

THE SIGNAL

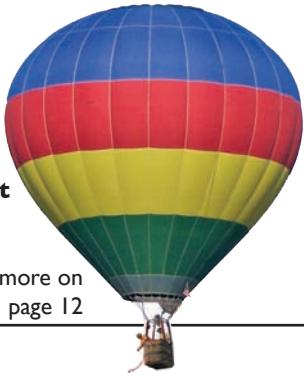
Volume XXXIV, Number 13

www.uhcl.edu/thesignal

November 19, 2007

Ballunar Fest

See more on
page 12



Renu Khator, the new chancellor and president of the UH System.

Khator appointed chancellor, president

First time a woman holds dual position within UH System

Nicole Wheatley
The Signal Staff

In November, The University of Houston System Board of Regents unanimously appointed Renu Khator to her new position as president/chancellor of the UH System. Khator is expected to take office at the beginning of 2008.

“I think it is wonderful that Dr. Renu Khator was picked to fill this important position for the UH System,” said Gretchen Mieszkowski, professor of literature and charter member of

the University of Houston-Clear Lake. “We [women] are chipping away at the glass ceiling. I see women taking more of an independent role more and more in their daily lives, and this is becoming very apparent in the classes I teach for Women’s Studies.”

Khator, 52, has previously served as provost for the University of South Florida since 2003, and before that was the dean of its College of Arts & Sciences for three years. At USF’s Environmental Science and Policy Department she served as director for four years, and as a professor of government and international affairs

at the university since 1995. She has a doctorate and master’s degree in political science from Purdue University. She earned her bachelor’s degree at Knapur University in India.

“Dr. Khator will bring to the UH System her own style,” said UHCL President William A. Staples. “She has a lot of experience coming from the University of South Florida, which is very similar to the UH System with its main campus in Tampa, and several other flagship campuses that stem from it. Dr. Khator is a very dynamic, highly energetic, engaging individual

Khator: continued on page 10

Health coverage costs are sickening

Jamie Griffiths
The Signal Staff

More than 45 million Americans do not have health insurance. One of the “at risk” groups are college students who have reached the point where their parent’s insurance does not cover them anymore. Most insurance companies do not cover children past the age of 25.

“The most important reason for having health insurance is that you’re liable for your health care costs,” said Susan Prihoda, director of health and disability services. “Without insurance, you’re 100 percent liable, any cost.”

One option students have is to purchase insurance through the university they attend. University of Houston-Clear Lake offers health insurance coverage for all of its students.

“All students should have some form of basic coverage,” Prihoda said.

For example, Prihoda explains, a UHCL student broke his arm and had no insurance. His medical bills totaled \$44,000.

“An undergraduate degree costs approximately \$50,000,” Prihoda said. “Would you rather pay for a baccalaureate degree or medical bills? The bottom-line is you can’t afford not to have some form of insurance.”

When comparing UHCL insurance versus others, Prihoda says “it’s like comparing apples and oranges.”

“Major carriers have policies, but they are much more expensive,” Prihoda said.

UHCL insurance costs students \$420 per semester, other insurance companies charge anywhere between \$600 and \$900 per semester. The coverage between companies varies.

Coverage: continued on page 10



Global Expo at UHCL

Read more
on page 6



Lone Star Rally

Read more
on page 6



Kevin Kettle: The Signal

Jim Benson, associate professor of legal studies, gives the call to order for UHCL’s Veterans Day celebration.

Veterans Day Appreciation

Kevin Kettle
The Signal Staff

The University of Houston-Clear Lake hosted a special day of thanks, appreciation and acknowledgment Sunday, Nov. 11, at Liberty Park. Veterans from all branches of the military were in attendance on the day that marked UHCL’s fifth annual celebration of Veterans Day.

The day’s climax can be attributed to the emotional speech given by the guest speaker for the celebration, George Hemingway. He is a Pearl Harbor survivor who served in the U.S. Navy. Following Hemingway’s speech, an open forum was held for any and all veterans wanting to express what Veterans Day means to them.

“It’s a day of honor and celebration for the survivors of various American wars,” said Frances Roppolo, access services librarian for the Neumann Library.

Roppolo, who has a rich family history of military service and is in charge of obtaining military artifacts and memorabilia, allowed her office to serve as a storage facility for all the war memorabilia that was to be on display for Veterans Day; some of which dated back to World War I.

Veterans Day, formally Armistice Day, signified the end of World War I. On Nov. 11, 1918, the Allies and Germans signed the truce for all firing to cease, but it was not until 1938 that President Franklin D. Roosevelt made Armistice, which means truce, Day a legal holiday in the District of Columbia by signing a bill.

Veterans Day: continued on page 10

The unspoken privileges

Seeing the world through white-colored glasses

Stephanie Wilcox
The Signal Staff

A study conducted by an assistant professor at the University of Houston-Clear Lake examined the effectiveness of required diversity courses and whether it impacts students’ awareness of white privilege.

Kim Case, assistant professor of psychology and women’s studies, with the aid of Briana Stewart, graduate student in psychology and women’s studies, and Christi Fisher, graduate student in industrial/organizational psychology, conducted the survey on 147 students enrolled in diversity classes.

The results of the study indicated that, by the end of the semester, students’ awareness

of white privilege, racism, white guilt and support for affirmative action had increased; however, prejudice levels failed to decline. Moreover, prejudice against Hispanics slightly increased.

In order for diversity classes to be successful, students must first understand what white privilege is.

“White privilege refers to the advantages and benefits that automatically come with being categorized racially as white in our society,” Case said. “When you talk about privilege you are talking about the institutional systematic level. Like how media, government, educational systems, economic systems, all these things put into different outcomes for different people in different

categories, and that is not something that an individual comes into the world and creates.”

Many white students are unaware of white privilege and when confronted about white privilege can be offended, Case further explained.

“Most are not aware of their own privilege, in this case, white privilege,” said Stephen Erich, associate professor of social work. “Others are aware of the concept but don’t agree with it because they incorrectly assume that everyone starts life with the same opportunities. Still others may be aware of the concept but refuse to see how it

White privilege: continued on page 10

Effective change starts with education

Taking further steps toward the goal of equality

The misunderstanding of the emotionally charged words “white privilege” blocks people from getting a true comprehension of the subject, which effectively eliminates their opportunity to participate in genuine social change.

The negative reaction typically generated by the utterance of this phrase to those untouched by its effects is understood. People feel they are being personally attacked for perpetrating acts of individual racism. Nothing could be further from the truth.

People also like to believe their success in life is based solely on their own ambition and efforts. The concept of “white privilege” feels like it diminishes their achievements, making them not want to explore the issue further. Unfortunately, this reaction stymies any chance for societal healing.

Partial blame for the misunderstanding lies with the use of the word “white.” A more fitting term would be “lightness of skin.” There is institutionalized privilege

bestowed upon those with the lightest of skin.

During the period of slavery in the United States, lighter-skinned black people were used as house slaves, while the darkest of skin were relegated to field work. This primitive notion seems to have been passed forward, with darker-skinned people finding themselves treated with less value than those of lighter skin, sometimes even within their own race.

The valuation of those with progressively lighter skin color is not isolated to the United States, but observed in other cultures throughout the world.

Knowledge of societal advantages to those of the lightest skin color is obvious to people most negatively affected by it. Yet, many benefiting most from this system feel it is simply an accusation of racism.

Changing this belief requires education in the true definition of the term “white privilege.” It does not require light-skinned people to disregard their own achievement. It does require recognition of the burdens

others bear.

The America we idolize, the “American Dream” we believe in, and the level playing field we believe exists for all in this country, if individuals just put forth enough effort and ambition, is a color-gradient reality proportionate to the lack of melanin in the skin.

People are running a race in life from the time they are born. Envision each baby born being given a bag of rocks to carry around, the weight determined by the depth of skin tone. Imagine the darkest people carrying 100 pounds of rock around and the lightest skinned people carrying none. Who do you think has a better shot at winning the race of life?

Hundreds of imperceptible advantages permeate the lives of those with the lightest of skin tone. This system existed long before any of those now benefiting by it were born. Light-skinned people should not feel personal guilt for the existence of a system they did not create. But with privilege comes responsibility.

With an open mind, light-skinned people should make an effort to familiarize themselves with the actuality of “white privilege.” By understanding the daily unseen privileges enjoyed by those of lighter skin, we can begin to acknowledge that the playing field of life, here at home and around the world, is not level.

With understanding, we can begin to more eagerly accept necessary social changes. Affirmative action policies help mitigate the detrimental effects of “lightness of skin privilege.” These institutional changes are good first steps.

The second necessary step required in this needed social evolution is an altering of society’s view of beauty and worth. Through art, theatre, fashion, music and other media, people who care can begin to affect cultural and social perceptions, demonstrating that success and attractiveness comes in all colors, as well as all shapes and sizes.

COMMENTARY

The REAL pain of being without health insurance

Emily Jaschke
The Signal Staff

Young adults 18 to 24 years old are at the highest risk of being uninsured. In 2002, 42.5 percent of Texans in this age group (955,000 young adults) lacked health insurance. In Michael Moore’s recent film “SiCKO,” Moore argues that there are 50 million Americans living without insurance. Others including Dr. Sanjay Gupta, CNN correspondent, and Julia A. Seymour, assistant editor/analyst with the Business & Media Institute, debate Moore’s statistics. Part of the discrepancy involved is whether or not everyone living in America without insurance is American. The indisputable fact is that such logistics do not matter.

The bottom line is that there are millions of people, living in the United States who cannot afford health care. America is the only industrialized nation without publicly administered national health care. It is also the only country where being sick might ultimately result in bankruptcy.

Is the answer socialized or nationalized healthcare? These programs are working for Canada and Britain. Or are they? John Stossel, ABC news correspondent, argues that these healthcare systems seem free, but medical demand supersedes supply. These governments deal with the problem by limiting what is available. Meaning, in Britain you might be denied clean bed sheets during your hospital stay.

The United Kingdom’s Daily Mail reported that nurses were encouraged to save money by simply turning the sheets over instead of providing clean ones. In Canada you might have to wait six months for an MRI.

Americans do not want to hand over half of their earnings for health care, nor wait an unreasonable amount of time to receive sub-quality treatment for free or at a reduced rate.

It is a double-edged scalpel. With or without health

insurance, most middle class Americans suffer financially.

Companies that generate millions, Wal-Mart for example, should step up and offer their employees affordable assistance. Or perhaps the United States should enact a stipend at the federal level to balance the cost of innovation verses health care.

Statistics show that middle class income is on the rise, as well as individuals without health insurance coverage. Many Americans choose to work non-benefit jobs because they earn more money. Are they taking the stance of the gambling college student because it is simply too expensive to have health insurance?

With some colleges requiring health coverage as a condition of enrollment, it is even more important to make it affordable. Especially when you consider the 2007-2008 published tuition prices for full-time, in-state students at public four-year institutions and universities rose 6.6 percent and public two-year colleges rose 4.2 percent.

International student tuition is double that, plus the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services requires international students to obtain health and medical/repatriation coverage.

Fortunately, some international students are covered by their home countries. For example, Sweden pays 100 percent of their abroad students’ medical expenses. How do those who are not covered feel about the requirements?

International student Thi Tra, accounting and finance major at University of Houston-Clear Lake, said that she was initially shocked at the requirement for insurance and found it to be unfair because of the extra fees, which already increased tuition. Tra expressed that searching for insurance was stressful and that most international students find the cheapest insurance available, approximately \$150 as opposed to UHCL’s \$425.

Student insurance is a stipulation for everyone at Texas Christian University. All undergraduate students carrying



Emily Jaschke: The Signal

nine or more hours must have health insurance through either the TCU student health insurance or an approved individual or family plan.

On the national level, Massachusetts state law requires all full- or three-quarter-time college students to participate in a school sponsored student accident and sickness insurance plan or provide proof of having an alternate insurance plan with comparable coverage.

Could this happen at UHCL? Anthony Jenkins, dean of students, says he would not support such an enrollment requirement without a massive petition by the student body.

Honestly, what student can afford insurance without government assistance unless he or she works full time? The many students who do not have the luxury of being carried by their parents, or have since been given the boot per age regulation, just hope to make it through college without any major medical problems.

Until then, take your vitamins, wear a helmet, and keep your fingers crossed.

THE SIGNAL STAFF

Co-Editors	Neesha Hosein Bret Newcomb	Reporters/ Photographers	Melissa Bird Angela Bolton Kim Boswell Monica Buchanan Josh Conwell Heather Frame Jamie Griffiths Emily Jaschke Kevin Kettle Ashley R. Marie Cassandra Spencer Lauren Taylor Nicole Wheatley Stephanie Wilcox
Designer	Richard Willis		
Assistant Designer	Kimber Roque		
Videographers/ Video Editors	Alicia Gutierrez Alana Pennington		
Web Master	David Kiss		
Broadcast Reporters	Cassandra Spencer Lauren Taylor		

LETTERS POLICY

The Signal is a public forum and will print letters to the editor subject to the following: letters must be no longer than 500 words. Where necessary, letters will be edited for grammar, spelling and style requirements. Letters must be signed and include the writer’s full name, address and phone number. The editors reserve the right to refuse letters, announcements and contributed articles deemed libelous.

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

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

**Ad Manager/
Production Asst.** Lindsay Humphrey

Faculty Adviser Taleen Washington

Holiday dilemma of modern generation

Yes, the holidays have arrived. Have you thought about where you're spending them this year?

No, I don't mean some new geographical location on the map that you or your family have never been. I'm talking about which side of the inevitable family tree has the privilege of spending those special days with you.

Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Eve are, by far, my favorite time of year. I love the fall season that accompanies plenty of heartwarming moments spent with family and friends.

It's the plethora of food that your taste buds crave to the very last bite, the endless gifts under the beautifully lit Christmas tree, and a lively countdown that rings in the New Year. With so much excitement filling the air, what in the world could possibly cause anyone frustration?

How about trying to decide which side of the family you're going to spend each holiday with? Or how about trying to coordinate the different times that each side of the family is having their festivities? Easily, what is known as the most joyous time of year can suddenly become a frustrating affair.

It's not just your mom or dad's side of the family I'm talking about, it's about factoring in your step-mom or step-dad, and even possibly your significant other's multi-leveled family. Let's face it, trying to please an array of family members during the holidays is virtually impossible, but fortunately compromise does wonders.

It's widely known that the vast majority of the American culture is comprised of some of the highest divorce rates known to man. The U.S. Census Bureau said that an alarm-

ing "1,300 new step-families are forming everyday," and with such staggering statistics, it comes as no surprise why the holiday season can turn some families into grinch.

In fact, through my own experiences of having a family the size of Texas, I know how it feels to be trapped in the dilemma of making these tough decisions.

I have to factor in my mother, father and step-mother, and then my boyfriend's mother, father and step-mother. At this point, I have to figure out who's having dinner here, what time they are opening gifts there, and finally who's toasting in the New Year.

Wow, my head's spinning just thinking about it! And until the day I can be in ten different places at one time, some of them will just have to simply settle for a Christmas card and a phone call. Luckily for me, most of them seem reasonably understanding with the situation.

So, what if you have to skip out on one of your relative's famous turkey dinners because everyone else decided to start at the same time? How are you going to deal with possibly hurting someone's feelings?

Politely tell Aunt Mildred or Grandma Rose that everybody's having dinner at the same time, and you will spend Christmas with them next year. Of course, that doesn't always work, and I often find myself house hopping and eating multiple turkey dinners, ultimately ending the day in pure over-indulgence.

By the same token, some people divide the four-course meal among all their possible destinations. They start with drinks at one destination, then off to the next stop for appetizers, slowly depart for dinner somewhere else, and then finally hit their last destination for the grand finale, pumpkin pie.

With Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Eve right around the corner, take the time to embrace those special moments with your family and friends. Whether it's in person, over the telephone or through that special gift, concentrate on showing them how much you care.



Angela Bolton
Thoughts for Life

Has America forgotten the true meaning of Christmas?

I was driving southbound on I-45 toward Galveston when I looked up to see the Baybrook Mall sign that read: "Santa will be here Nov. 10!"

What?! Are they serious? If I do the math correctly, which I'm pretty sure I can, that is 45 days before Christmas day, a whole month and a half early.

Every year it seems America starts celebrating Christmas earlier and earlier. In October, you can walk into any Wal-Mart, Target, Lowe's or Home Depot and find Halloween decorations. But, if you simply look across the isle, BAM!

There it is-Christmas decorations.

I mean for crying out loud, I walked out onto the balcony of my condo a few days ago to the colorful lights that the committee has strung around the recreation center of our complex.

Has America really forgotten the true meaning of Christmas? I could be wrong, but as a young girl raised Christian, I was always taught that Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Christ.

Due to the retail market's disappointing sales last year, stores put up Christmas decorations early to try and make more money. In the past, Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, was the day that the Christmas season really

began, not at the same time that the Halloween decorations starting coming out.

I mean, it is not even Thanksgiving yet and retail stores are already trying to bring customers in by lowering prices and hosting Christmas-like sales. You already see the commercials on television counting down the days and instructing you to go get your Christmas shopping done early.

A few days ago on my way to work I was listening to a radio station's morning talk show when the host became very angry at this same topic. He made a really good point that I thought about for awhile.

Halloween is a controversial holiday that not everyone in America celebrates. And yet, there are about five shelves in a store dedicated to it. Christmas is a religious holiday that not everyone in America celebrates, and yet there is always a whole section of a store dedicated to it.

Thanksgiving, a significant holiday in American history, is the day first celebrated in the 17th century by the Pilgrims and Native Americans in colonial New England to celebrate thanks for all the harvest at the end of the season. Yet, there is only one aisle dedicated to Thanksgiving decorations.

There is a holiday called Thanksgiving and it occurs between Halloween and Christmas.

So, I ask a more in-depth question: has America become so wrapped up in the commercialism of the holiday season that they have truly forgotten the real meaning of the holidays we celebrate in this great country of ours?



Ashley R. Marie
Santa's Helper

Opus

By Berkley Breathed

I'M BERKELEY BREATHED AND I'M HERE TO REVEAL THAT A LOVABLY FUDGY LITTLE MEMBER OF OUR CARTOON WORLD HERE IS ACTUALLY GAY.

11-25-07

YOU MIGHT REMEMBER HOW ANOTHER BIG TIME AUTHOR RECENTLY OUTED HER CHARACTER... ONLY AFTER SHE'D WRAPPED THINGS UP.

HOW BRAVE.

HERE, HOWEVER, WE AIR OUR MESSY SECRETS BEFORE WE LEAVE THE STAGE...

DON'T, BOSS!

YES, ALBUS DUMBLEDORE SHARES THE SAME SECRET HARBORED BY THIS CHARMING LITTLE SCAMP, BELOVED BY MILLIONS FOR OVER A QUARTER CENTURY...

NO! DON'T!! THINK OF THE CHILDREN!!

EXCUSE ME WHILE I DRAW DUCT TAPE ON SOMETHING.

ON WHAT?

OUCH! MPMH! MPMH!

NOW, A MOMENT FOR CELEBRATION, NOT DISMAY.

J.K. ROWLING IS A LILY-LIVERED LITERARY CHICKEN.

GUESS WHO SHAVES HIS BACK.

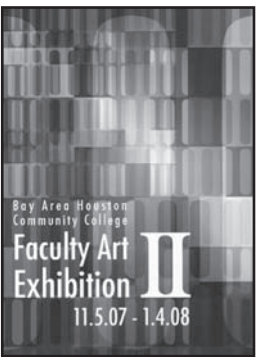
UPCOMING EVENTS



**Wish Tree
Program 2007
Through Dec. 6**
Sponsored by the
Salvation Army and
the Office of
Intercultural and
International Students
Services



**Exhibition of Prints
By Katherine
Brimberry
Through Dec. 10**
Bayou Building,
Atrium I, Level 2
Admission is free



Faculty Art Exhibition II
Through Jan. 4, 2008
The Art Gallery,
Atrium I, First Floor,
Bayou Bldg.
Sponsored by HSH
& Fine Arts program



**Bay Area Houston
Ballet and Theatre
Presents the
Nutcracker**
Dec. 3, 4, 10, and 11
7:30 p.m.
Dec. 4, 5, 11 and 12
2 p.m.
UHCL Bayou Theater
www.babbt.org

The dawn of 'Twilight' series

Author hopes to see dream on the big screen

Alana Pennington
The Signal Staff

In a world where imaginations can go wild and anything is possible, another book phenomenon has emerged for young adult readers. "Twilight" is the biggest thing since Harry Potter and the fan base is still growing.

Author Stephenie Meyer did not know the magnitude the "Twilight" series idea would bring when she first dreamt about the characters and plot line. One night four years ago, Meyer woke up with the idea of a romantic vampire book, but figured she would just write the book for fun, for pleasure.

That night, Meyer wrote 10 solid pages, which would end up being Chapter 13.

"It was such a great dream that I didn't want to forget," Meyer explains.

Not until she was almost fin-

ished did a friend lead her onto the path of searching for a publisher. Meyer sent out 13 book requests, but only one publishing company responded: Little, Brown and Company. The publishing company fell in love with the book and contracted Meyer to write a series of books based on the "Twilight" characters.

Today there are three books in the series, all of which have been on the New York Times Best Seller's list, and the fourth book is well on its way.

"I'm not sure if there is going to be anymore past the fourth book," Meyer says. "I am just trying to get 'Breaking Dawn' out and then I'll think about it. As of now, there are no plans for a fifth book."

On Halloween, a MySpace fan club for Meyer held a forum that allowed fans from all over the world to chat with Meyer and post questions. The chat lasted an hour; within five minutes, 15 pages had

been filled. By the time the hour was up, there were more than 2,000 posts at 134 pages.

Like Harry Potter, while "Twilight" is directed toward young adults, many adults, parents or not, are jumping on the bandwagon.

"I think it's the romance and originality of the "Twilight" series that appeals to adults," writes Laura, one of many adults in the chat forum.

As of now, there are big plans in the works for a 2008 movie to be produced based on the "Twilight" series. While Meyer has little to do with production, she is pleased with how the progress is going so far.

"I'm hoping it will be good," Meyer says. "I want to see my dream on the big screen."

After letting MTV go, Summit Entertainment was assigned to produce "Twilight." Meyer learned a lot from MTV but is much happier with the change in pace. Babel,

Memento and American Pie are among the many movies produced by Summit Entertainment.

"They [Summit] seem to be going out of their way to keep me in the loop and listen to my thoughts," Meyer says.

As of now, Emily Browning is rumored to get the lead. Browning, known for her role in "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events," is listed to play Bella on IMDB.com.

Meyer's favorite choice for the lead role is Browning, but also favors Ellen Page of "X-Men: The Last Stand" and Danielle Panabaker of "Shark" and "Sky High." For more information on the movie or any future books, check out www.stepheniemeyer.com

While Meyer may be famous for the "Twilight" series, she has branched out and is writing adult fiction books as well. The Host has a publication date of May 2008.

From best-seller to ground-breaking film

Khalid Abdalla helps 'Kite Runner' soar in novel adaption

Josh Conwell
The Signal Staff

In 2003, an unknown author named Khaled Hosseini released his debut novel to wide critical acclaim and became a surprise hit on the best-seller lists around the world, becoming the third highest grossing novel of 2005. This well-loved novel is called "The Kite Runner."

After millions of copies sold, this deeply moving tale of friendship and betrayal has finally been made into an equally moving film. The film is directed by Golden Globe nominated director Marc Forster. Forster is known for directing critically acclaimed films such as "Stranger Than Fiction," "Finding Neverland" and "Monster's Ball."

The story, set in Kabul, Afghanistan, is an emotional tale of friendship between two Afghan boys: Amir, a wealthy Pashtun boy; and Hassan, a Hazara who is the son of a servant to Amir's father. The close friendship between the two boys is suddenly broken over a heart-breaking act of betrayal that changed their childhood forever.

Years later, Amir, who was forced to flee to the United States after the Soviet invasion, must now return to the land he once knew to face and make right the guilt that has haunted him since childhood. This story of redemption spans the years of turbulent events in Afghanistan—from the fall of its monarchy, through the Soviet invasion, to the control of the Taliban regime. The film unflinchingly portrays the drastic change of a country that was once beautiful and peaceful to a country that is now broken and devastated by war.

Khalid Abdalla, who plays the main character of Amir as an adult, discussed the film, the reason he chose to do the film, and one of the scenes in the film that has become quite controversial during an advanced screening of the film at AMC Studio 30 Nov. 5 and at a sit-down interview the next day at the Hotel ZaZa.

Abdalla, who made his film debut in Paul Greengrass' "United 93," feels fortunate to be a part of a film with such strong themes of love and forgiveness and to be able to immerse himself in "something I deeply believe in and deeply want to give my entire heart to."

What has garnered the film large amounts of

publicity lately has not been how well the novel has translated to film, but a very controversial and pivotal rape scene that takes place in the movie involving three young boys.

The three child stars, who live in Kabul, and their families all expressed fear that the children will be bullied at school and the families could be physically attacked by Afghans angered by the



Courtesy of Paramount Vantage

Left: Amir, played by Khalid Abdalla, teaches Sohrab, right, played by Ali Dinesh, to fly a kite.

film's unsettling rape scene. Because of this tension the studio, Paramount Vantage, has decided to delay the film's release by six weeks, until Dec. 14. By then, the young stars' school year will have ended and the three families will be safely transported out of the country.

Abdalla commends the studio for taking action upon hearing these threatening rumors and protecting the family, as well as researching whether or not there have been threats made and what is the best way to deal with that situation.

"Bearing in mind how much those kids mean to us, their safety is our primary concern and so if there is even a remote possibility, then it is worth taking them out," Abdalla said. "And so they will be in a safe haven during the release of the film, and until such time that the situation can

be properly assessed."

The situation involving the safety of the families is just one of many laws exercised in Afghanistan that still bears the same rational as the past Taliban rule. There is still a great oppression of women and a lack of interest in increasing the literacy rate because of the past Taliban regime.

A surprise guest in the interview was Bapsi Sidhwa, the author of the novel "Water," who adapted the novel from the 2006 Academy Award nominated film for Best Foreign Language film of the same title. Sidhwa believes that because of the iron-fist of the Taliban regime, the Afghans are still used to this type of lifestyle.

"It is going to be very hard to get that Taliban mentality out of them," Sidhwa said.

Abdalla hopes that "The Kite Runner" will change that negative stereotype of Afghanistan and portray the country as it once was and is trying to become again.

Even though the rape scene might infuriate many people in Afghanistan, and they may feel that this film has misrepresented them and their culture in an unfair way, many of the Afghans have reacted in a very positive way to the film, Abdalla said. The actor said that at one of the advanced screenings that they held a woman stood up and addressed him as well as the audience and told him "thank you." She felt that she and her culture was correctly represented and that it was a culture that she could recognize, he said.

"The beautiful thing was that, likewise, three days later we had an American soldier who served in the forces for 26 years, some of that time in Afghanistan and the Middle East, who stood up and said exactly the same thing," Abdalla said.

Abdalla truly hopes that people in Afghanistan will eventually come to embrace the film and accept its story of love and forgiveness and its condemnation of violence and hatred.

"I certainly think that over the long term, I have no doubt that this is a film that, for generations, Afghans will be so proud of and will be proud of their involvement in it," Abdalla said.

The film mixes a group of non-actors from Afghanistan and Central Asia with an accomplished international cast. The film is in both English and Dari with English subtitles. The movie will be released in Houston Dec. 21.

‘My God Told Me to Kill Your God’

Artists use their creations to speak out against war

Melissa Bird
The Signal Staff

Since 2001, Americans have had strong opinions about the “war on terror.” Six Houston area artists are making their statements through their artwork, and some of them are speaking louder with art than they could with words alone.

My God Told Me to Kill Your God, an art installment at Rice University’s Media Center being displayed until Nov. 21, features the art of Mel Chin, Eric Avery, Felipe Contreras, Tim Glover, David Krueger and Ed Wilson. All of the artists are living or working in the Houston area.

“Although my own mother shrieks at the thought that I



Alana Pennington:The Signal

Artist David Krueger expresses his thoughts on war clearly in the mixed media installation “Love and Mercy” that gave inspiration to the name of the exhibit.

thought up the title, I feel it is one that not only takes you aback at first reading, but strikes home at the core of many wars taking place around us,” said Karin Broker, professor and chair of visual and dramatic arts at Rice. “I have found the title to provoke people and those very people seem quite unable to describe why. That interests me, and the title maneuvers their brains to locations that are uncomfortable.”

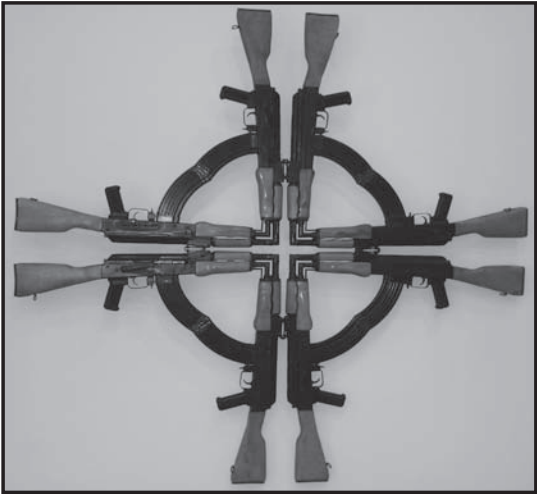
One of the artists, Eric Avery, a physician who has worked with refugees in Somalia as well as Haiti, issued a statement to visitors of the exhibit about one of his many pieces entitled “Colonial Caskets.” This piece adorns an entire wall and looks much like graphic wallpaper. On closer inspection, it is clear that the pattern is the continual replication of caskets.

“I was going to make each casket represent ‘X’ number of deaths, but I couldn’t figure out the total dead to date: American soldiers, Iraqi Shia, Sunni, al-Qaida in Mesopotamia and perhaps before President Bush/Cheney leaves office, Iranians,” Avery said. “Instead of graphically representing the Iraq war dead, I just printed as many caskets as I could before the exhibit began, and will leave the print edition open.”

In addition to the wallpaper caskets, there is “Big Bully on the Block,” a giant tank by Ed Wilson; “Cross for the Unforgiven,” a Maltese-style cross made out of rifles by Mel Chin; “Poppies Charm,” a metal sculpture featuring poppy flowers growing out of Afghanistan-shaped bases by Tim Glover, and much more.

The heaviest and, arguably, most shocking pieces are upstairs and carry a warning posted at the top of the stairs stating that some of the images are graphic. There is a series of guns wrapped in caution tape and rubber bands by Felipe Contreras, a piece entitled “Glory Hole” featuring President Bush hurling toward The White House like a torpedo also by Eric Avery and, in the very back corner of the upstairs room, there is the piece that the entire exhibit is named for by David Krueger.

“My third piece is titled ‘Love and Mercy,’” Krueger said. “It has a large black and red poster with the words ‘My God is a God of love and mercy, he wants me to kill



Alana Pennington:The Signal

Mel Chin’s “Cross for the Unforgiven,” a Maltese cross made from eight AK-47s, is a “symbol of reistance around the world.”

you.’ It is surrounded by images of atrocities and war from around the world and throughout history, from ancient times to the current day.”

Another feature of the upstairs exhibit are a series of stamps entitled: “Love,” “Fuck the World,” “Stop Terrorism,” “Bringing Freedom” and “Our Way or No Way,” also by Krueger. At first glance they seem like ordinary stamps, but when looking closer, shocking images and words are used to impact the viewer.

“I was pleasantly surprised by the striking images,” said Tsvetelina Zdraveva, architecture major at Rice. “There are exhibits with 90 percent junk and 10 percent good. This isn’t the case this time. I really like the prints and the sculptures.”

Although the images can be shocking, they are meant to be thought-provoking as well.

“I hope the viewer will walk away with questions,” said artist Tim Glover. “The dialogue is important, since we live in a free country with free speech, we should be willing to debate the issues facing us.”

Don’t wait until the last minute...



OPEN REGISTRATION
for Spring 2008
is now available!

PAYMENT DEADLINE:
by noon on
January 11, 2008

For more information go to
www.uhcl.edu/records



Neesha Hosein
The Signal Staff

The University of Houston-Clear Lake held an international festival of fun and learning at Global Expo 2007 Nov. 14 giving visitors a hands-on opportunity to travel around the world without buying a plane ticket.

This annual event promotes education about different countries and offers a chance for students and visitors to get a taste of cultural practices, traditions and cuisine.

Global Expo “has been on this campus for several years,” said Linda Contreras Bullock, assistant dean of student diversity in the office of Intercultural and International Student Services. “The focus has changed from more celebration to an educational experience. We knew we needed to educate this community about other cultures.”

Sameer Pande, assistant director of Intercultural and International Student Services, has noticed an evolution of Global Expo from past years, in that, more people are stopping to observe all the booths’ offerings and presentations to absorb information about the countries.

“People used to just walk right through it,” Pande said. “And now there seems to be more of an increased feeling and a need to understand and learn about other cultures. This event provides an informal and friendly atmosphere for learning. It’s your passport to the world.”

Pande also noted that even though certain countries presented at Global Expo do not have a student organization on campus, the students still took the opportunity to create a display to represent their country.

Brightly decorated booths displayed each country’s cul-

ture through items like flags, maps, brochures, traditional clothing, food, videos, music and much more. Visitors did some taste-testing as well as getting literature full of details about each nation’s uniqueness.

Taiwan, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Columbia, Hungary, Philippines, Dominica, Trinidad & Tobago, Ecuador, Vietnam, Turkey, Indonesia and India were countries displayed at Global Expo 2007.

The United States of America was represented by booths of Hawaii and Texas.

During their exploration of foreign lands, visitors were provided with a blue paper passport that got stamped at each country’s booth.

Visitors to Taiwan received a hot cup of tea while Jalapeno jelly beans and cowboy hats welcomed spectators at the Texan booth right next door, sponsored by Student Life. Hawaii provided fresh fruit and ice-cold Hawaiian Punch. Across the way, Trinidad & Tobago was lively with dancing and was adorned with flags, food and videos of Carnival. Vietnam creatively displayed the shape of the country using foil. Ecuador had unique artifacts and a bright flag on display.

Hungary provided facts and photos. India showed visitors how to wrap a traditional Indian sari and gave Henna tattoos. Dominica gave a taste of codfish stew and yams along with brochures. Mexico was vivid in traditional colors. The Philippines presented information about actor Lou Diamond Philips, a native of the country. Columbia had an array of literature and snacks. Puerto Rico had a dazzling display of souvenirs and information. Baklava, a sweet treat, and traditional attire were just a few of the items



Neesha Hosein: The Signal

The UHCL community enjoyed a day of learning about different cultures, tasting international food, and participating in traditional activities at Global Expo 2007.

available at Turkey’s booth. Intercultural and International Student Services and Women’s Services also had booths.

Global Expo is also a competition as judges observe the overall function of the booth in relation to how educational, visual and spirited they were. Booth representatives are unaware of who the judges are as they casually observe the festivities alongside the other attendees. This year’s winners are: Trinidad & Tobago for Most Spirited, Hungary and Taiwan tied for Most Educational, and Vietnam won for Best Booth.



Monica Buchanan
The Signal Staff

Sport bikes, cruisers, and choppers...oh my! Every year the (sometimes) quiet town of Galveston, Texas is hit with a force that has yet to be reckoned with: The Lone Star Rally. This annual event brings bikers and their toys from all over the country to celebrate and congregate in a very safe, sometimes crazy, always entertaining environment.

The rally is centered around three different locations during the four-day weekend. The most popular location is Harborside and the Strand, which blends into one massive social event. Those who arrive early can park along the Strand, which becomes a sea of every type of motorcycle imaginable. The sidewalk becomes a restaurant, bar and club as people congregate to watch the parade of bikes go by in a steady stream.

Harborside hosts an array of vendors that are suited to serve every biker’s desire. Need a new set of chaps with matching jacket? Head over to Contra Apparel. How about a custom chopper with graphics that will put all other choppers to shame? Big Bear Choppers might be your next stop, and then head over to Sacred Heart Tattoos for a matching tat. Finally, no trip would be complete without a miniature replica of your new chopper, which can be easily provided at Mini Metal Madness.

After you’ve had your fill of all the craziness along the Strand, take a short trip over to the Seawall where more fun awaits. There you will find more vendors, some small, but there are national chains represented too, such as the guys from Orange County Choppers. While the Strand might be a little to risqué for some of the younger bike enthusiasts, the Seawall is a little more relaxed and kid-friendly.

“My daughter was thrilled to see how detailed some of the custom bikes were,” said Henry Myers. “We came out early because I knew the crowd

wouldn’t be as crazy and we both had a great time.”

However, when the sun goes down the festivities gear up. Every night there are free concerts at two stages located at the Laguna Harbor Stage and the Harborside lots, and at the Convention Center as well. The Convention Center also hosts many other scheduled events, such as the Leather and Lace Ball and the Miss Lone Star Rally Contest. The Strand becomes even more packed with locals and tourists alike looking to show off their rides. While most have the perception that the crowd will be nothing more than a bunch of rowdy biker gangs, the truth is much more exciting.

“I was surprised at the diversity in the crowd,” said Cody Simmons, first time rally attendee. “Once you start talking to someone, you realize you’re talking to a lawyer or an engineer ... everyone just gets dressed up and comes out to have a good time.”

For those who have never made the quest down to Galveston during the rally, be assured that the time spent driving will be well worth it. The festivities are always free, and the hardest part about enjoying yourself will be finding a parking space. So if you don’t have a bike of your own to ride, jump on the back of a friend’s, or pack into a car because even though you may feel like the odd man out, it is not a requirement that you arrive on only two wheels.



Photos by
Monica Buchanan

Pow Wow

Native American dance shows cultural heritage

Josh Conwell
The Signal Staff

The Traders Village showcased a Native American Pow Wow dance contest Nov. 10-11 that offered amazing dances, authentic teepees and colorful garments. Once guests entered the Village, they were immersed in a culture that is interested in keeping up with tradition and honoring their heritage. The Pow Wow was so legendary that people could not help but be transplanted to an era from a time long past.

Attending a Pow Wow is a good way for people to become acquainted with Indian customs. The Pow Wow at the Traders Village offered tribal dance contests, Indian artwork and traders with amazing crafts that illustrated how essential they once were to tribal living.

The dance is a spiritual ceremony for people to display their emotions and to connect with society and nature. A dance can signify many different emotions including love, war and peace. The dance itself is as if each person is telling his or her own story and attempting to connect with the people in the audience in the present as well as in the past.

Anyone, from the age of small children to older seniors, is allowed to participate in the dance contest. This contest gives the dancers a chance to show people what their culture is really about. It allows them to pay tribute to their ancestors and their heritage.

One of the dance contestants was Marion Cole. He explained what it feels like to dance out there, with the beat of the drums and the chanting of the Indians.

“The dancing changes your consciousness,” Cole said. He goes on to explain that the dance and the rhythm is the “heartbeat of the earth.” Cole believes in these dances and enjoys participating.

“I dance because I can,” he said. Another contestant was Gabe Bullock and he gave a very inspiring reason as to why he dances. “I dance for my own heart; I dance for my family and for my tribe,” Bullock said.

If people think that all Indians live in tribes then they are mistaken. There are many different Indian groups, tribes and bands that have and are still living in Texas including Apaches, Comanches, Kiowas and Kickapoo. They all lived in different areas of Texas including the Western Gulf, Southeast, Southwest and the Plains. All of these native people had their own traditions, governments and religions that they were able to use to best take advantage of land resources.

The definition of an Indian group is just a small number of people, anywhere between five and 30 people, such as the Lipan Apache Indians who all wear the same clothes and eat the same foods. Bands, such as the Comanche Indians, are several groups that are organized under one leader, who is called the chief. A tribe is a group of bands organized under one chief leader.

The history of Indian culture is filled with wars and hardships, but through their struggle they have tried and succeeded at keeping their heritage alive and vivid in today’s society by passing on their tools and crafts.

A woman who worked at one of the stalls is named Cindian, “The Turtle Woman Who Walks With Bears.” Although only a percentage of her bloodline is Indian, she was adopted by the “Blackfoot Bear Clan,” which made her 100 percent Blackfoot by adoption. The Bear Clan is just a very small clan in Houston, made up of only 10 people, but outside of Houston it is a lot larger.

Cindian is truly honored to be accepted by the clan and hopes to pass on their heritage and way of life to others whom the clan deems acceptable so that their culture will not be forgotten.

The Indian culture is founded on a strong ancient bond of showing respect to the forefathers before them and expressing that gratefulness through dance and art. There is a very deep respect given by these people for their very beautiful culture.




Top: Two dance contestants represent their heritage through dance.

Bottom: One contestant gets ready for the dance contest.

Photos by Josh Conwell

JSC Federal Credit Union Wants YOU

Y VISA Check Cards • Jones • FREE Checking Accounts • **O** FREE Online Banking & Bill Pay • **U** 32,000 Surcharge Free ATMs • 24/7 Account Access



University of Houston Clear Lake Students, Faculty and Staff

You are eligible for membership with

JSC


Federal Credit Union
www.jscfcu.org
281.488.7070 800.940.0708

Clear Lake • League City • Ellington • Friendswood
Galveston • Texas City • Mainland • Park Place • Bay Colony

9 Convenient Branch Locations

Open A JSC FCU Checking Account Today & Get Free Checks!

Get
FREE
Checks*


 Federal Credit Union
 www.jscfcu.org

Get
FREE
Checks*

*Coupon Good for 1 Free Box of Space Style Checks Only and is Redeemable at any JSC FCU Branch

A Quality Full-Service Automotive Center

just around the corner

Space Center TIRE AUTO

Giving Auto Service a Good Name



- Courtesy shuttle to/from UHCL
- Expert in all makes and models
- Free towing in Clear Lake with mechanical service
- State Inspections
- 2 year/24,000 mile local warranty
- 1 year/12,000 mile nationwide warranty

Monday-Friday: 7am to 7pm
Saturday: 7am to 5pm
Sunday: Closed for family time

(281)286-8473



Located behind Sonic, off Bay Area Blvd, at 16439 Moonrock
www.spacecentertireauto.com

*Student Life * Student Life * Student Life*

Student Organization Expo

Wed., January 23 ■ Bayou, Atrium II ■ 10 - 6 p.m.

Find out how YOU can get involved on campus..

Visit the following tables and feel free to ask questions or pick up any materials!

- Student Organizations
- Student Government Association
- Student Leadership Institute
- Student Services Offices
- Other Campus Services



Free Popcorn & Lemonade!

Any student requiring an accommodation for a disability to participate in the Fair should contact the Student Life Office.
Student Life Office: SS/CB 1.204 Phone: 281-283-2560

President's Luncheon Fall '07



"Leadership skills never go out of style," stated President Staples as he acknowledged the importance of leadership in his address to the students at the Fall SGA President's Luncheon. He said there will always be a shortage of leaders and that students should do everything possible to engage themselves in activities that could enhance their leadership skills. Oral presentations, written reports, planning and conducting events, raising funds and working in teams are some things you do both in and out of school. Engaging yourself on campus and being involved in roles that help develop leadership skills and qualities provide important lifelong characteristics and is the true benefit a student can get out of their college experience.

SGA thanks President Staples for hosting the luncheon, and we invite all students to make SGA your next stop and see how it will enhance your career and success!

Best of luck on your finals and have a happy holiday! Congratulations from SGA Executive Council to all those who are graduating!

CONTACT THE SGA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:
 Joyce Delores Taylor, President
 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



Governance
Outreach
Advocacy
Leadership

CAMPUS
CALENDAR

- November 19**
Toys for Tots Toy Drive, Student Life Decorated Door
Donations accepted through 11:45 a.m., December 3
- November 21-24**
Thanksgiving Holidays
- November 30**
English Enhancement Class, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Location TBA
Registration required, for info call (281) 283-3033
- December 1**
Last class day of the fall semester
- December 3-6**
Underground Bookstore, noon-7 p.m., Bayou Atrium II
- December 3-8**
Fall final examination period
- December 5**
Fall deadline for final approval of theses/projects by deans
- December 10**
Official closing of the fall semester
- December 14**
Fall 2007 Commencement, 7 p.m., Reliant Arena
- December 15**
Cultural Arts Event: Mercury Baroque – Handel’s Messiah, 7:30 p.m., Bayou Theater
Tickets \$8-15
- December 20**
Fall grades available on E-Services
- OPEN REGISTRATION**
ongoing through January 11, Fee payment deadline noon

Wellness: an apple a day still works

Amy Parnell
The Fitness Zone

Wellness is defined as, “the quality of being in good health especially as an actively sought goal; lifestyles that promote wellness,” in Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary.

Contained in the definition is an indicator of the role choice plays in attaining a healthy, well lifestyle.

Our fast-paced, multi-tasking society constantly asks us to juggle personal needs with present demands, so it’s easier to believe wellness will somehow “fit into our schedule,” or “happen sometime in the future.” But true wellness must be actively chosen.

Even as a Yoga teacher, wellness was something I thought would eventually come to me. However, I soon realized the energy and desire I use to consume a soda is equal to the energy and desire I use to practice Yoga.

I walk to my refrigerator and grab a soda, in other words, I actively seek this beverage. I walk into my spare room, roll out the mat, and begin the practice, I actively seek this practice. In order to cultivate wellness, I must choose to actively seek healthier options.

Massage therapy and chiropractic adjustments are often believed to be only a luxury, something we receive as a gift from a relative. But we can choose to add both to our lives to increase our wellness.



PARNELL

Massage is scientifically proven to decrease stress and anxiety, which in turn helps boost our immune systems. Chiropractic care involves the alignment or misalignment of the spine.

For many people, chiropractors help alleviate pain from automobile accidents, sports injuries or, as in my case, scoliosis. Using massage therapy and chiropractic care with your exercise program will help increase flexibility and activity in sore, tight, and atrophied muscles.

Numerous opportunities to increase our levels of wellness are closer than we think. The UHCL campus has taken proactive steps to create a network of wellness options on campus.

The UHCL Health Center offers a wide range of options for students, faculty, and staff desiring to improve their health. Routine examinations and immunizations are offered at a low-cost,

and twice a month an acupuncturist offers 30-minute sessions from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

In the past 30 years, clinical trials have shown acupuncture benefits sufferers of such conditions as fatigue, depression, muscular aches, and low-back pain.

The staff at the UHCL Health Center also will help answer any questions and direct you to information pamphlets provided in the center.

Nancy Weise, benefits coordinator, is an incredible woman whose desire to help and educate others on the importance of wellness quickly becomes contagious.

For faculty and staff at UHCL who qualify for benefits, there is a wonderful tool for wellness called Personal Health Manager offered through Health Select by Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

With Personal Health Manager a person can finish a Health Risk Assessment and discover what steps to take from a nurse.

One example of an immediate pro-active step is a discount to Jenny Craig for members who are interested in weight loss and want

a program to follow.

Other benefits provided by the UHCL medical insurance are yearly check-ups at the doctor and ophthalmologist.

When I left Weise’s office the impression I received was one of empowerment, “Why not?” In other words, why not get your check-ups? Why not take advantage of Personal Health Manager? Why not take pro-active steps to care for yourself and insure your future? Why not indeed?

The Fitness Zone

One Body: One Choice

Yoga Classes
5 weeks for
\$35.00

Nov. 5 - Dec. 13
Noon - 1 p.m.
SSCB 2302

(281) 283-2410
www.uhcl.edu/fitnesszone

Mercury Baroque Ensemble performs

Handel's Messiah

Saturday, December 15
7:30 p.m. in the Bayou Theater

The Houston Chamber Choir joins Mercury Baroque Ensemble for Messiah, a moving tribute to the holiday season. Hear Handel’s masterpiece as it would have sounded in the day—the uncut “1743 Covent Garden” version.

For tickets or information, call Student Life Office at (281) 283-2560 or visit the Cultural Arts Web site at www.uhcl.edu/culturalarts. Complimentary reception will be held after the concert.

General Admission: \$12 presale/\$15 at the door
With UHCL ID: \$8 presale/\$10 at the door

GET IN ON THE DISCUSSION!
Check out The Signal’s news blog online at www.myspace.com/signal_uhcl

Dolce
Tanning

16840 Highway 3
Corner of Bay Area and Hwy 3
Next to Salon Ambiance
(281) 557-3309

BRING THIS AD AND GET
\$5.00 OFF ANY LOTION
EXPIRES 12-07

CLASSIFIEDS

Do you love makeup?
Do you keep up with the latest fashion trends?
Merle Norman Baybrook Mall hiring beauty adviers P/T.
Great pay! Apply in person.

FOR SALE!
96 Ford Explorer LTD
Clean. Runs Good. Auto, A/C,
New Tires. New Brakes.
\$3,200. Call (281) 283-5804.

D'Caribbean Curry Spot
Cuisine & Catering
Menu items

2548 Broadway, Pearland, TX 77581
Store: (281) 412-0849/Moh: (713) 584- 9211/Sherry: (713) 584-9201
dcaribbeancurryspot@yahoo.com

Authentic Caribbean Cooking
All food halal
Catering for ALL Occasions!

Khator: *continued from page 1*

who will help take the UH System into the future with her extensive experience.”

A native of India, she came to the United States in 1974 after her arranged marriage to Suresh Khator, where both pursued degrees at Purdue University. While her husband completed his doctorate, she completed her master’s degree in political science. After graduation the couple returned to India to settle down, but five years later they returned to the United States so her husband could take a job with the University of South Florida.

It was by accident she joined USF’s administration, and “much to her own surprise,” she said.

Khator was the second-highest ranking administrator at USF, which is a comprehensive, doctoral-extensive, research university with four campuses, including a medical school in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota-Manatee and Lakeland. In 2004, when she was named as provost to USF, she and President Judy Genshaft were the only two-woman team running a major American College at the time.

“I am looking forward to Dr. Khator visiting our campus next year and meeting our students, faculty and staff,” Staples said. “There are several challenges and opportunities Dr. Khator will face when she begins her job in January. Some of the key ones that the Board of Regents looked at when making their selection was how to provide education to the growing greater Houston area, as well as, possibly, combining the UH System healthcare programs with the Texas Medical Center to form a future UH System Health Science Center. The Board of Regents is also looking at having another major UH System fundraising campaign, and Dr. Khator would lead them in this major initiative.”

When Khator was the provost of USF she helped to raise millions in sponsored research, and the university’s sponsorship jumped 22 percent during her tenure.

“It will be my job to build the four universities of the UH System into a model metropolitan institution of higher education for the 21st century, one that provides access and excellence with equal ease,” she said. “There is already so much to be proud of, and I look forward to helping UH becoming the state’s next flagship research university.”

She is the third person, and the first woman, to hold the dual title of UH System chancellor and president of the University of Houston. She follows Arthur Smith, who retired in 2003, and Jay Gogue, who left to become president of Auburn University.

She and her husband, Suresh, have two daughters, who are both studying to be ophthalmologists.

Coverage: *continued from page 1*

“You want to look at the coverage,” Prihoda said. “Look collectively at the policy, cost per day for a hospital bed, hospital fees and miscellaneous fees, such as pharmacy, x-ray and lab fees.”

Besides coverage, research the company as well.

“Insurance companies are rated,” Prihoda said. “There is an A, A-, B+, B and B-. You don’t want anything lower than a B+. Only get insurance with a major carrier with known credibility.”

There are more ways to track the insurance companies.

“Do your homework on the history of the company,” said Anthony Jenkins, dean of students. “If the company is registered with the Better Business Bureau, look into it. Read the reviews; look at the comments and complaints. Ask around to see who your friends have insurance through, and ask if they are satisfied with their coverage. It’s important even if you have special medical needs.”

All international students attending college in the United States are required to have health insurance. At UHCL, in addition to the \$420 cost, they must add \$5 for medical evacuation and repartition. In case of death, repartition covers the bill for sending the deceased home.

“The most important reason [for health insurance] is repartition,” Jenkins said. “The second is so that students will not be burdened with medical bills.”

UHCL insurance is not required; it can be attained if prior insurance is insufficient.

“Sameer and I encourage our international students to use the UHCL insurance that’s offered,” said Linda Bullock, assistant dean of student diversity. “[It] has reasonable coverage that’s adequate and efficient. We have had a good experience to date.”

Some students cannot afford the extra bill for health insurance and rely on hospitals like Ben Taub for medical help. Most free clinics require proof of income, welfare and housing.

“If you can afford to go to school, you don’t qualify for free clinics,” Prihoda said. “You will be paying in full for any service.”

Some states require students to show proof of insurance when registering for school. UHCL currently does not require insurance to enroll.

“The average student is 33 years old, married with a family, working and going to school,” Prihoda said. “Some even have insurance through work.”

If you are at the point where your parent’s insurance will not cover you, there are other options besides no insurance.

“Access insurance anyway you can,” Prihoda said. “UHCL is a good option.”

For more information on UHCL health insurance, visit the Health Center in the Student Services and Classroom Building, Room 1.301 or call (281) 283-2626.

Veterans Day: *continued from page 1*

After World War II, the significance of this day changed. In honor of all veterans of all American wars, past, present or future, the name changed to Veterans Day in May 1954 under President Eisenhower.

UHCL’s celebration of Veterans Day could not be what it is today without the help and support of many faculty and staff members here on campus. Jim Benson, U.S. Army veteran who served in Vietnam and associate professor of legal studies, has played a major role in the development of the campus’ Veterans Day celebration.

“I realized that after my 26th year here, our campus hadn’t recognized Veterans Day,” Benson said. “The idea of having our own celebration arose out of conversation with Ester Anderson, former adjunct professor for the School of Business, and here we are celebrating our fifth Veterans Day.”

The coordinator of the Veterans Day Celebration, Cheryl Rohde, executive secretary in the Office of University Advancement, is passionately involved with the advancement of UHCL’s celebration. This day is significant to her because her father served in the armed forces.

“It takes courage to serve and Veterans Day honors that courage,” Rhode said. “It also gives us a chance to remember those who have passed away fighting for our country.”

This is a growing celebration here at UHCL. Each

White privilege: *continued from page 1*

applies to them.”

“Many in white America are just not tuned in to the fact that they have benefited from white privilege,” said Anthony Jenkins, dean of students.

Tim Wise, who has lectured at more than 400 colleges and contributed to 15 books, uses the analogy of asking a fish what water is as a way to explain the invisibility of white privilege and why so many are unaware of it.

“Even if fish were capable of speech, they would likely have no explanation of the element they swim in every minute of every day of their lives,” said Wise, author of “White Like Me” and “Affirmative Action.” “Water simply is. Fish take it for granted.”

The second goal of diversity classes is to increase support for affirmative action through the awareness of white privilege.

Those in opposition to affirmative action make the claim that affirmative action is reverse discrimination.

However, others argue that affirmative action programs would not be necessary if white privilege did not exist.

“Affirmative action is the whipping boy for people who refuse to recognize institutional racism and the effects of generations of systematic discrimination,” said Joel Carter, a graduate student in cross-cultural studies. “Calling affirmative action ‘reverse racism’ or ‘reverse discrimination’ is a disingenuous way for people to deny white privilege and avoid a substantive conversation about the open wounds of racism while implicitly validating the racial discrimination that has necessitated a remedy that takes race into account.”

And yet, others feel that describing affirmative action as reverse racism is an injustice to all true claims of inequality.

“If white people are victims of, say, affirmative action’s so-called reverse racism, the real claims of people of color and of women will make little sense,” said Kendall Clark, writer of articles featured on whiteprivilege.com. “False claims of oppression dilute the force of real claims. White aggrieved victim-hood is a smoke screen for white privilege.”

In fact, based on a study released by Harvard Civil Rights Project, students of color will rarely attend the best schools and, on average, schools serving mostly minorities offer only a third as many AP and honors courses as schools that have a majority of mostly white students.

Opponents would also contend that hard work, ambition and merit are the sole reasons for personal success, not the color of their skin.

“Much of the invisibility of white privilege has to do with our need to justify how hard we believe we have worked to ‘earn’ all the goodies we may have,” Erich said.

Wise questions the claim of hard work and ambition and asks people to ponder what they consider hard work.

“Indeed, we pride ourselves on our hard work and ambition, as if somehow we invented the concepts,” Wise said. “As if we work harder than the folks who were forced to pick cotton and build levies for free; harder than the Latino immigrants who spend 10 hours a day in fields picking strawberries or tomatoes; harder than the mostly women of color who clean hotel rooms or change bedpans in hospitals, or the mostly men of color who collect our garbage.”

At some colleges, students have filed lawsuits claiming that affirmative action is a form of reverse discrimina-

tion that keeps them from being accepted, so that lesser qualified people of color can meet quotas.

“In colleges, black kids are the least likely to get into their first choice school while whites are the most likely to get into their first choice school,” Wise said. “Whites are being bumped to make way for other, richer whites, not for people of color.”

The perks of being white

“After all, unearned privileges are, if you ignore the costs to others, pretty great things to have,” Clark said.

Robert Jensen said that he has benefited his entire life from being white because all the decision makers in his life are just like him – they are white.

“I can acknowledge that in addition to all that hard work, I got a significant boost from white privilege, which continues to protect me every day of my life from certain hardships,” said Jensen, associate professor in the School of Journalism at the University of Texas and writer of articles about racism that have been featured in newspapers around the country.

Jensen said that there are too many examples of how people benefit from being white to explain them all.

One example he did use was, “Every time I walk into a store at the same time as a black man and the security guard follows him and leaves me alone to shop, I am benefiting from white privilege.”

Dealing with racism

Both students and faculty from diverse groups have told Case they have experienced racism.

“Racism is alive and well at UHCL because this campus reflects the greater institutionalized racism in the United States,” Case said. “Although we like to think of our campus as exempt from prejudice and discrimination, the reality is that every campus has these issues to address. The question is what are we doing as a campus to move toward deconstructing our notions of race and to raise awareness of white privilege and power?”

The United States has been battling equality for more than 50 years, but some will argue that the strides are not big enough.

“Here we are in 2007 going into 2008 and we are still celebrating the first African American head coach, the first African American CEO, the first female CEO of this ... if that’s not a clear indication of white privilege, then that’s a clear indicator that the playing field is not level,” Jenkins said.

Many think that acknowledging white privilege is the first step to take in order to overcome racism and inequality.

“White America should not be under attack ... that’s not going to get us anywhere,” Jenkins said. “We have to create an environment where people feel comfortable talking about white privilege, racism and prejudice. I will tell you this, if you want to shut down a room, if you want to make white America feel uncomfortable, talk about race – that’s a strong indicator that we have not made very much gain in our country.”

Go to www.uhcl.edu/thesignal to read about the President’s Distinguished Faculty and Staff Award recipients.



Egg Donors Needed

If you are a young woman between the ages of 20 and 32, and are interested in helping infertile couples through anonymous egg donation, we are looking for you. If accepted into our program, you will be provided \$3,500 compensation for your time and effort. It will require a thorough evaluation, daily injections of medications, frequent visits to the medical clinic, and a procedure for retrieval of eggs.

If you would like more information please call:

(713) 512-7694

**Obstetrical &
Gynecological Associates, P.A.**
7900 Fannin Houston, TX 77054



University Forest Apartments

University Forest Apartments is UHCL's on-campus housing community. Among the finest campus housing facilities in the nation, University Forest offers the best of both worlds:

On-Campus Convenience
with the benefits of
Apartment Style Living

All three custom floor plans are designed exclusively for students' use:

- Efficiencies
- 2 Bedroom / 2 Bath
- 4 Bedroom / 2 Bath

Roommate Matching Program
Individual Leases for Roommates
Full Service Kitchens



**Ask about our
Free Rent Specials &
Financial Aid
Payment Plans!**

Save GAS!...Walk to CLASS!

AMENITIES INCLUDE:

- FREE INTERNET
- Poolside Wireless Internet
- Financial Aid Deferment
- Pool & Spa
- Sand Volleyball Court
- Barbecue Pavilion
- 24 hr. On-call Staff
- 24 hr. Maintenance
- Clubhouse with Big Screen TV
- Free Video Checkout
- Free Movie Checkouts
- Free Photocopying
- Free Faxing
- Board Game Checkouts
- Social & Educational Programs
- Limited Access Gates
- Full Service Laundry Facilities
- And Much, Much More...

For more info call:
(281) 286-5959

e-mail:

uhcl@campushousing.com

The sky is
no limit

Written and photographed by Bret Newcomb

Traffic was at a standstill Saturday morning on NASA Parkway. Numerous motorists slowed to a crawl. This time the culprit was not construction or an accident. The motorists were awestruck at the sight of more than 60 hot air balloons floating just above their idling cars.

The Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce and Re/Max hosted the 14th annual Ballunar Liftoff Festival at Johnson Space Center Nov. 2–4.

The festival, the brainchild of balloon pilot Steve Lombardi, originated as an event to commemorate the first manned balloon flight that took place in 1783. Lombardi believed there was no better way to celebrate mankind’s first form of flight than on the grounds of where it is being taken even higher.

“Our hope is to develop interest in flight to young people for the advancement of the space program,” said Claudette Alderman, chairman of the Ballunar Liftoff Festival and president of the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce.

Festival attendees were treated to something for all of their senses. Upon entering the gates, the smell of traditional festival fare immediately sent mouths watering. Funnel cakes, fried potatoes, corn dogs, soda, beer, kettle corn – you name it and Ballunar had it.

Competing with peoples appetite was the wide assortment of vendors lining the fairway. Festival-goers could purchase a handcrafted keychain, walk 20 yards and shop for a new car to go with the keychain.

Another fun feature of the weekend was the wide assortment of music. The festival had a constant soundtrack as disc jockeys and live bands played over the balloon enthusiasts.

While all of these things were great, the real attraction was the sights. The festival featured 61 balloons from all over the country. The crowd was mesmerized by the births of piles of fabric into 3-story monuments of human innovation and hot air.

The weekend featured several opportunities to see the balloons, starting with the initial flight Friday evening, which had the balloons all flying into Johnson Space Center. Saturday morning gave attendees the opportunity to see the balloons inflated and take off and later that evening, the balloons were lit up like giant lanterns on the festival grounds.

Sunday morning, balloon pilots engaged in a competition that tested their flying accuracy. Hot air balloons can only be steered by heating air inside the balloons, causing them to rise into a wind current blowing in the desired direction. These currents change constantly and make navigation a real art.

As balloons floated over the Space Center grounds, pilots dropped mark-

ers and hula hoops at targets below, with the closest attempts being crowned as winner.

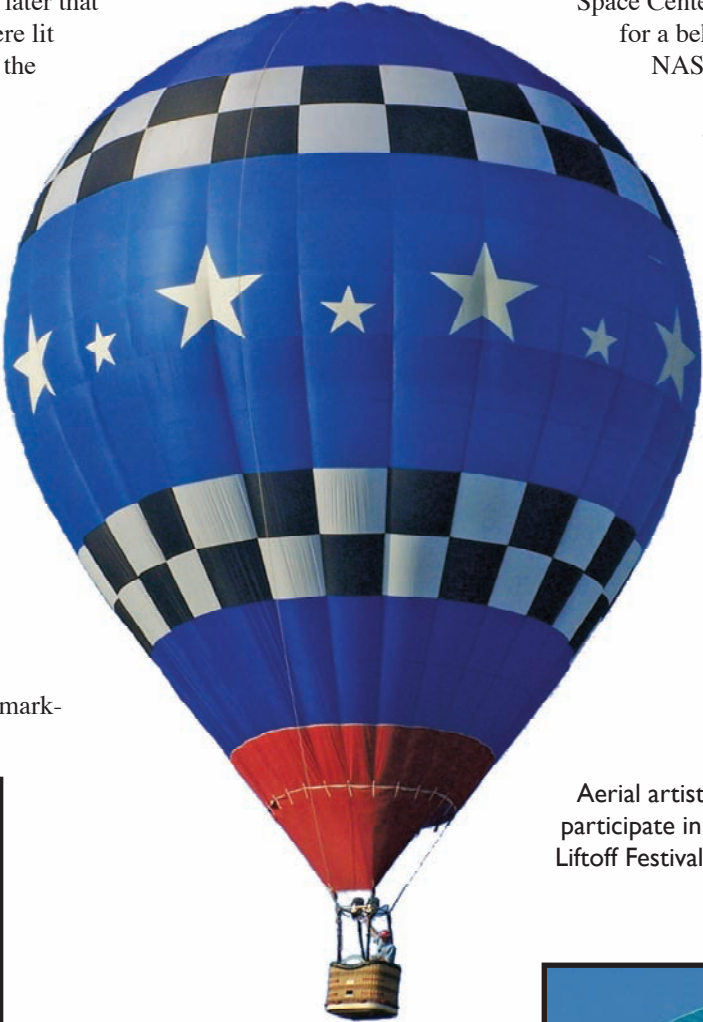
Balloons were not the only things filling the skies at Ballunar. The weekend also featured skydivers, para-gliders, hang-gliders and rockets.

“You’re stepping off, and it’s like you’re floating,” said skydiver Ilya Kats, who, along with his wife, Caty, have accrued nearly 1,800 jumps.

Additionally, as necks started getting sore from all the fun in the sky, Johnson Space Center offered mini-tours for a behind-the-scenes look of NASA at work.

Scott Schaunaman and his two sons Logan, 5, and Caleb, 3, attended Ballunar as a family for the first time this year. When asked for their opinion on the experience, young Caleb summed it up for everyone.

“Good,” Caleb Schaunaman said.



Aerial artists of all sorts participate in the Ballunar Liftoff Festival.

