is an unmeasureable amount of political information on the Web; lack of information is not the reason young people do not vote. I think younger people do not vote because most issues discussed in politics do not hit very close to home. The youth of America typically do not worry about things like Medicare, Social Security, foreign affairs, health insurance and education.
-Stanley White III

The discussion continues on The Signal blog at *www.myspace.com/signal_UHCL*

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A Hillary presidency could change homemaking at D.C.'s executive mansion

Everyone in America is buzzing about it. A woman might become president in this year's election. And not just any woman, mind you, but the wife of Bill Clinton, former president of the United States. Hillary Rodham Clinton, senator of New York, is running head to head with Barack Obama in the battle for the Democratic nomination for the presidency.

Julie Bray
The Signal Staff

And while many have thought about the possibility of a woman being in office, less have probably taken into consideration what life would be like for the Clinton family were the misses dubbed ruler of the United States. Not only would the history of our country be permanently changed by finally having a woman in office, but the White House as we know it would be different as well.

From the Oval Office to the laundry room, a woman's touch will surely go a long way in the one household in America in which men actually have the last say in battles and wars, both in the home and around the globe.

A walking tour of the 18-acre plot belonging to the Hillary House will bring many pleasant surprises. The best feature of the yard, no doubt, belongs to Bill—a doghouse for those nights that he misbehaves.

A stroll around the grounds will certainly leave guests hungry. Snacking on granny smith apples, Hillary's favorite, will not be enough. Luckily, a chef specializing in New York-style pizzas will be waiting to serve guests in the State Dining Room.

After an appetizing lunch, Hillary would give the guests a tour of the inside of the house. And if Hillary's friends are anything like typical women, the first stop will be the master suite. After walking through the bedroom doors, adorned with a sign that reads, "No Interns Allowed," guests will see a beautiful room decorated with plenty of yellow, her favorite color.

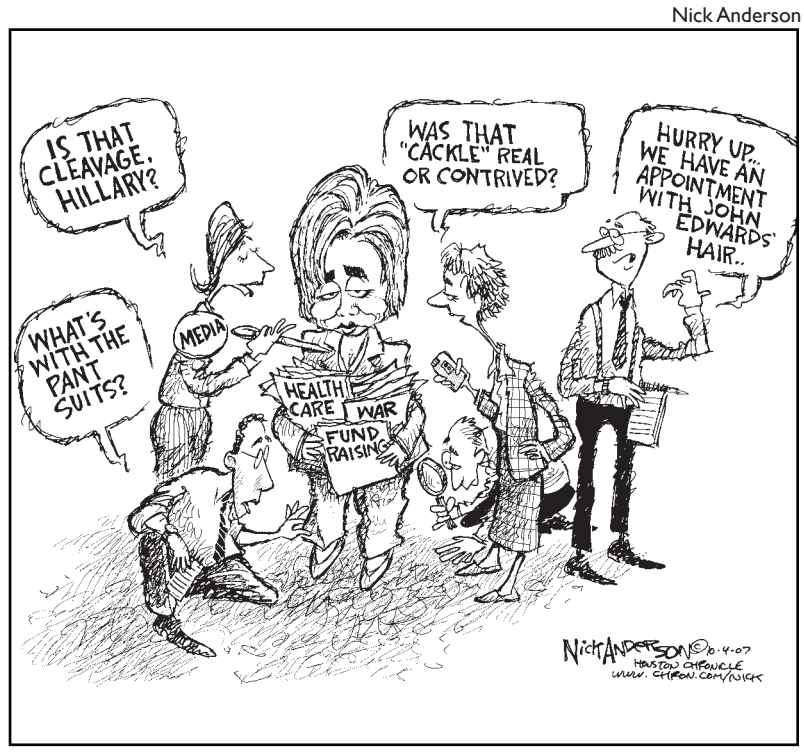
Of course, Bill would also be in a unique situation. Being the very first First Gentleman would surely put the pressure on to make important decisions regarding the decorations that would adorn the many rooms of the Hillary House.

Bill would have to choose the china, linens, window dressings and other accents throughout the house while Hillary is off at work. It is almost guaranteed that Bill would not pick the most appealing of accessories. One room would probably sport Alpha Phi Omega, a fraternity he was inducted into, paraphernalia scattered on the walls and desk trinkets. Rest assured that no dog or cat will ruin his decorations, though. Bill is allergic to both.

Bill would try his best at being the hospitable other half that Hillary needs by taking care of logistics around the house. However, Hillary would, as usual, come in behind him and do the job right.

Having a woman in the Oval Office would unquestionably change the dynamics of the White House. Only time will tell if this will become a reality for the Clinton family or if a man will once again rule the White House.

Nick Anderson



History in the making in this year's election

America has turned the corner. Many American cities have already shown this is the most diverse country in the world. African-Americans, women and other minorities have achieved a level of governmental leadership throughout our country.

Britney Samperi
The Signal Staff

Americans have the opportunity to take history to the next level. For the first time, we have an opportunity to elect the first African-American or woman to the office of president of the United States of America. Could either candidate be the right choice for our country? The answer is yes.

Look at the first woman mayor of the 4th largest city in the United States, Kathryn Whitmire, and the first African-American mayor, Lee Brown.

Whitmire was the first female elected to Houston city government as city comptroller. After serving two terms, she was elected to serve as Houston's mayor for five continuous two-year terms from 1982-1991. Whitmire is known for her fiscal responsibility in managing the city's financial resources.

While mayor, Whitmire served in other capacities such as president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and Texas Municipal League.

Whitmire broke new ground by appointing Houston's first African-American police chief, Lee Brown. She also appointed the first Hispanic municipal court judge, Sylvia Garcia.

The 57th mayor of Houston built the largest convention center in Houston's history. She will be well remembered for drafting the first mass transit plan for mobility in Houston that was later derailed by her predecessor. The man who would become Houston's first African-American mayor brought the plan back to life. Lee Brown would soon become that mayor from 1998-2004.

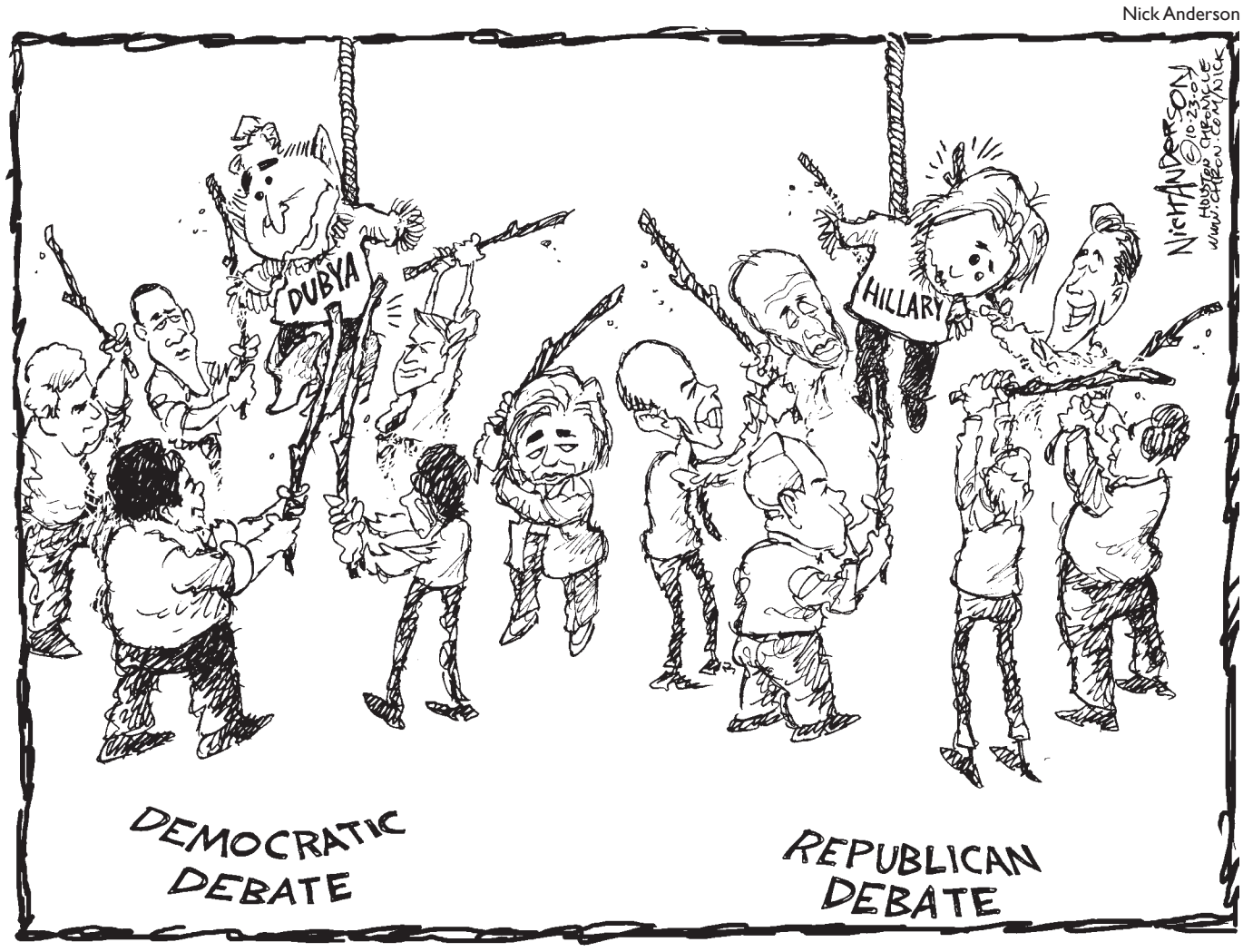
Brown created three world-class sporting venues at no cost to the taxpayers that will benefit the community for many decades. How do I know that? Take the development of Reliant Stadium, Minute Maid Park and Toyota Center as examples. More than $750 million were generated by three sporting events: the Super Bowl in 2004, Major League Baseball's All-Star Game in 2004 and the National Basketball Association's All-Star Game in 2006.

In addition, Brown built the Hilton Americas, which is the largest convention hotel in Houston. He rebuilt the entire underground utility system and surface streets in the city's central business district. Although he was under great pressure from the business community for traffic disruption, he stuck with the master plan for Houston's future.

Brown advanced the appointment of more women and minorities to leadership positions throughout his administration, thereby paving the road for those to follow.

Americans should not elect a candidate based on race or gender, but on the individual's qualifications. In Houston's case, and many other great American cities, the facts speak for themselves.

Nick Anderson



Texas artist brings serigraphy exhibit to UHCL community

Jenna Lewis
The Signal Staff

The University of Houston-Clear Lake presents Texas artist Sam Coronado's Exhibition of Prints exhibit through April 30. The exhibit is located on the second level of Atrium I in front of the library in the Bayou Building.

"The works presented in this exhibit encompass myriad representations, from life and life energy, to death and dedication to military service," Coronado said in his artist's statement. "Many pieces include an image of a heart; this is meant to convey a sense of pride for those who have served their country and compassion for those very men and women who have fought."

During World War II, many young men and women sacrificed their lives to free others from tyranny. Many came from small minority communities and had never left their hometowns, while others came from cities where they worked as laborers and service attendants. Still others were not even citizens of this country and yet they fought in hopes of having a better life.

Creando Fuerza, Silkscreen 2007.

Photos courtesy Sam Coronado

"The prints in this series represent the contribution our mothers, fathers and grandparents made during World War II," Coronado said. "Many gave their lives for a country that did not accept them; they fought and died beside the same people who refused them service in restaurants and segregated them from their schools and political system."

After the war, these soldiers came home and faced the same discrimination they had endured before, even after shedding their blood for freedom and equality.

"These prints are dedicated to these forgotten men and women and to those who succeeded in their quest for equality and justice as Americans," Coronado said.

One of his favorite photos in the exhibit is one with a soldier standing in the middle of a few children, some of whom are barefoot. That photo is a reminder to him that these Mexican-American soldiers came from all parts of our society and different social and economic backgrounds.

Coronado began his career in 1969 as a technical illustrator at Texas Instruments and has since worked in the graphic arts field.

In 1991 he opened Coronado Studio in Austin, Texas. There are very few printmaking studios in the United States and Coronado believed that by devoting his space to serigraphy (silk screen) printmaking would make it more available to artists.

Coronado's studio mission is to provide an opportunity for artists to experience serigraphy as a fine art medium; the goal is to print in a workshop environment that allows artists to produce prints affordably by providing them space, equipment, supplies and master prints to produce screen prints as posters or fine art.

Sam Coronado, director, Coronado Studio, Austin, Texas.

"Like most things that happen in life, my emergence into serigraphy was quite by accident," Coronado said. "After I did a couple of prints at Self-Help Graphics in Los Angeles, I committed to do some prints for a person in Denmark that had a client in France. I acquired the equipment and started to print my own work to prepare for the commission. After a few months, the deal fell through and I was left with all the equipment. A friend suggested that I write for a grant and put the equipment to use as a project. I did, and as a result I have been working on the Serie Print Project for 15 years. Sometimes you have to make the best of an unfortunate situation."

Coronado founded the Serie Project in hopes of attracting more artists, especially Hispanic artists, to the medium of silk screen printmaking. The Serie Project, Inc. is a nonprofit Latino arts organization that produces, promotes and exhibits serigraph prints created by established and emerging artists that makes the production and sale of prints affordable for both artist and patron.

"Sam has impacted many young artists with his knowledge and willingness to give back to art and the artists," said Sandria Hu, professor of art. "He helps promote famous, infamous, young, old and new artists by re-invigorating their artistic talents and visions."

In its 10 year history, more than 150 artists have come to Coronado Studio to create original prints.

"It has been my pleasure to have known and worked with Sam Coronado for the past 15 years," Hu said. "He is one of the finest printmakers and artists in Texas."

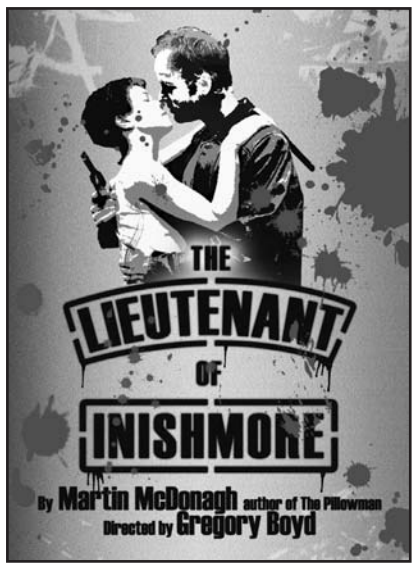
Coronado's work is in international and national collections and has been exhibited in the United States, Mexico, Europe and Africa.

Martin McDonagh dabbles in blood before hiding out 'In Bruges'

Cryss Godoy
The Signal Staff

Murdered cats, a tortured drug dealer, an Irish Republican Army splinter group and buckets of blood are infused with Academy Award-winning writer/director Martin McDonagh's dark sense of humor in the Alley Theatre's production of "The Lieutenant of Inishmore," 2003 Oliver Award winner for best comedy.

"The Lieutenant" followed McDonagh's "The Pillowman" and "The Beauty Queen of Leenane" in making its American resident theatre premier with the Alley company and runs through Feb. 24. All three plays feature rural Irish characters in real-world, real-time situations rarely found outside of a Quentin Tarantino film.



"I tend to push things as far as I can because I think you can see things more clearly through exaggeration than through reality," McDonagh said.

From plot twist to plot twist, his characters - simultaneously blood thirsty and sentimental about their respective sadist missions - reveal the many ways in which they are just like everyone else. Albeit the hints to their humanity are often spoken from behind masks of dripping blood.

"There's a humor in there that is straight ahead funny and uncomfortable," McDonagh said. "The characters are doing awful things and simultaneously talking about everyday things in a humorous way."

Even with a warning that reads, "extreme graphic blood violence" in red block letters posted outside the door of the Alley's Neuhaus Stage entrance, having one of McDonagh's creations of gore, gunfire and strong language play out within arm's reach has left audiences' reactions mixed. Long time season ticket holders have found that McDonagh's plays tend to challenge their preconceived ideas of what theatrical comedy represents.

Beatrice Buller, who has traveled from Beaumont to Houston once a month since the Alley Theatre opened, found The Lieutenant of Inishmore to be disturbing.

"I do not know how something that disgusting could be considered funny," she said with a shake of her head. "I found the whole experience to be a waste of my time."

Her best friend, and fellow travel companion, Phyllis Mann disagreed.

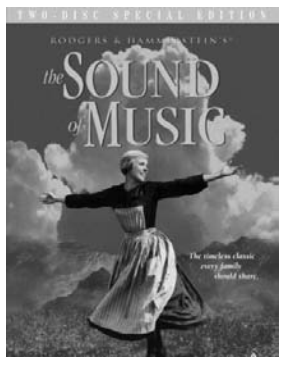
"I really enjoyed it; I was reminded of all the times my brother and I played cowboys and Indians when we were kids," Mann explained as she drew an imaginary six-shooter from its imaginary holster. "We sure were blood thirsty types!"

McDonagh's signature storytelling was presented to a global audience with his feature film debut of "In Bruges" at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival. The story of two hired gunmen sent to Bruges (pronounced "broozh"), Belgium, to lay low after a botched job stars Colin Ferrell, Brendan Gleeson and Ralph Fiennes. The film opened nationwide Feb. 15.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Theater Under the Stars presents "Hello Dolly," Feb. 26 through Mar. 8

2008 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo at Reliant Park Mar. 3 - Mar. 22



San Jacinto Central Campus presents "The Sound of Music," Feb. 29 - Mar. 9

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Student Organization Leadership Development Workshop Series in connection with the Student Leadership Institute Workshop Series Presents:

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Want to get Involved?

SGA is your platform to get involved on campus by representing the student body, initiating and resolving issues, networking with staff, faculty, administration and many campus leaders.

The current council welcomed our new Chancellor, Dr. Renu Khator to the UHCL campus and *student access* & *success* is one of her main focuses.

SGA is composed of internally-selected representatives from each of the recognized student organizations who vote on issues, and meetings are attended by faculty, staff, and administration, but ***all meetings are open to ALL interested students***.

The Executive Council has posted applications for the new SGA administration and you are invited to apply for the council.

Come join us every Tuesday for the Student Government meeting from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm in the Lecture Hall of Student Services/Classroom Building!

SGA wants you…sign up for the EC now!

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Michael Phillips, VP–Committee Coordinator
Nida Ajaz, VP–Student Outreach & Communications
Patrick Cardenas, VP–Administration
SGA@uhcl.edu (281) 283-2556 www.uhcl.edu/sga

S G A
Governance
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JOURNALISM DAY

Friday, February 22
9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
San Jacinto College,
Slocomb Auditorium

FEATURING:

Hal Wixon
Founder & Director, Gulf Coast Film & Video Festival

Molly Vernon
Film Professor, San Jacinto College

Paul Beckman & Taylor Washington
Student Film Festival Winners

Paul McGrath
Front Page Editor, Houston Chronicle

Kinky Friedman
Musician, Author & Former Texas Gubernatorial Candidate

Tickets: $2.00
Tickets available in the UHCL Student Publications Office, Bayou 1239 or call 281.478.2752

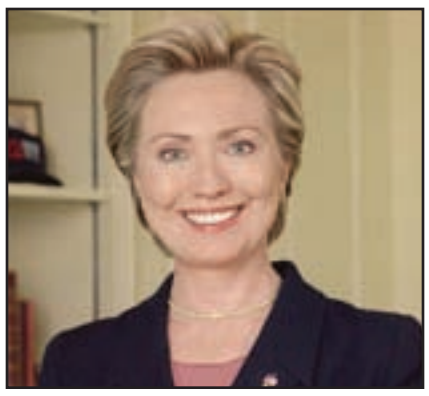
Presented by San Jacinto College & University of Houston-Clear Lake

Saturday, March 8, 2008
8 p.m., Bayou Theater

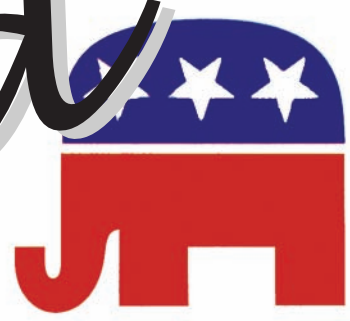
BackBeat . . . A Tribute recreates the excitement and thrill of seeing the greatest rock and roll legends of all time. Using exact reproductions of the classic "Beatles" suits, authentic "Beatle" boots, wigs/haircuts and replicas of the Beatles' instruments, BackBeat . . . A Tribute evokes the aura and sound of the most famous musical group in history through three phases of the Beatles' career. *Complimentary reception will be held after the concert.*

General Admission: $12 presale, $15 at the door
Tickets with UHCL ID: $8 presale, $10 at the door

Where they

The Candidates	Economy	Education	Energy & Oil
 Hillary Clinton-D	While in support of some middle-class tax cuts, she also believes the rich do not pay enough in taxes. She would expire tax cuts for households earning more than $200,000.	She hopes to attract more teachers and principals to education and intends on paying them as professionals. She is also in favor of a tax deduction for college tuition.	She supports a cap-and-trade system and will financially aid renewable energy, carbon sequestration and market-based emissions reduction plans. She pioneered the Strategic Energy Fund, which would grant $50 billion to research.
Mike Huckabee-R	He is in favor of tax rebates and curbing federal tax spending. He supports a tax on retail items not including used goods or necessities. He plans to eliminate the Internal Revenue Service, federal income taxes and payroll taxes. He signed a no-new-tax pledge in March 2007 and would make the Bush tax cuts permanent.	He wants to create a distinction between the federal role and that of the states. He hopes it will empower states to develop their own benchmarks. He is also in support of home schooling and charter schools.	He wants to create federal research for alternative fuels and develop a budget that private sectors will match. He also plans to take a significant step toward energy independence during his first term.
John McCain-R	He feels the money spent by Congress should be used wisely and prudently on national priorities. He believes in keeping marginal tax rates low and that tax cuts work best when complemented by lower spending. He will not commit to signing a pledge not to raise taxes, but does not plan on increasing taxes.	He wants to empower parents by allowing them to choose the school their child attends and force schools to reach for a higher standard. He feels the No Child Left Behind Act allows there to be separate standards and needs to be diminished.	He will let companies trade excess carbon emission capacity and would require that emission levels return to 2004 levels by 2012 and 1990 levels by 2020. He also supports investment in alternative-energy sources and is the chief co-sponsor of a bill that set a mandatory cap on greenhouse emissions.
Barack Obama-D	He will expire tax cuts for households earning more than $250,000 but recognizes more revenue may be needed to improve health care.	He wants to supply struggling districts with support and resources to help underprivileged students. He plans to increase the maximum Pell Grant to $5,100 and reform the federal student loan program to make college more affordable. The money saved would be redirected into grants, such as the Pell Grant.	He wishes to create a market-based cap-and-trade system and would raise fuel efficiency for standard cars. He would also institute a National Carbon Fuel Standard. It would require 5 percent less carbon by 2015 and 10 percent less by 2020.
Ron Paul-R	He wants to control the national debt and keep other entities from determining the worth of a dollar. He supports tax cuts and feels that lower taxes increase spending, saving and investing. He opposes income taxes and wants to see the 16th Amendment repealed. He signed a no-tax hike pledge and has never voted to raise taxes.	He wants to abolish the Department of Education, returning it to the state level and place control back into the hands of parents. He introduced the Make College Affordable and Family Education Acts, allowing parents a tax credit of up to $5,000 per student per year. He proposed a yearly tax credit to elementary and secondary teachers of $3,000.	He has introduced the Industrial Hemp Farming Act, which allows states to choose to grow industrial hemp as an alternative fuel. He is a co-sponsor of legislation that encourages the development of alternative and sustainable energy and is a member of the Congressional Green Scissors Coalition.

stand



Tosha Griffin
The Signal Staff

This information was taken from www.nationalplatforms.com and each candidate's Web site as listed.

Health Care	Immigration	Iraq
She supports universal health care and plans to focus on the rising cost of premiums. She also has past experience in reforming health care.	She proposed the failed effort to provide New York illegal immigrants driver's licenses. She also feels that illegal immigrants should earn legal status by paying fines and back taxes and learning English. She voted in support of the 2006 Kennedy-McCain immigration reform bill.	She opposes the war but voted to authorize the use of military forces in Iraq in October 2002. In May 2007 she created a bill to repeal it. She does not wish to employ permanent bases in Iraq and wishes to withdraw troops and leave a small, non-permanent residual force. http://www.hillaryclinton.com
He opposes universal health care and hopes to completely update the health care system. He supports innovation in the private sector to lower costs and advance free-market access to health care. He wants to decrease medical liability, make health insurance portable from job to job and tax deductible for individuals.	He feels we should allow people to come here to work but there must be a tamper-proof method, such as a scannable ID with a finger or retinal scan. For current illegal immigrants, he feels they should earn legal status by registering with authorities, paying a fine and taxes, getting guest work permits and learning English.	He supports the war and opposes a deadline for withdrawal. He has recognized that an increase in troops is a possibility if military officials see a need. He feels that the United States must finish the job and proposes a Middle East summit to stabilize Iraq's neighbors. http://www.mikehuckabee.com
He strives to control health care costs and allow families to be in charge of their health care dollars. He believes that insurance reforms would increase the variety and affordability of health insurance. He also wants to focus on personal responsibility and the growing epidemic of obesity, diabetes and smoking.	He wants to secure and tighten the border through surveillance and enforcement. He will tighten security on the entry and exit of people and cargo. He will strengthen the penalties against those who employ illegal immigrants and wants to develop a guest work program to allow illegal immigrants to earn legal status.	He supports the war and opposes the deadline for withdrawal. He feels that if the United States does not stabilize Iraq now, then the threat of terrorism will rise and more troops will be necessary to give Iraqis the ability to govern and protect themselves. http://www.johnmccain.com
He plans to lower premiums to save an average family $2,500 a year. He will build upon and further develop the current insurance system and intends on leaving Medicare intact.	He will implement a system where illegal immigrants can earn citizenship through paying fines, learning English and waiting their turn. He believes employers of illegal immigrants need to be reprimanded. He also voted in favor of the 2006 Kennedy-McCain immigration reform bill.	He opposes the war and is in favor of withdrawal on a timeline. He has introduced a plan to remove troops from Iraq and negotiate with Iraq's neighbors to press for a compact in the region. http://www.barackobama.com
He wants to make all medical expenses tax deductible and eliminate federal regulations that do not allow small businesses to provide health insurance. He wants doctors to negotiate prices with insurance companies, make every American eligible for a Health Savings Account, and reform license requirements for pharmacists and nurses to increase access and lower costs.	He intends to implement a six-point plan that includes physically securing the borders and coastlines, enforcing visa rules, allowing no amnesty, providing no welfare for illegal immigrants, ending birthright citizenship, and passing true immigration reform that will hold all immigrants from all countries to the same standards.	He opposes the war and was one of six House Republicans to vote against the October 2002 resolution to authorize the use of military forces in Iraq. He feels that the United States should not pursue war because of the decisions made by an unelected, foreign body, such as the United Nations. http://www.ronpaul2008.com

General election facts

Jennifer Ferguson
The Signal Staff

Confusion is a standard response for many who attempt to understand the election process. Infoplease.com breaks it down into seven simple steps:

1 Candidate announces plans to run for office. This launches the candidate's official plan.

2 Candidate campaigns to win delegate support. The candidate competes with other candidates in the same party in an attempt to get the party's nomination. He or she works to win delegates (representatives who pledge to support the candidate's nomination at the national party convention) and to persuade potential voters.

3 Caucus and primary elections take place in the states. Caucuses and primaries allow the public to take part in nominating presidential candidates. At a caucus, local party members nominate a candidate and choose delegates. A primary is like a general election where voters go to the polls to cast their votes for a presidential candidate (or delegates who will represent that candidate at the party convention). Primary elections are the main way for voters to choose a nominee.

4 Nominee for president is announced at national party conventions. The main goal is to unify party members behind the party's platform and nominees. After the convention, the second stage begins: the election campaign. In this stage, presidential candidates from different parties compete against each other.

5 Citizens cast their votes. Presidential elections are held every four years on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November. This year's election will be Nov. 4. Many Americans think when they cast their ballot, they are voting for their chosen candidate, when in actuality they are selecting groups of electors in the electoral college.

6 The Electoral College casts its votes. They represent a compromise between a president elected by Congress and one elected by popular vote. The Electoral College is comprised of electors from each state equal to the number of its U.S. senators (two) plus U.S. representatives, which varies according to each state's population; Texas has 34. Although laws vary by state, electors are usually chosen by popular vote. On the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December, the electors cast their ballots. Usually, an elector votes for the candidate who received the most votes in that particular state; however, because nothing in the Constitution or federal law requires electors to vote along with their state's popular vote, it is possible for a candidate to win the greatest number of popular votes but not electoral votes, and thus lose the presidency.

7 The president is inaugurated. Information from www.rockthevote.com simplifies the voter's role.

- First, register to vote. If you are unsure whether or not you are registered or if you have moved from the precinct in which you were registered, visit the Texas Secretary of State at www.sos.state.tx.us.
- Find your polling place. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Bring ID and proof of residency. If you have moved, you may also need an alternate proof of residency.
- Finally, voice your opinion and vote.

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Tuesday, February 19	6 pm to 7 pm	SSCB 2.308
Wednesday, February 20	noon to 1 pm	SSCB 3.3311
Thursday, February 21	noon to 1pm	SSCB 3.3311
Monday, February 25	noon to 1pm	SSCB 3.3311
Wednesday, February 27	6 pm to 7 pm	SSCB 2.201.13 Computer Lab

UHCL mourns loss of School of Education student

Cryss Godoy
The Signal

The University of Houston-Clear Lake community at large joins the School of Education in mourning the loss of Haydee Mendez, an undergraduate education major.

Mendez, 30, a resident of Pasadena, Texas, and the married mother of two, was killed Feb. 4 in a traffic accident.

Funeral services for Mendez were held Feb. 9 at St. Juan Diego Catholic Church in Pasadena. She was laid to rest later that day in Humble, Texas.

Mendez had hoped to graduate with a bachelor's degree in early childhood education at the completion of the 2008 Fall semester.

"When I saw Haydee's picture on the [television], I just fell," said Denise Chapman, assistant professor of special education. "She would have been the kind of teacher I would have wanted my daughter to have."

Mendez was known by her classmates and professors as a warm-hearted and dedicated student, mother and wife.

"I only knew [Haydee] for a brief time," said Clydine DiMinchi, an undergraduate education major and classmate of Mendez's. "But in that small amount of time, I saw a young lady that had a zest for life. She truly and deeply loved her husband and children.

"I never saw a frown on her face, a look of being overwhelmed at school, or any signs that she was unhappy. All I ever saw was a huge smile. When she talked about her family (and she did quite often), I remember seeing a glow about her."

Courtesy of Mendez family

Haydee Mendez, undergraduate education major, and her son Juan in 2007.

Compassionate wellness: the key to your heart's health

Amy Parnell
The Fitness Zone

The human body never ceases to amaze me. Perhaps this is because as a history major I have the luxury of reading books about anatomy and wellness out of pure interest rather than obligation.

As a Yoga teacher my appreciation of the human body increases tenfold as students share with me their particular health conditions and earnest desire for wellness.

Recently, heart health received renewed attention, not only because of the month but also a series of wonderful health books, including one of my favorites, **You The Owner's Manual** by Michael F. Roizen, M.D. and Mehmet C. Oz, M.D.

As with all things surrounding health, compassionate wellness is the key; combine education, activity, diet, and a large dose of happiness to strengthen your heart.

Education: arteries, clots, nicks, clogs and valves; no, we're not talking about home repair, it's the heart. In every endeavor, the key is education. How can you hope to strengthen what you don't understand? However, just as with some home repair manuals, health literature can feel just as daunting.

Start small, find information on the Internet, ask for pamphlets from your doctor. Speaking of doctors, commit to scheduling your annual physical for your blood pressure, physical, blood sugar, and cholesterol tests.

Activity: Cardiovascular, cardiovascular, cardiovascular...there's no denying it, everyone knows it's an essential part of heart health. Burning 3,500 to 6,500 calories per week is essential for optimal health.

What is incredibly interesting is that if you burn less than 3,500 calories per week you gain weight, placing undue pressure on your heart, while burning more than 6,500 calories will lead to decreased longevity.

Twenty to 30 minutes of cardiovascular exercise in your Targeted Heart Rate helps lower blood pressure and weight. Including strength training increases stamina and lowers the chances of osteoporosis and arthritis in women.

Diet: As with all permanent changes, start small. Replace your normal cooking oil with olive oil, which raises your HDL, the healthy cholesterol, eat three portions of fish a week, and drink plenty of water and green tea. In the morning, don't forget a daily multivitamin.

By combining small dietary and exercise changes you will continue to see progress and cultivate greater motivation to continue making more changes, which will improve your overall health.

Happiness: My mother always told me what I surround myself with indicates my true heart's desires. So, if you want to enjoy life, find adventures, and discover new ways to include wellness in your lifestyle.

Find ways to socialize with others who share your desires. Join a friend at the gym, organize a healthy recipe swap, and find time to join others laughing.

By creating a more positive and healthier attitude, combined with sleeping eight hours a night, you will increase your overall feeling of well-being, which increases the desire to continue with healthier activities.

The wonderful point to wellness is that no matter when or where you start, you will begin to feel better about yourself and your health.

Allow the Fitness Zone to become a regular part of your heart-healthy routine either with regular visits at our location in the Student Services Building or enrolling in the 100 Mile Club, an exercise support group open to anyone at UHCL regardless of Fitness Zone membership.

Peace,
Amy

CAMPUS CALENDAR

February 18
Workshop: What is Your Leadership Style,
11 a.m.-1 p.m., SSCB 1.202.07
Registration required.
Call 281-283-2560.

February 18-21
ODK & NSLS Silent Auction,
Bayou Atrium 1

February 19
Workshop: The Stress Factor,
5-7 p.m., SSCB 1.202.07
Registration required.
Call 281-283-2560.

February 20
IISS Orientation Workshop #3:
Co-op Regulations,
1-2 p.m., SSCB 1.100

February 22
Workshop: Cultural Competency for Leaders,
10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., SSCB 1.202.07
Registration required.
Call 281-283-2560.

February 25
Speaker Series: The Promise of Neutrino Detection at the SNS,
7 p.m., SSCB 1.100.03

February 26
NSLS Live Videoconference:
Tapping Into Your True Potential,
6-7:30 p.m., SSCB 1.100
Registration required.
Call 281-283-2560.

February 28
Workshop: Communicating Your Involvement to Employers,
5-6 p.m., SSCB 1.202.07
Registration required.
Call 281-283-2560.

To leave messages of condolence or share memories with Haydee Mendez's family, friends and colleagues, please visit The Signal's blog at www.myspace.com/signal_UHCL.

Do you long to see your words in print?

Marrow needs you!

We are excited to announce the 2008 edition of Marrow, the anthology of student prose, poetry and critical essays.

The UHCL Writing Center, in conjunction with Sigma Tau Delta and the Literature Club, will be producing this year's publication.

Each edition includes prose, poetry and critical essays written by UHCL students, including those who attend through satellite campuses and the prison program.

The journal will also accept submissions from potential UHCL students who are currently attending area junior and community colleges.

Deadline for submissions: March 1, 2008

National Survey of Student Engagement

National Survey
of Student Engagement

ATTENTION SENIORS!

We want to know about your experience at UHCL so we can improve.

Please check your UHCL e-mail to complete the National Survey of Student Engagement (It will only take a moment of your time.)

Thanks,

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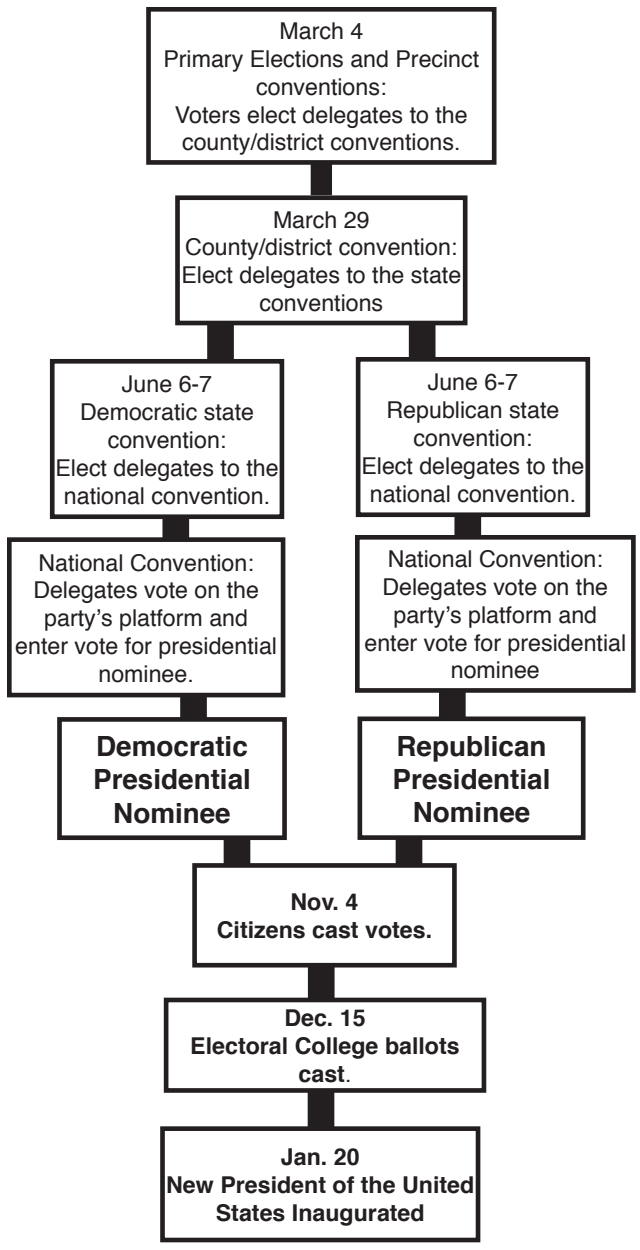
281-283-3037

Dr. Simone Tiu
281-283-3008



Primary: *continued from page 1*

votes. In the Democratic Party, there are a total of 4,049 delegate votes available; a candidate must have 2,025 to win the nomination. In the Republican Party, there are a total of 2,380 delegate votes available; a candidate must have 1,191 to win the nomination.

If a candidate does not secure at least 51 percent of the delegate votes via the state primaries and caucuses, a brokered convention may be initiated at the national convention. They have been predicted in years past, including the 1988 election year, but have not come to fruition. Brokered conventions consist of superdelegates bartering with one another until one candidate is nominated. Superdelegates play an important role because their votes are not decided until the national convention; they can prevent a brokered convention from happening, which is beneficial to the political party involved because of the short time frame until the general election in November.

As of press time, Democratic hopeful Hillary Clinton has an estimated 1,211 delegate votes while Barack Obama has 1,253 delegate votes. For the Republicans, John McCain is sitting at 827 delegate votes, Mike Huckabee at 217 and Ron Paul with 16.

Significant issues driving the presidential campaign this year include war, education, health, economy and immigration. Voting for a candidate who represents similar thoughts and opinions on these issues is the democratic way for voters to elect people into political offices who will make decisions based on those opinions.

"The youth of today will be the leaders and decision makers of tomorrow," said Phil Wilson, Texas secretary of state. "Each and every vote is important and serves as one of the most powerful ways to ensure your voice and opinion is heard as you shape the future of this state and nation."

Although the office of the president of the United States gains a great deal of attention during primary election time, it is not the only office voted on during the primary election. State, county and federal offices are elected as well. Elected officials in these positions will be making important decisions that effect voters at the state, county and school district levels. Positions such as U. S. representatives and senators, state senators and representatives, board of education members and various judges are elected at the primary election.

Barbara Murray, president of the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area, suggested that voters visit www.vote411.org for non-partisan information on presidential candidates. She also explained that voter's guides published by the League of Women Voters would soon be available in Harris County public libraries, at www.vote411.org and on the Texas League of Women Voters Web site at www.lwvtexas.org.

"Get informed and vote!" Murray said. "Get your information from a variety of sources – not just one type of media. You have the opportunity to make a real difference in this election. Make democracy work!"

Other helpful links include the state political party Web sites. The Texas Democratic Party site is www.txdemocrats.org and the Republican Party site is www.texasgop.org.

Voters can verify their registration on the Texas secretary of state's Web site at www.sos.state.tx.us. It is too late to register to vote for the primary election but not for the general election in November. A Voter Registration Application is available on the site.

Myspace makes an Impact

Stanley White III
The Signal Staff

Social networking and consolidated information through the Internet is impacting society in ways that did not exist 10 years ago.

As younger generations reach out for a better and more global world, Myspace.com promotes volunteerism and activism with a new feature called Impact. Impact is an amalgam of information, news, politics, charity support, forums, blogs and public service announcements.

Impact provides a core entity of organized consolidated information; for example, it provides information about presidential candidates, helps users register to vote and allows members to participate in political discussions on a variety of subjects.

In addition, Impact gives financial support and recognition to charities and nonprofit organizations through the Impact Awards. The Impact Awards gives members of Myspace.com the opportunity to nominate any company or individual for helping the world become a better place. A new winner is chosen to receive an Impact Award for a specified category every month. There are six different categories: poverty relief, environmentalism, health & safety, international development, social justice and community building.

Impact Award winners receive a $10,000 cash prize, media throughout the MySpace.com Web site, featured placement on the Impact Awards community page for one month, featured placement in the MySpace monthly newsletter and a bulletin announcing the Impact Awards winner to the community.

Compassion International won the Impact Award for poverty relief in January. Compassion has been rescuing children from the clutches of poverty for more than 55 years.

"Myspace opens the door to a new audience," said Becky Tschamler, advocacy communication specialist with Compassion.

Like other nonprofit organizations, Compassion was nominated for the Impact Award by people on Myspace.com.

The Vera Project won the Impact award in November 2007 for community building. It provides young people with a safe place to have a good time and teaches them skills for the future such as sound engineering, organizing events and how to register to vote.

VERA is a Seattle-based organization that coordinates art and music shows for youths. It was originally funded by the city and eventually grew into something bigger as people started to donate to support their cause.

"Myspace is such a big force to help us get the word out," said Nick Turner, development manager of VERA.

To learn more about Impact, please visit www.myspace.com/impactawards.

Immigration: *continued from page 1*

ed paying Jose after the entire job was complete.

"I did a great job and worked over one month for him," Jose said. "When the job was complete, the contractor dropped me off and would not pay me the $7,400 dollars he owed me."

Because Jose is an undocumented immigrant, he has no legal recourse. As of today, Jose has not been paid for his work.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that, "Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work."

"Everyone has human rights and human rights apply to everyone irregardless of race, ethnicity, gender, nationality and legal status. So, if you're documented or undocumented, you have human rights, rights to equality," explains Christine Kovic, associate professor of anthropology and cross-cultural studies.

In "over-raided, under siege" the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights analyzed more than 100 stories of human rights violations and summarized them in an annual report.

The report states that, "Local, county and state government collaboration with immigration enforcement further exposes immigrants to abuse at the hands of unscrupulous police, employers, hate groups and others who believe immigrants will not report crimes to avoid detection or deportation. As a result, immigrants, or any one who 'looks or sounds' foreign, are being subjected to new forms of racial, ethical nationality and religious profiling and 'mapping.'"

Neighborhood Centers Inc. challenges many of the myths that Americans have regarding immigrants in the U.S. including their effect on the economy. A fact sheet can be found online at www.neighborhood-centers.org.

As of 2002, an estimated 42.7 million Hispanic Americans live in the U.S. More than 18 million are registered to vote. Winning this vote has become an important campaign strategy for presidential candidates.

In a press release from PR Web, "Legal, Highly-Skilled Immigrants Disappointed with Michigan's Decision to Deny Driver's License to Them," Kannan Sundaramahalingam, an engineer, said, "For years we legal immigrants were silent sufferers of this complex immigration process. Now there is a chance to make a difference and I don't want to miss it."

Political Change: *continued from page 1*

percent of the population to finally be represented because women are over half the population of the world," Howard said. "With certain blips [in history], women have not wielded any kind of power."

With America being such a "melting pot" of many different nationalities, cultures and beliefs, this is the first time in our 300 plus year history that either has ever been truly accepted as a presidential candidate. Oettinger says while there are many different groups of people here in this country, whites are still the majority group here in the U.S.

"The majority group is the group that has power, not the percentage of the population," Oettinger explained. "The question is whether the dominant group is ready to share power."

Melody Drnach, vice president of Action for the National Organization for Women, believes it will take the input of all groups of people here in America, not just the majority, to solve the country's difficulties.

"The problems that face our country cannot just be solved by white men," Drnach said. "One of the greatest things that have come out of this election cycle is hearing the voices of other groups of people."

When it comes to the young people, Drnach says it is diversity that energizes them.

"When we are talking about legislation and the things we need to do in our country for women, having women at the table is important. It is the same for African-Americans and Hispanics," Drnach said.

Yannis Banks, legislative liaison for the Texas NAACP, says it is time for a change. He believes that from looking at the polls, Americans feel the same way.

"It will put America up there with some of the other countries [concerning minority presidents]," Banks said. "America is getting better with its diversity, and it will be a strong showing that things are really supposed to be equal like we claim for them to be."

Howard believes many Americans have changed their mindsets when it comes to electing their public officials.

"I'd like to believe that the major change is that it doesn't matter in terms of being a person of color or not," Howard said. "It doesn't matter whether you are a man or a woman. Now we can talk about what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said. Let's talk about a candidate's character. Let's talk about their issues."

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PEACE RALLY

Students, faculty rally for world peace

Ericka Paetz
The Signal Staff

Peace is a noble, but sometimes faint concept to imagine. To some University of Houston-Clear Lake students and faculty, however, it was one worth standing for and on Feb. 5, a small crowd gathered to listen, sing, and speak out against global poverty and war.

The very first peace rally held on the UHCL campus comprised a diverse, but united crowd. More than 50 students, faculty, and staff members collected under the skylights in Atrium II where some carried handmade signs and wore anti-violence T-shirts.

Stephen 'Arch' Erich, associate professor of social work, and other dedicated participants, organized the rally that included speeches, music and poetry.

"A few of us just got together and said 'We haven't done anything on this campus in a long time – years,'" Erich said. "We wanted to do something and peace was a common element."

A stage was set on the platform between the stairs leading to the Bayou Building's upper levels. After Erich's introduction, Sharon Hall, associate professor of psychology; Richard Adams, director of operations support; and Ken Black, professor of decision sciences, performed John Lennon's "*Imagine*." The rendition evoked an image of instability and change reminiscent of the late sixties and early seventies. The audience even joined in, as a quiet harmony echoed throughout the atrium.

Ericka Paetz: The Signal

A banner with estimated death totals from the War on Terror is displayed behind speaker Mike McMullen.

Maria Curtis, assistant professor of anthropology and cross-cultural studies, addressed the crowd with facts she said were discovered through several nights of rearranging different words in Internet search engines. Curtis obtained statistics and "alarming images" of war-torn countries, like Iraq. She discussed the dire circumstances under which the country's children are suffering and noted that the American "children" fighting there are also at risk.

"Young soldiers – children – barely 18 [or] 19 years old, most of them from lower economic groups [and] minority groups … go into the military as a way out and this is where they go – this is what they see." Curtis said.

Curtis also provided statistics on the effects that the wars in the Middle East are having on the entire region and its people, relating that devastation to later global consequences.

"What will these conditions produce?" Curtis asked. "… I look at my own daughter, and I think, my God, I don't know what this world will be like for you and I'm sorry."

As the rally continued, curious passersby stopped to listen. Some even lingered on benches and peered over the balconies of the second and third floors which overlook the atrium. A few took pictures, as a flag was unfurled behind the podium.

From the atrium's third floor balcony, a vast banner was released displaying on its bright-red background, the total number of deaths estimated in Afghanistan, Iraq and the United States since the beginning of the War on Terror.

The numbers were grim. There, written in black paint – from the smallest number, the totals of American deaths, to the largest, those numbers representing Iraqi deaths – was what could have been the very inspiration behind the peace rally.

Against the background of those oversized statistics, Mike McMullen, associate professor of sociology, spoke to the audience about the changing face of war, and how some countries have begun to look at the U.S. in a different light. On a trip to Egypt two years ago, McMullen said that he spoke to a deputy foreign minister who was concerned about America – about a country once known as the heroes who "saved the world from fascism."

"What are Americans doing?" McMullen was asked, "You are supposed to be the good guys."

McMullen said that what he saw in the minister's face was "not so much anger, but disappointment."

After several poetry readings, and a reading from the preamble of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the band played Louis Armstrong's "*What a Wonderful World*," which attracted even more onlookers. Again, an inspired audience joined in with the chorus as the event came to an end.

Amber Zainfeld: The Signal

Regi Stewart, HSH Web developer, holds his sign for "Whirled Peas" at the Feb. 5 peace rally.

The crowd lingered in the atrium as attendees mingled and discussed the rally. Members of various organizations conducted surveys on audience response and attempted to encourage participation and action in aiding war-torn and starving nations overseas.

Regi Stewart, Web developer for the School of Human Sciences and Humanities, was one of the attendees at the rally. Stewart expressed his thoughts on peace and foreign policy in light of the upcoming presidential election, and said that the historical race offered hope, and "peace for everyone."

Students, like Jeannie Vargas, undergraduate social work major and a member of the Social Work Student Organization, wore a T-shirt with the slogan "Stop the Hate," which, she said, was symbolic of ending discrimination and promoting equality.

"If we are all on the same plane," Vargas said, "then maybe we can get along better … create peace amongst everybody – starting little by little [in each] community."

Vargas said that she was impressed with the turnout. Erich, likewise, expressed his optimism for what the crowd size and participation meant and attributed the rally's success to its spontaneous, informal aspects.

"It just [took] people that [were] motivated to do it … and I think that what made it work, was that it wasn't done by some committee," Erich said.

Erich said that he would collect and evaluate feedback from those who attended the peace rally and then he hoped to organize another event on campus, sometime before the November election.

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Peace rally attendants listen to speakers as they hold signs promoting peace and charity.

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