



Austin reacts to North Korean threats

Keep Austin missile free

Lauren Lowry
The Signal

Kim Jong-un, supreme leader of North Korea, made a nuclear threat to the U.S. Jan. 24, stating he plans to launch missiles in the near future. One of the cities targeted is Austin, Texas.

The North Korean government, under the dictatorship of Kim Jong-un's father, Kim Jong-il, issued a similar nuclear threat to the U.S. in 2006 and nothing occurred.

The U.S. has reacted to the current threat by sending ships and missile defenses to North Korea's east coast.

Citizens of Austin have questioned the reason for the threat stating the city is not a logical place to impose that large of an attack. A majority of Austin officials do not think North Korea is capable of such a great attack, but they are still taking the proper precautions to prepare.

"Yes, we were surprised to hear that Austin was purportedly on a list of four U.S. targets," said R. Scott Swearingin, assistant director of Austin Homeland Security and Emergency Management. "There is much conjecture as to why Austin would be listed. Only the North Koreans would know for sure. We have been in touch

with our state partners. While there is no reason to believe that there is any credibility to the threat, we continue to monitor the situation closely."

Austin city officials were not the only ones who had a disbelieving reaction to the threat. The citizens of Austin also questioned the credibility of the situation.

"I am not really concerned about it," said Jay Farnie, Austin resident and student at University of Texas. "When I first heard about it, it actually made me laugh a little. It just really doesn't make much sense. If I were trying to piss off America, there are so many other places that could be nuked that would affect a larger population."

The city of Austin is known for its booming economy, eclectic music scene and its hippie culture that includes the 'Keep Austin Weird' motto. The city is the headquarters for large technology companies such as Dell. Austin is also the state capital and central hub for Texas politics.

"There are only three reasons I can think of why Austin was listed," Farnie said. "First, the Capitol building is a building that many citizens can identify, making it a good location to blow up. Another reason could be that



ELISA MORALES:THE SIGNAL

Kim Jong-un might be mixing it up like in the movie "Road Trip," where he is thinking Austin, Massachusetts. The only other reason I could think of is that it was just placed on the list as a distraction."

Citizens with access to social media have not been shy about expressing their thoughts on the situation.

Austinite Shelly Brisbin tweeted: "Forbes rates Austin third most nuke-able city in US. Mayor credits educated workforce, music scene." #whyaustin.

Austinite Paul Varghese tweeted: "If North Korea does bomb Austin, could it please be, for all comedic and ironic reasons, be on 4/20?"

Austin Homeland Security and Emergency Management advised residents to prepare for any situation, regardless of how urgent it may be. They believe that being prepared can benefit the community as a whole when faced with any kind of emergency.

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COURTESY:TOM MORRIS, COREANOS

Hungry for food services at UHCL

Ryan Little
The Signal

In order to better serve the growing campus, the University of Houston-Clear Lake food committee and Aramark, the company that runs the Patio Café, are making some changes to the food services offered on campus.

Aramark is working with 10 different food trucks that will start making their rounds to UHCL. Aramark does not own the food trucks but is asking the food trucks to come to UHCL for the business opportunity.

"In my opinion food trucks would be awesome," said April Cantwell, digital media studies major. "As long as their prices are decent, it'll give us, the student body, a variety of food

items to eat."

Coreanos Mexican Cuisine was the first food truck to show up on campus as part of Aramark's new program. They were serving up food on campus April 2.

"Our business was great; I was very happy with the turnout and enthusiasm the campus had about food trucks," said Tom Morris, Coreanos Houston food truck team. "We would be happy to come back to UHCL if we could continue to have such a warm welcoming each time."

For right now, Aramark is trying out the new food truck program. There will be an email sent out from Patio Café announcing when a food truck will show up next. As long as the food trucks keep having great

business, they will return.

"Currently we are testing out the food trucks on campus and to gauge student and staff feedback," said Priya Nair, UHCL dining services location manager. "The food trucks serve multiple areas in Houston and its surrounding areas, so we are fortunate to be able to have them come to our campus every Tuesday."

The café is also preparing for when freshmen start coming to UHCL next fall. Hours of operation have been extended to stay open later to accommodate more students on campus at night. The café is now open until 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday. This allows students who have

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Gay UHD student hit with smear campaign

Lynsie Whitehead
The Signal

Kristopher Sharp, social work major at University of Houston-Downtown, has found himself in the middle of a smear campaign

At the end of March, Sharp was called into the UHD Dean of Student's office where he was given a copy of an anonymously posted flier discriminating against his sexual orientation and revealing that he was HIV positive.

The situation was not exactly what Sharp had in mind while preparing to run for vice president of the UHD Student Government Association alongside running mate and potential presidential candidate Issac Valdez, applied

mathematics major.

The flier featured a photo of Sharp with a large X on top of it along with the words "WANT AIDS?" and "Don't support the Isaac and Kris homosexual agenda."

Printed on the back of the flier were Sharp's private medical records, exposing that he is HIV-positive. The information also included his home address and phone number.

The UHD campus police department is currently investigating the circulation of the fliers.

Sharp could choose to pursue criminal charges against the

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North Korea taking aim at Texas, no joke

Possibility of nuclear missile attack on the Texas state capital gets serious attention

The North Korean threats against the United States are hitting close to home. One of the latest threats from North Korea is to Houston’s neighbor and state capital, Austin.

How much cause for concern should U.S. citizens, more importantly Texans, give this latest threat?

The answer: more concern than has been given.

North Korea is dangerous for many reasons. It is known for threats to its neighbors, it is nuclear, and its dictator, Kim Jon-un, is psychotic.

In 2006, North Korea pushed its neighbors, China, Japan and South Korea, to the brink of war suggesting it was going to use nuclear weapons on them. Is Texas next?

A previous threat issued in 2006 resulted in nothing happening. What is the different this time?

North Korea’s leader is young, delusional and has nuclear weapons. North Korea is armed and not afraid to admit it.

On numerous occasions North Korea has insisted that it is a nuclear power country that has no problem using the weapons when its leadership feels it is necessary or warranted.

This time it has urged its dignitaries to leave the embassies of the countries it has targeted, as well as advising foreigners to

EDITORIAL

leave South Korea.

China, Japan and South Korea have been taking the latest North Korean threats with a grain of salt, but not blowing them off as just rhetoric.

China has already chimed in stating that it is prepared to retaliate if needed.

The U.S. has taken many precautionary steps to ensure our safety in case the threats from North Korea are real. Warships and missile defenses have been sent to the surrounding areas, including Guam and South Korea, to ensure that if any missiles are launched, they can be intercepted.

Additionally, the U.S. has started flying surveillance and strike aircrafts in the region.

Kim Jong-il, the former supreme leader of North Korea was responsible for past threats posed to the countries near North Korea. He was a military man, having served for several years prior to becoming supreme leader.

His son and current supreme leader, Kim Jong-un, had very little military experience prior to becoming the supreme leader.

Kim Jon-un is trying to show his might by flexing his military muscle, but since he does not have the experience of a person who has had an ample amount of military training, he may not

know when to step back and re-evaluate the situation.

His age and lack of maturity could account for why he trying to over compensate by pushing his military muscle, or perhaps he is trying too quickly to gain the North Korean people’s allegiance.

He is also using propaganda to rally his citizens. Videos demonstrating the alleged power of North Korean leaders are shown in movie theaters and on state-run television.

Some of the videos target the U.S., spreading falsehoods about how we live as well as showing faked attacks on our cities, including Washington, D.C.

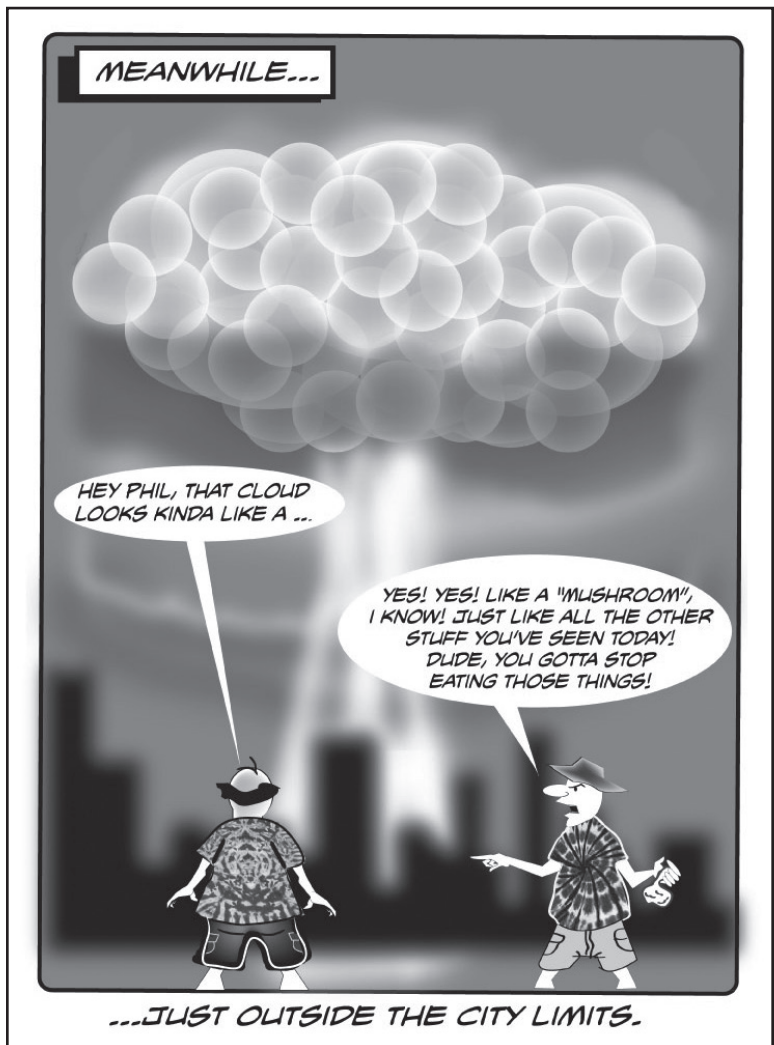
Do you like coffee? Well you cannot get it in the U.S. according to one North Korean video about our country. We eat snow for water, have no birds because we eat them, and the only coffee we can get is given to us by North Korea.

We also have no homes; we live in tents and other temporary shelters.

These types of videos portray the U.S. as weak in order to build support for Kim Jun-un and his military aggression among the North Korean people.

Why should we care? Haven’t they done this before? They can’t reach us, right?

We have to take this seriously and not blow it off because inexperience and delusions of grandeur can be dangerous. Kim



WANTNEEDO **Kalan Lyra**

Jong-un could make a severe miscalculation and spiral this situation downward.

Kim Jun-un is acting like a bully, and just like most bullies, if we stand up, prepare ourselves,

and show we mean business, it is likely he will back down.

Have something to say about the North Korean threats? Share your thoughts at www.UHCLTheSignal.com.

HIV doesn’t discriminate against people, people do

Ashley Honc
The Signal

Fliers circulated around the University of Houston-Downtown campus portraying a photo of student Kristopher Sharp with an oversized ‘X’ crossed over him and the words “WANT AIDS?” and “DON’T SUPPORT THE Isaac and Kris HOMOSEXUAL AGENDA.”

If this wasn’t bad enough, continued on the backside were Sharp’s medical records, telephone number and home address.

I was shocked and saddened at such a personal attack. The flier was part of a smear campaign to discredit Sharp who is running for the vice president position for the university’s Student Government Association.

Social work major, SGA member and vice presidential candidate, Sharp seems very involved at school. Why would someone attack his sexual identity, instead of his ability? Why would some-

one publicize his illness as if it were a character flaw?

In this day and age, it feels like a setback when someone goes out of his or her way to discriminate or categorize a person’s sexual orientation. For example, people should know that there is a difference between being HIV positive and having AIDS. People should also know that HIV/AIDS is not exclusive to the LGBT community.

HIV is a retrovirus that causes AIDS by infecting helper T cells of the immune system. Not everyone who is HIV positive has or will develop AIDS.

In the early 1980s, a time when we had no education or information on AIDS, 13-year-old Ryan White was diagnosed with it. He contracted the virus through a blood transfusion and was expelled from public school because of people’s fear of the disease. Like Ryan, Kristopher Sharp is a victim of other people’s



STAFF COLUMN

ignorance.

Wouldn’t it be nice if instead of ostracizing people with an illness or disability, we lent them our support? We, as human beings, accomplish much more when we treat each other equally and with respect, than we do with criticism.

Sharp is far from alone in his situation. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

documents that there are more than 1.1 million people living with HIV in the U.S. and more than 50,000 people are newly infected with it each year. Harris County documented more than 19,000 cases in 2011.

The smear campaign against Sharp is wrong on many levels. Not only did the person responsible try to play on people’s fears, ignorance and prejudices, he or she committed theft of personal property to do so. Before trying to ruin someone else’s reputation, he or she should look at his or her own character and moral conduct.

Every time it seems our civilization has made progress, discrimination out of ignorance always seems to raise its ugly head. Perhaps real progress is in people’s reactions when something like this occurs. In Ryan White’s time, Sharp would have been run out of school with such a disclosure.

It will be interesting to see

how people at UHD react. Instead of ostracizing Sharp, people who wouldn’t have normally voted for him because of political indifference might find a cause in supporting his nomination because of the outrage they feel toward the smear campaign tactics.

Experience and ability are the qualities that should have been addressed, having been pushed aside in a personal attack on Sharp’s sexual identity and private illness.

Instead of firing back at whoever did this, Sharp has shown responsibility and leadership ability by wanting to use this experience to educate people versus retaliating with hateful messages of his own.

Anyone who shows that kind of moral fiber, ethics and character is a role model in my book. If I was a student at UHD, Kristopher Sharp would have my vote.

THE SIGNAL

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2700 Bay Area Blvd., Box 456
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UHCL SGA
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Sarah Says

On behalf of the SGA Executive Council, directors and advisor, I want to say that it was a pleasure serving for our students. Remember that this is your school. Stay informed. Be involved. Go Hawks!

● In The Summertime.
The first summer SGA meeting is June 4, 2013 at 11:30am in the SSCB Lecture Hall. It is open to ALL students, faculty and staff.

● Thank You and Congrats to the Class of Spring 2013.
We appreciate all of our committee representatives and volunteers for their service to our school.

● Student Leader of the Month.
April, May, June and July Student Leaders of the Month applications will be selected and announced at a later time. Applications available in the SSCB 1.205 or Student Lounge.

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REGGIE BUTLER: THE SIGNAL

Second Place: Police Department “Hill of Beans”



REGGIE BUTLER: THE SIGNAL

Third Place: Nepalese Student Association



REGGIE BUTLER: THE SIGNAL

First Place Winner: Team NSLS “LaTropa”



The Competition that is Burning up the Campus

Christopher Rupley
The Signal

Burning lips, watery eyes, plenty of beer and an abundant amount of family fun took place April 6 at the 24th annual UHCL Chili Cook-Off.

There was music, karaoke, food, four enormous bouncy castles and a rock-climbing wall for the kids.

There were aisles of booths full of teams playfully arguing over who had the best chili recipe. Not surprisingly, a majority of the teams believed their chili recipe was superior.

“I’ve tried some of my competitors’ chili,” joked Allen Hill, team captain for the UHCL Police Department booth. “They don’t quite meet our standards.”

Allen was not the only team captain who believed his chili was better than the rest. This sentiment permeated the cook-off, although some team captains were slightly more tactful with their responses.

“I will probably not have anyone else’s chili, but that’s just because I’ve already filled up on our own,” said David Benz, team captain for the Professional and Administrative Staff Association (PASA) booth.

Still, others were more optimistic about at least trying their foes’ chili.

“I am definitely going to try some of the other teams’ chili when I get a break, but I heard none of them were any good,” teased Teresa Long, team captain for the Society of Industrial Hygiene and Safety Professionals’ booth (SIHSP).

Chili was not the only thing that brought people to this year’s cook-off.

“The UHCL Chili Cook-Off is a wonderful tradition,” said Theresa Presswood, executive director of communications. “I didn’t want to miss the special guest landing.”

Halfway through the event, sirens roared and a mock version of the secret service appeared to escort the mystery guest to the stage for a premier introduction from President William Staples.

“This is a very special day in the history of UH-Clear Lake because today will be the unveiling of our first really official mascot for UHCL,” Staples said. “This is especially a great day because we will actually unveil the mascot – the hawk mascot – that has been selected after this two-year process, due to the efforts of the Mascot Leadership Team, the Mascot Advisory Team and the input from our students, faculty, staff, and the community and alumni.”

Nearing the end of the chili cook-off, the judges announced winners for the “Best Chili.”

The third place trophy went to the Nepalese Student Association; the second place trophy was awarded to the UHCL Police Department team, and the first place winner of this year’s “Best Chili” contest was the National Society of Leadership and Success team.

The popular vote for “Best Chili” revealed much different results from those of the judges. The International Honor Society in Psychology won by participants’ standards.

This year’s “Cook’s Choice” entries included: chili, goulash, stuffed peppers and more. The team that won first place for “Cook’s Choice” was the SIHSP booth, with their stuffed jalapenos.

This year’s “Best Booth” award was given to the PASA

team for their “Toy Story” theme booth and costumes.

The team that was awarded the “Best Spirit” trophy was the NSLS team, for their vibrant display of Latino culture.

Groups that did not place were quick to heckle the winners of this year’s Chili Cook-Off, throwing the proverbial chili gauntlet at them in anticipation of beating them at next year’s event, although it is too early to plan their attack.

“Ain’t nobody got time for that; they going down, they going down,” teased Kristen Skippy, biology major.

One nearby winning team member who overheard Skippy’s challenge had a ready response.

“I’m not worried; I welcome competition,” joked Jeremy Mejia, industrial/organizational psychology graduate student. “That’s what I have for breakfast.”

Near the end of the event, there was a free product toss. Hundreds of free UHCL Hawk t-shirts were passed out to make sure that everyone knew the hawk had landed!



CHRISTOPHER RUPLEY: THE SIGNAL

Smooth Landing for UHCL Mascot's First Flight

Anahid Tapia
The Signal

Arriving in true VIP fashion, with a police escort and surrounded by UHCL “secret service,” the university’s new mascot, the Hawk, made its grand debut at the 24th annual Chili Cook-Off held April 6.

Before the arrival of the mascot, students expressed their opinions of how they hoped the mascot would look and where, on campus, they expected hawk sightings to take place.

“[It should be] very colorful,” said Isabel Lewis, accounting major. Lewis said she would also like to see the mascot “around campus...interacting with the students.”

This is the first time the university has had an official mascot. As the campus prepares for downward expansion, administrators hope the hawk will help students enjoy their UHCL college experience.

“We don’t want you to make your campus a parking lot, where you just park your car,” said David Rachita, interim dean of

students. “We want you to enjoy the campus.”

There was speculation that the mascot will be getting a mate, but Rachita said this will not happen for at least a couple of years. The mascot also does not yet have a name, but students can look forward to voicing their opinions for the name in the next couple of months.

Like the selection process for the mascot, the mascot’s name will be put to a vote for the UHCL community to decide. Many students are already thinking of what names they would like to give the mascot.

Jessica Mendoza, education major, suggested “Hawky.”

After an introduction by President William Staples, chili cook-off attendees finally had the chance to meet the Hawk. With a big smile and wearing a blue and green shirt, that sported the university logo, the Hawk greeted its audience. The Hawk danced and hyped-up the crowd as they applauded and cheered.

Once the Hawk landed, chili cook-off participants and attendees received t-shirts and had the opportunity to take a photo with the mascot.

“I love him! I think he’s cute,” said Arely Medina, an education major who got her first look at the mascot and liked what she saw.

If Medina or others tried to get too close to the hawk, they had their work cut out for them. Johnny Galaviz, UHCL alumnus and member of the Hawks’ secret service team, proved that he took his job very seriously.

“I can’t disclose that information,” Galaviz repeatedly responded to questions about the Hawks’ personal life.

The UHCL secret service was only around for this appearance. The Hawk will most likely travel alone to graduation where students and their guests can expect to see him or her without the UHCL bodyguards.

Medina felt the first appearance of the Hawk met her expectations.

“I think the hawk is the greatest choice,” Medina said.

After 39 years, UHCL has a symbol that students and the community can associate with the campus. Make no mistake when you look up to the sky – it is not just a bird or an airplane – UHCL, we are the Hawks!



Hawk Security and the UHCL Hawk Mascot. From left: Kanch Weerasinghd, UHCL Alum '00; The Hawk; Marilyn Sims, UHCL Alum '88; and Johnny Galaviz, UHCL Alum '07.

REGGIE BUTLER: THE SIGNAL



THE SIGNAL ON YOUTUBE

Scan the QR code to check out The Signal's YouTube channel, where you can view a video about the Hawk's First Flight and a slideshow of photos from the Chili Cook-Off.



AUSTIN: cont. from pg 1

“Locally, we recommend the following four steps to help our citizens prepare,” Swearengin said: “1) Have a plan. Choose an out-of-town contact to call if separated from your family. Be sure to know two escape routes from your home; 2) Make a kit. Store at least a 3-day supply of food, water and other necessities; 3) Stay informed. Set your emergency radios to KLBJ (590AM). Follow @AustinHSEM on Twitter. Visit “Disaster Ready Austin” on Facebook; 4) Know your neighbors. Attend National Night Out. Join your Neighborhood Association. Walk door-to-door.”



GO ONLINE

Scan the QR code to view a slide-show about Austin and the North Korean threat.

HUNGRY: cont. from pg 1

classes to grab a coffee or food during their breaks. The university food committee is also pushing for breakfast hours. “I have spoken with several other members of the committee and I believe we are next going to push for the addition of morning hours,” said Andrew Reiterberger, associate director of student life and committee member, “This will definitely be necessary when freshmen are on campus for classes during the day.”

The Patio Café has also been adding new menu items to their services. In addition to Java City, which serves coffee, and Montague’s Deli, which serves sandwiches and soups, Montague’s Deli also has specialty meals throughout the week. Aramark has added a lot of new items for this semester including frozen veggie foods. The Patio Café has daily specials that you can learn about through the café emails. Another addition to the café was the “window” where they now serve hot meals, burgers and French fries.

A recent loss to campus food services was the closure of Cappuccino Bono, which was located in the Student Services and Classroom Building and served coffee and sandwiches to customers. Unless food trucks are on campus, this leaves the Patio Café as the only place to order food. Otherwise, students largely rely on snack machines and the bookstore where they can pick up snacks on the way to class.

“I liked getting coffee from there [Cappuccino Bono] during my class breaks, but now I must walk to the other building for my coffee,” said Stacey Buell, marketing major.

A survey to determine customer satisfaction is in the works.

“We will be conducting a survey beginning next week asking for feedback on what changes customers would like to see to the Patio Café as we prepare for these new students, as well as what types of food they might like to see on campus in the future,” Nair said. “Look out for an email with the link to that survey soon.”



University of Houston-Downtown student Kristopher Sharp.

SMEAR: continued from page 1

perpetrator(s) because, technically, the medical documents were stolen from him. Sharp believes the medical records were stolen from his briefcase in the UHD SGA office, where he spends time working as a student senator.

The content of the flier cannot be considered libelous because the accusation that Sharp is HIV positive is factual. However, under the Health Insurance and Accountability Act (HIPAA) it is a crime to obtain individually identifiable health information relating to an individual to use for malicious harm.

Penalties for this offense could result in a fine of up to \$250,000 and/or up to 10 years in prison depending on the seriousness of the offense.

The content of the flier does not fall within the category of hate speech either, because slang slurs were not used; therefore, the content is protected under the First Amendment.

Even though pressing criminal charges is an option if the perpetrator(s) is caught, Sharp does not want to go that route.

Instead, he wants to help educate others, including the creator(s) of the fliers, on the stigmas associated with HIV/AIDS.

“I don’t want to pursue criminal charges,” Sharp said. “In retrospect, I think that this individual fell victim to a moment of weakness in believing the stigmas about the disease. I don’t think it is their fault; I blame society for creating and reinforcing stigmas associated with the disease. We, as a society, have an idea associated with the disease, and simply, it is a myth. It is really sad that the person who did this decided to use that stigma.”

Sharp and Valdez are collaborating

with several local organizations in order to help eliminate stigmas about the disease, particularly LIVE Consortium, a Houston-based organization that works to educate the community about HIV and the negative affects of the stigmas associated with the disease.

LIVE Consortium hosts month-long campaigns on college campuses to raise awareness and debunk myths associated with HIV.

University of Houston, Rice University and Texas Southern University are just a few of the schools who have participated in the campaign.

Beau Miller, president, CEO and founder of LIVE Consortium, feels the campaign could be beneficial on the UHD campus after this occurrence.

“The horrible incident at the University of Houston-Downtown campus illustrates the need for programs like LIVE Consortium’s University Anti-Stigma Campaign,” Miller said. “It is for the very reason that these types of incidents are rooted in ignorance, fear and intolerance. The campaign, on the other hand, is about knowledge, purpose and understanding. The more students know about HIV, the negative affects of stigma, why reducing HIV stigma is important and what they can do about it, the less these types of events will occur.”

Sharp and Valdez also have plans to speak out about the atmosphere regarding tolerance on their campus.

“We are going to address the culture of hate that is prevalent at UHD,” Sharp said.

UHCL’s Student Government Association wants to ensure students feel safe and not surrounded by a “culture of hate” similar to what Sharp describes. UHCL offers

the Safe Zone Program where faculty and staff work to facilitate a safe and supportive environment for the UHCL community.

“What happened at UH-Downtown is completely horrible,” said Carla Bradley, current UHCL SGA vice president-outreach and communication and incumbent SGA president. “If any student feels upset about or is concerned about what happened, they are welcome to come talk to us.”

Unity Club is UHCL’s gay-straight alliance that works to “provide safe and supportive social interaction with the lesbian, bisexual, gay, trans-gender and ally community.”

Colden Snow, Unity Club president, believes the issue goes beyond education and awareness about HIV/AIDS and sexual orientation discrimination.

“The UH system should not tolerate this behavior,” Snow said. “This is shameful on so many levels and a disgrace to the UH system that we all belong to. I wish that students on all the UH campuses would do more to express their outrage, and if administrators do nothing then we must all rise up as students to make it known that this is unacceptable.”

The motivation behind actions against Kristopher Sharp remains unclear. However, Sharp is working to turn this incident into one that others can learn and benefit from themselves.

Sharp said he does not harbor resentment, and has had time to reflect on what he would say to the perpetrator(s) responsible for creating and distributing the fliers.

“I would really just ask why they did it,” Sharp said. “I would ask for an apology and, really, to give my medical information back that was stolen.”

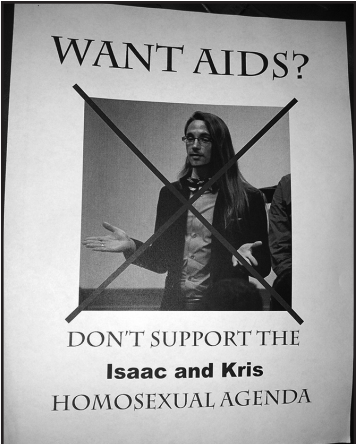
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This is the flier circulated on the University of Houston-Downtown campus in an attempt to discredit Kristopher Sharp’s nomination for Student Government Association vice president.

An anonymous source posted the fliers hoping to sway voters by focusing on people’s homophobia and fear of AIDS.



UHCL faculty honored at annual awards ceremony



TARYN BURNETT: UHCL OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Five UHCL faculty members were honored with awards during the 35th Annual UHCL Faculty and Staff Awards Ceremony. Pictured (l to r) are Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Carl A. Stockton; President's Distinguished Teaching Award recipient, Faculty Chair and Professor of Management Information Systems Naveed Saleem; Outstanding Lecturer Award recipient and Lecturer in Business Writing Pat Cuchens; President's Distinguished Service Award recipient and Professor of Bilingual and Multicultural Education Laurie Weaver; and President William A. Staples. Not pictured are President's Distinguished Research recipient and Program Chair and Professor of Environmental Science Carl Zhang and Outstanding Adjunct Award winner adjunct faculty member in the School of Business Paule Anne Lewis.

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Students win at TIPA



ASHLEY HONC:THE SIGNAL

Scene of the staged event setup for TIPA News Story contestants.

Shawn Domingues

The Signal

UHCL was represented by The Signal staff and faculty members at the 2013 Texas Intercollegiate Press Association (TIPA) convention held in Fort Worth April 4-6.

At the conference, TIPA officials presented student publication and media awards for work produced during the 2012 school year. The UHCL student publications staff won 19 awards for their efforts from last year including third place in Ad Design for Carla Bradley, vice president student outreach and communication.

"It makes me very proud to be earning credit on behalf of UHCL," Bradley said. "We're such a small campus and to see us beating the large campuses, it feels wonderful!"

The Signal won first-place awards for Editorial Cartoon by Kalan Lyra, News Story by Joshua Ojeda, Illustration by Cameron Palmer, and Picture Story by

Jennifer Ferguson. *See sidebar for a full list of UHCL's awards.*

"I learned a lot [on the newspaper staff]," said Cameron Palmer, first-place winner. "It shaped who I am today, got me out of my comfort zone, and showed me how to reach my full potential. The things I learned, I apply everyday in my internship at Moody Gardens."

This year's convention was attended by 422 students and 68 advisers from 43 different Texas colleges and universities. The students competed in 30 different on-site contests such as TV News Reporting, News Writing, Critical Review, Design, Photography and Sports Writing. There were also 31 workshops held for the attendees including "Print vs. digital news design: Bridging the divide" and "Finding a job in the changing media world."

Students competing in the News Story division were taken to an undisclosed location for a staged news event. The Fort

Worth Fire Department, along with other first responders, set up the scene of a fiery car crash and train derailment. Contestants then attended a mock press conference and submitted their individual work for Live Television Broadcast, Print News, News Photo, Video News, Radio News and Spanish News.

As one of the nation's oldest associations of its kind, TIPA offers students and advisers an opportunity to advance their knowledge of the industry.

"TIPA has opened my eyes to different career possibilities and how I could prepare myself for the future, said Steven Green, TIPA president of student officers. "The organization has allowed me to meet incredible journalists and attend workshops that expand the knowledge I already have. Because of that, TIPA has basically allowed me to choose from a variety of career opportunities and be more prepared for whichever one I choose."

Nick Bailey, parliamentarian of TIPA, agreed with Green.

"Being involved with TIPA, not only as an officer but just as a journalist, has helped me grow tremendously," Bailey said. "Being surrounded by colleagues that are just as driven as I am gives me the opportunity to learn from them as well as the multiple workshops. I leave each workshop with tons of notes and ideas that help me to be a better, more versatile journalist."

The first meeting of TIPA was held at Baylor University in 1909 with a mission to "improve college journalism, to raise the standard of college publications and to bring the colleges and editors into closer and more vital relationship."

For more than 100 years, TIPA has stayed true to its mission and even added a Hall of Fame to honor individuals from TIPA institutions who have earned notoriety and established professional reputations that uphold the highest standards in their chosen field. Some of the past honorees include former President Lyndon B. Johnson and Walter Cronkite. This year's recipient was Dan Rather, anchor and managing editor of the CBS Evening News 1981-2005, the longest such tenure in broadcast journalism history.

Texas was the first state to establish an organization for student publications and TIPA continues to be a leader.

"There are state press associations in other states, but I'm not sure that they go to the extent of the on-site contests like we do," said Fred Stewart, TIPA's executive director. There have been speakers and guests at our conventions in the past and they have commented that they have never seen anything like it. So, we may be unique."

For more information, visit the organization's website: www.texasipa.org.

UHCL Student Publications Awards 2012

Newspaper Print

1st Place

Editorial Cartoon

Kalan Lyra

News Story

Joshua Ojeda

Illustration

Cameron Palmer

Picture Story

Jennifer Ferguson

2nd Place

News Feature

Lakeisha Moore

Single Subject Design

Cameron Palmer and

Stephen Schumacher

Special Section/Edition

The Signal Staff

Special Election Issue

3rd Place

Sports Column

David Hensley

Ad Design

Carla Bradley

Honorable Mention

In-Depth Reporting

Sara Haghipour

Feature Story

Charles Landriault

Feature Photo

Jennifer Ferguson

Single Subject Design

Charles Landriault

Illustration

Cameron Palmer

Feature Page Design

Cameron Palmer

Overall Excellence

The Signal Staff

Fall Semester 2012

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