

# THE SIGNAL

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## Exploring Women's Studies Week

**Krystal Mongan**  
The Signal Staff

Women's Studies Week will take place March 3-11 at the University of Houston-Clear Lake to explore women's studies with discussions, films and exhibits.

"[Women's Studies Week] is a time to get people, women and men, talking about gender relations, inequality and activism," said Christine Kovic, associate professor of anthropology. "It's a time for films and dialogue, and it is important for the community and for the students at UHCL."

UHCL was the first college in Houston to have women's studies courses available for students when it first opened in 1974.

"[The significance of Woman's Studies Week] draws attention to women's



issues and women's studies courses," said Gretchen Mieszkowski, professor of literature and women's studies.

This year, Women's Studies Week will begin March 3. The first event will have a keynote address, "Women and Shame," presented by Brené Brown, author of "I Thought It Was Just Me (but it isn't): Telling the Truth About Perfectionism, Inadequacy and Power." It will take place in the Garden Room from 7 to 8:30 p.m. along with an opening of a Women's Studies Exhibit in Atrium I and a book signing of Brown's book.

On March 4, Houston immigration activist Maria Jimenez will present "Immigration and Families" in the Bayou Building, room 1408 at 2:15 p.m. The event will be co-sponsored by Inter-

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## Economic stimulus payments begin in May

**Jennifer Ferguson**  
The Signal Staff

On Feb. 7 Congress approved an economic rescue package; a plan designed to stimulate the nation's economy. Through this plan, \$168 billion has been earmarked to be sent out to 130 million American families beginning May 2008.

The plan comes in response to a slowing economy. President Bush touts the plan as being broad and timely and says it will be effective in increasing springtime spending.

In most cases, the stimulus payment will be equal to the amount of tax liability shown on the taxpayer's 2007 tax return up to a \$600 maximum for individuals and \$1,200 for those filing joint returns. Payments will also include an additional \$300 for each qualifying child. Beginning in May and continuing until



Dec. 31, 2008, payments will be direct deposited for those who selected that option on their 2007 tax return.

U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) voted for the plan and has unveiled a Senate Republican Policy paper detailing a number of long-term, pro-growth stimulus ideas she feels Congress should consider. "The Senator hopes that we will see capital expenditures by businesses and that the people will use the rebates to spur the economy," said Matt Mackowiak, press secretary for Sen. Hutchison. "Congress was also able to add in measures that support

seniors and disabled veterans and she likes that."

Congress successfully lobbied to have aid for select tax payers with no tax liability attached to the plan. Low income workers and those receiving Social Security

**Stimulus:** continued on page 10



Lindsay Humphrey: The Signal

Chelsea Clinton, Lucia Ayala-Guerra and Precinct 2 Commissioner Sylvia Garcia stump for Hillary Rohdam Clinton.

## Clinton blazes the campaign trail for her favorite candidate

**Cryss Godoy**  
The Signal Staff

"There is no one that I believe in more, that I love more, that I would rather have as my president than my mom," Chelsea Clinton told the crowd of about 400 students, faculty and concerned citizens who convened on San Jacinto College's main campus for a Hillblazers campaign stop Feb. 21.

Clinton, the daughter of former President Bill Clinton and New York Sen. Hillary Clinton, is one of the most recognizable spokespersons for the presidential hopeful's community outreach initiative that strives to reach young voters on college campuses nationwide.

"I'm here to answer whatever questions you might have about my mom, her policies and her campaign so you can be prepared," the young Clinton explained. "I'll answer all the questions I can. If I don't know the answer, I'll confess. But hopefully, I know."

With that, the hour-long question-and-answer period began. There was never an instance in which she did not know the answer.

Questions regarding nationally

debated topics such as troop withdrawal from Iraq, the rising costs of healthcare, and fears about the future of social security, echoed concerns Texans have heard their counterparts across the country raise since the search for a Democratic presidential nominee began.

Though she never directly compared her mother's political viewpoints to any of those held by other presidential hopefuls, Clinton was clear to point out instances in which the Bush administration had fallen short of voter expectation.

"Under [the present] administration, many things have gone up," Clinton began when a woman who identified herself as a SJC nursing student pointed out how quickly gas prices have been rising. "Trade agreement violations have gone up; civil rights violations have gone up; work-related abuse violations have gone up; prisoner abuse has gone up; foreign ownership of American debt has gone up."

While the event had serious political undertones, overall the discussion was well-received and at times shed light on Clinton's personal sense of

**Clinton:** continued on page 10

## Campus Security: UHCL re-examines safety procedures after recent events raise concerns

**Mandy Hess**  
The Signal Staff

Last month's Northern Illinois University school shooting left six dead. This new episode of violence has urged a re-examination of school safety policies at the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

With the re-awakening of fear comes additional questions and scrutiny into UHCL's security policies and protocol for safety. Many tools have been implemented for the safety of students, faculty and staff since the Virginia Tech shootings last year, one of which is the P.I.E.R. System, which stands for Public Information Emergency Response.

P.I.E.R. is a mass communication system that can primarily alert users via their "uhcl.edu" e-mail addresses, but is not limited to one medium. It can also reach non-UHCL e-mail addresses, home phones, cell phones and send text messages. A letter was sent out at the beginning of the fall 2007 semester urging students to update their personal information so that in the event of school closings or any other emergency, the entire campus would be quickly and efficiently notified. However, the P.I.E.R. System has limitations.

"Even with this mass notification system, it is not the 'silver bullet,' it is not going to be our single saving grace," cautioned Anthony Jenkins, dean of students. "We have and will continue to keep in place a multiple-pronged approach: the university Web site, and we have relationships with radio stations and TV stations. However, in the event of an active shooter on campus, [the P.I.E.R. System] and the university Web site are probably going to be the quickest manner in which we can reach students and staff to inform them of what may be happening on campus."

Jenkins stressed the importance of keeping personal information up-to-date. To do this, log into UHCL E-Services and click on Campus Personal Information in the green box on the top left side of the page. This will insure that no one is left out of the loop on important notifications.

On the matter of what to do during a real-time emergency, such as an active shooter, Jenkins warned, "no one can ever really plan for that type of event and no one can really sit back and 100 percent say how they will go through it and so I

**Security:** continued on page 10



**Kinky Friedman**  
see page 12



**Hello Dolly**  
see page 4



**Texas History**  
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SAFETY STARTS WITH AWARENESS

Despite national news coverage on school shootings and local news stories of crime, theft and abuse, we distance it all from ourselves thinking it will never happen to us.

Feeling secure on campus can cause us to overlook our surroundings. Even though the University of Houston-Clear Lake is a relatively safe campus, we still have to be cautious of our environment.

Whenever we feel secure, we tend to let our guard down. We leave our backpacks in the rooms while on break, we let people borrow our cell phones and, occasionally, even leave our car doors unlocked.

Although we do have a safe campus, we cannot control the surrounding environment. About a year ago, April 20, 2007, there was a hostage crisis and shooting at one of the NASA Johnson Space Center buildings only minutes away from the campus.

Even on campus, incidents occur that are cause for concern. Recently, a communication effort was initiated by the P.I.E.R. system, acknowledging a neighborhood sex offender on campus offering tutoring services to students.

In case of a campus threat, the university’s police department’s first goal is to eliminate the threat. There are systems in place to inform students and faculty in case of a threat on campus. The P.I.E.R. system

communicates emergencies by e-mail, text message and telephone calls; unfortunately, by the time all the communications go out, the damage may have already taken its toll.

Interestingly, the most common activity reported to the UHCL university police is bicycle theft. Students are arriving on campus and leaving their bicycles without securing them to the racks.

Paul S. Willingham, chief of police for UHCL, said there are three main elements to commit a crime; two elements cannot be prevented.

First, there has to be a motive. This could be caused by anything.

Second, there is the means the individual plans to use to achieve the crime. For example, if someone plans to harm another person, he or she may have a gun or knife.

Although we cannot change the first two elements, being able to control the last element is vital to preventing crime.

The last element an individual needs to commit a crime is opportunity. The most important factor to preventing a crime is to walk in groups. If there is a neighborhood sex offender wandering the campus, the chances are that he or she is not going to target individuals walking in a group.

Even though people may feel safe in common environments, certain safety precautions should always be taken.

Along with with other helpful tips on



Krystal Mongan:The Signal

protecting yourself on campus, Willingham reminds students to utilize the 24-hour escort service available on the UHCL campus.

- Tips on Protecting Yourself on Campus – Provided by UHCL Police Department**
- Do not walk alone at night.
  - Before walking to your vehicle, have your keys ready and look inside your vehicle before entering.
  - Report any suspicious people or circum-

- stances to the University Police immediately. Stop a crime before it happens.
- Utilize the Police Department Escort Services.
  - Be aware of the Emergency/Information Call Boxes that are located in the parking lots.
  - Lock your vehicle upon arriving on campus.
  - Valuable items should be secured in the trunk of your vehicle.
  - Be aware of the environment around you.
  - Know the various exits and stairways.

CrossSignals

The Signal staff members share their opinions about safety issues on campus and in the Clear Lake area. Join the discussion by logging on to The Signal blog at: [www.myspace.com/thesignal\\_UHCL](http://www.myspace.com/thesignal_UHCL)

I do not have many safety concerns regarding the campus, or anywhere else for that matter. I know it may be unwise, but I have learned through several events in my life that people aren’t really safe anywhere. However, if you live in constant fear, that doesn’t help anything. I believe that campus authorities are probably doing the best they can do to keep our campus and surrounding areas safe, but ultimately, not every tragedy can be fully prevented. If that were the case, our world would be a lot different.

**-Julie Bray**

I feel relatively safe on the campus here at UHCL. I feel that the parking lots are well-lit and security personnel patrols the area well. I also think that UHCL is unique in that it is a commuter college. Four-year universities tend to have more personal and emotional issues because younger college students live on campus.

**-Aubrey Harbin**

Like any public place, this school has its dangers. But overall, I feel like UHCL has

a fairly safe atmosphere. The police presence on the campus is pretty strong and that is very important. There have been a few incidents at the school, but nothing outrageous compared to other schools; the few incidents that have taken place are very minor. I feel comfortable with the environment here at this school and hope that it continues to be as safe and productive as I have found it to be.

**-Brandon White**

A main safety concern on campus for me is being attacked by someone walking to my car at night. As a small person, it would be hard to fight anyone off with anything other than my loud voice. The police seem pretty adamant on safety and keeping people out of the university that do not belong here. You never know what kind of people live in this area, even though I’ve lived here my whole life and it seems to be safe, you just never know what could happen. One other issue was at the end of last Spring semester, after the Virginia Tech shooting, a drill was done while I was working on a paper in the SSCB computer lab. Talk about being

scared, we did not know if it was a drill or the real thing, but I think it is good to practice those kinds of scenarios just to be safe.

**-Jenna Lewis**

I feel pretty safe on the UHCL campus. I try to be ever mindful of my surroundings when walking to and from the parking lot. And knowing that there are unstable people around who purposely thrive on deceiving unsuspecting students and staff makes me a little uneasy. But, there is a very visible police presence on campus that eases my concerns.

**-Jennifer Ferguson**

I feel like safety in the general Clear Lake area has taken a dive in recent years. There have been more crimes of all kinds (or at least more publicity of those crimes) and there are too many registered sex offenders living around my neighborhood. I certainly don’t feel safe enough to go to the grocery store by myself at night, or walk through any parking lot for that matter. I always have my car keys in hand with my thumb on the panic button before

I even leave a store. Even when I’m walking with my boyfriend I put my purse in between us.

**-Mandy Hess**

Anything can happen anywhere at any time and I always try to be aware of my surroundings. But one safety issue that I think can be improved for our campus is that there should be more police patrolling during and after the nighttime classes. When I walk to my car after my late night class, I notice there are not as many people and cars as there are during the day. I know a lot more crime happens late at night, maybe not at our campus, but I think as a safety precaution there should be more patrolling during the late night classes when students walk to their cars. It’s always better to be safe than sorry.

**-Krystal Mongan**

**The discussion continues on The Signal blog at [www.myspace.com/thesignal\\_UHCL](http://www.myspace.com/thesignal_UHCL)**

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The idiotic idiom

The English language is vast and utterly versatile, but at the same time, it is full of conundrums and contradictions.

I think English is difficult to understand because there are so many rules, exceptions to the rules, varying pronunciation, silent letters, useless letters and words that can sound the same but are very different. I cannot begin to imagine how difficult it would be to learn English as a second language.

Even making a noun plural is more difficult than it really has to be. The plural version of the word house is houses, but the plural form of mouse is mice. If that is not confusing enough, the plural form of goose is geese and the plural form of moose is moose. Who in their right mind came up with this drive!

In addition to abstract plural rules, we have words that are spelled differently but sound exactly the same. I wonder if there has been a non-native speaker who has run into the words “pees” and “pees” on the same day; I would love to see someone try to explain that one.

There are also words that are spelled very similarly to one another but are pronounced differently for no apparent reason. Womb, bomb and comb are all pronounced differently — why? I guess for the same reason the words through, rough, dough and cough are different.

Every now and then, I come across a word that could have two meanings when used in a different context; for instance, a gun can shoot bullets and a camera can shoot photographs. With that in mind, thank goodness people don’t literally get fired.

But let’s not stop now. We even have words that are spelled the exact same but sound different and mean different things. Let me ask you a question. Do you have “bass” in your car? Now, if you replied yes, you could be either a fisherman or a car audio aficionado.

There are also different words that mean the same thing. Those words are called synonyms. I was going to ask why we have synonyms, but I found an answer to that question on a Web site.

Cleanjoke.com states, “A synonym is a word you use if you can’t spell the other one.”

The words oversee and overlook have two completely opposite meanings. That does not make any sense.

The Web site Center for Volatile Creative Types (c4vct.com) points out that we “park on driveways and drive on parkways.”

Little things like that are vexing. I wonder why we just put up with this stuff instead of making an effort to change it.

There are even useless letters in our alphabet. The letters c and x are completely useless; other letters make the same exact sounds. Why use a c when we could use an s or a k?

Why use an x when we have k, s and z?

Speaking of useless letters, why on Earth would you put a letter into a word if you are not going to pronounce it? The word aisle is a very peculiar word because it is not pronounced the way it looks; and then there is the word isle, which is pronounced the exact same way but means something completely different.

In addition to all the above stated, there is another can of worms to open (don’t worry, not literally). Slang is an interesting topic all on its own. The word phat is, above all, the strangest compliment I have ever heard. Maybe someone called another person fat and, to keep from getting beaten to a bloody pulp, he lied and said “No, I didn’t say fat. I said phat, p-h-a-t.” I even remember when the words “stupid” and “dope” meant cool; what a dark time in terminology history.

Before this newspaper was printed, there was a team of ten people who proofread every single word. I think it’s funny that even though we have so much experience with the English language, we still make mistakes. It makes me wonder if there is something wrong with us or if there is something wrong with our language. Not to say that English is bad; it is just very complicated.

It amazes me that after 24 years I am still learning new things about the language I speak every day.



Stanley White III  
The Signal

Think global, vote local

Anyone who has driven on a major street lately has noticed election signs cluttering the sides of roads. For most of us, it quickly becomes apparent how little we know about the local candidates and their issues. While there is an abundance of coverage of the presidential candidates, there is a minimal amount on county and city government and candidates.

There is an apparent dilemma when residents aren’t given information regarding their government and the candidates who may be their voice. Americans are inundated by the media coverage of the presidential election, but many Americans remain uninvolved and unaware of their local politics.

Where does a citizen go to find this information? Benjamin Apolinar, a Houston resident, assumes a good source is the local paper’s Web site and news channels.

Unfortunately, both sources offer more coverage of national politics than candidates running for state positions.

Kemah resident Shelia Thorne tunes in daily to the radio for news on her local government and politics. While she prefers the radio to other sources, she feels that the media, as a whole, only focus on hot races. Citizens are expected to be involved in their community; however, there is an obvious lack of coverage from the media on city government.

While the information available is limited, there are sources that allow citizens to stay informed. Local public libraries offer a voting guide provided by the League of Women Voters of the Houston Area that is a non-partisan, comprehensive guide to the primary election and candidates. There is also an online version available on [www.lwvhouston.org](http://www.lwvhouston.org).

Another useful Web site is [www.houstontx.gov](http://www.houstontx.gov), which provides a government link that leads to cities and counties around Houston.

Unfortunately, many of the Web sites do not feature information pertaining to the primary election’s candidates or issues. These Web sites do help residents learn where to vote and what to expect.

Residents in Harris County and

Galveston County can also find more voting information at [www.harrisvotes.org](http://www.harrisvotes.org) and [www.galvestonvotes.org](http://www.galvestonvotes.org).

The past general and special election of Harris County in Nov. 2006 only produced a turnout of 31.59 percent of the registered voters. More residents need to be informed and encouraged to participate in the elections and actions of their local government.

Our local government has a direct bearing on our roadways, taxes, school boards and services. The elected officials are the representative body of our communities. They have a direct impact on our cities, counties, state and nation.

The importance of our votes lies with the individuals whom we choose to represent

us. Many non-voters fail to realize that the elected officials in their local politics will one day become the voice of their county and state at the national level.

To better understand the significance of voting, it helps to look at what positions elected officials hold. At a city level, we vote for the mayor, school board representatives and city council. Elected county positions

include: county commissioners, tax assessor-collector, county clerk, county attorney, county treasurer, district attorney, sheriff, district clerk, judges, justices of the peace and constables.

As a state, we choose individuals who hold state positions and also represent us nationally, such as state senators and state representatives. There are many elected officials who represent us and through our votes they become our voice.

When voting, we need to look for who best encompasses the same views, concerns, goals and aspirations for our community as we do.

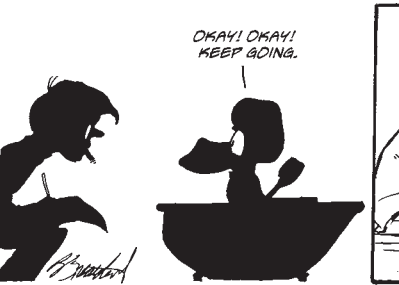
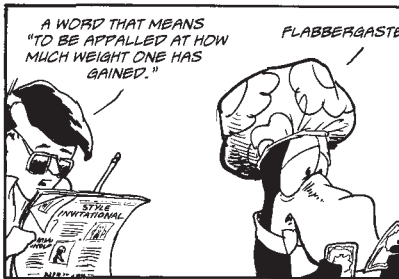
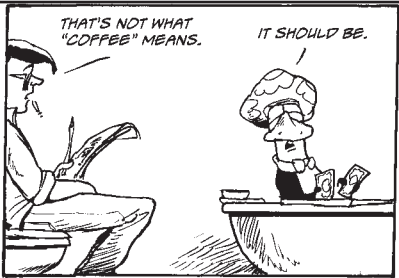
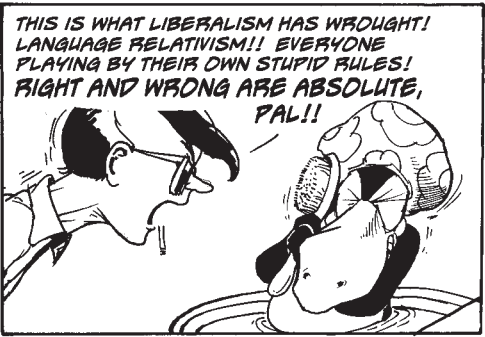
Everyone needs to accept the personal responsibility of voting and participate in their government, and we should encourage others to do so as well.

We cannot sit idly by and allow approximately a quarter of the voters to decide who should represent us. Remember, March 4 is election day for the Texas Primary and your voice can be heard through your elected officials.



Tosha Griffin  
The Signal

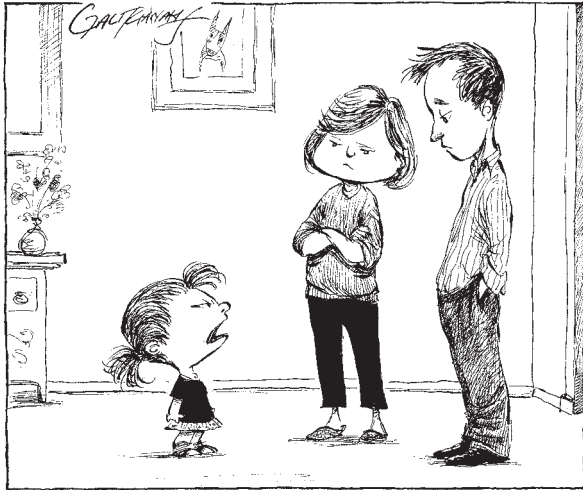
Opus



by Berkeley Breathed

Tell me about it

by Nick Galifianakis



YOU HAVE ME IN SOCCER, VIOLIN, HELPING THE POOR—AND SOPHIE SAYS, DUH, I CAN TOTALLY GET BY ON MY LOOKS. WHAT IS WITH YOU PEOPLE?

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# Hello, Dolly!

## International star power aligns for Theatre Under the Stars

**Cryss Godoy**  
The Signal Staff

Theatre Under The Stars opened the grand dame musical “Hello, Dolly!” Feb. 26 with Leslie Uggams leading an all-star, multi-racial cast, continuing a tradition that highlights Houston’s appreciation for progressive artistic representation.

The famous story follows an eccentric matchmaker, “Dolly,” as she meddles into other people’s lives – something she claims to do best. Featuring a rich score, elaborate costumes and show-stopping dance numbers, “Hello, Dolly!” comes complete with songs many may already know by heart – *Before The Parade Passes By*, *It Only Takes A Moment* and *Hello, Dolly!* to name a few.

For all its familiarity, however, TUTS’ rendering of the beloved Jerry Herman musical will have many obvious differences from the version presented by TUTS 15 years ago.

“While ‘Hello, Dolly!’ has been done with a majority-black cast before, TUTS looked first at the star quality of our version’s leading lady, [Leslie] Uggams,” said Roy Hamlin, associate artistic director at TUTS.

“Having appeared for us before in color-blind castings for leads in both ‘Anything Goes’ and ‘Into The Woods,’” Hamlin explained, “it was clear that our audiences accepted and welcomed casting choices based on talent and charisma.”

Uggams, whose most recent Broadway engagements include “On Golden Pond”

and “Thoroughly Modern Millie,” is best known for her portrayal of “Kizzy” in Alex Haley’s “Roots.”

Today, Uggams is at home playing roles that not only challenge her but that push the limits of her considerable talents. “I’m always doing stuff out of my element,” Uggams admits with a hearty laugh. “That’s part of the challenge that I enjoy. It’s part of the risk. Can you do it? Will it pay off?”

TUTS’ choice of multi-racial casting for what may be considered by some to be a story more traditionally suited to an all-Anglican cast did not go unnoticed by Uggams, though she admits she rarely sees herself in racial terms.

“I try to find [projects] that are about the human spirit,” she said with a rise in her voice. “When it comes to the human spirit, there is no color.”

Houston audiences expecting to be regaled by traditional “Hello, Dolly!” costumes, sets and music will not be disappointed. TUTS’ reputation for producing musicals that at times appear bigger than life does not go unnoticed in the entertainment universe.

“They do it big in Texas,” chuckled Ron Kellum, a world-renowned African-American singer, actor, director and choreographer who plays “Ambrose” to Uggams’ “Dolly Gallagher Levi.”

Kellum, a native of Amarillo, cites TUTS’ announcement to cast Uggams as the deciding factor in his choice to join the multi-racial cast.

“When they asked me and they said that



TUTS: Courtesy

Leslie Uggams leads an all-star cast in “Hello, Dolly!”

Leslie was going to do it, I thought, ‘Good for TUTS: Good for thinking outside the box,’” Kellum praised. “That really shows the progression at their theater and the creative team there in Houston, because a lot of theaters don’t have that forward-thinking vision, which I think is imperative.”

Kellum points out that a trend toward all-white casts of “Hello, Dolly!” in decades past may, in part, be due to the musical’s dated Anglo-American themes.

“‘Hello Dolly!’ is one of those shows that really doesn’t resonate with most African-American actors,” Kellum admits. “In fact, I think very few on the largest scale have been invited or asked.”

Dated ideas that particular stories are intended for actors and audiences of a specific racial profile is a cultural dividing line Uggams hopes to blur by portraying a character whose issues are widespread and timely.

“This is a show about a woman who loses her husband, and when any woman loses her husband she’s on her own,” Uggams stressed. “It was hard to make a living back then, and this woman found unique ways to keep herself going by having an income and keeping a roof over her head. That was quite something and very unique in that time. That’s a story that women still go through even now. It’s very today.”

Regardless of what Houston audiences expect to see when they attend performances of “Hello, Dolly!” at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, Kellum believes the multi-

ethnic casting sends a powerful message.

“Some audience members may be surprised, some may be a little uncomfortable, and I think it’s good to be uncomfortable ... I think it’s good for them,” Kellum said. “They need to be challenged and it will be a good challenge [for TUTS] to see how they respond.”

“Hello, Dolly!” runs through March 9. For information regarding ticket prices, including student and group discounts, visit TUTS’ box office at 800 Bagby, Houston, or call 713-558-8887, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

# Candidly speaking with Leslie Uggams



Leslie Uggams

*In a candid conversation, Emmy and Tony Award-winning actress, singer and dancer Leslie Uggams reflects back on the two loves that have propelled her success: her family and her craft.*

**Q: You began singing professionally at the age of 6. How did your parents feel about you wanting to be a performer at such a young age?**

A: “The one thing I remember my father always saying to me is ‘you can’ and that’s very empowering: ‘you can.’”

**Q: How did that advice carry over throughout the years?**

A: “I’ve found that under any circumstances ‘you can.’ You just have to fight for what you want to do. You stumble and go through a lot of unpleasant things along the way. That’s all part of the process.”

**Q: Did your parents worry about the social prejudices you had to face in the 1950s?**

A: “When I was growing up in the business, there was a lot of prejudice against things that I was doing as an African-American performer. I was in a contest where I kept winning every week, and because an African-American boy had won the contest before I started, the sponsor said ‘Well, we’re not going to give the prize to another black kid.’ I was 7 years old and I was in tears. My mother said ‘I don’t want to see you crying about that. You just keep doing what you’re doing.’”

**Q: Does that mean you were limited in finding role models for yourself?**

A: “I started working at the Apollo Theater when I was 8 years old and I got to work with great people: Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Dinah Washington. These great people embraced my mother and me. I was constantly surrounded by wonderful people that were legends in the business.”

**Q: Weren’t your parents concerned that you would be exposed to adult ideas hanging around the Apollo?**

A: “They were concerned that I remain a lady. I was lucky. When I was growing up you

wanted to be a good person. If anything that happened in your career was scandalous, your career could be over. Today, the more of a scandal you are, the bigger the star you are. That’s not a good lesson to send out to young men and women.”

**Q: How much of an affect did the civil rights movement have on the entertainment industry?**

A: “Because of the civil rights movement, more and more sponsors started using men and women of color in commercials, so you started seeing more and more of us having television shows. As far as women are concerned, you know we’re still fighting a lot of [prejudice] today, but the changes were a little slower in happening.”

**Q: How was the women’s movement different?**

A: “In my mother’s era, the single woman was frowned upon and you needed a man so that you could be able to support your family. When things started happening in the ‘60s and ‘70s, women started saying things like: ‘OK, I’ve had enough of this. I want power too,’ and ‘I’d rather do this myself.’”

**Q: What would you say to a younger generation who feel the civil rights and women’s rights movements are just pieces of history?**

A: “Shame on them! I’ve always believed that if you don’t know your past, you can’t make your future. I think it’s your duty to know what went on before you so that you can appreciate what you have and take it a step forward. That’s your duty: to know these things and take nothing for granted.”

**Q: Considering all the different entertainment mediums you have performed in, do you have a favorite?**

A: “I must say live audiences are my preference. It gives you people who are sitting out there. You get the immediate response. Same thing when you do a concert. They’re out there. Performing live is exhilarating.”

**Q: Much of your work is now available on the Internet. How has that impacted your life?**

A: “Thanks to [the Internet], I’ve been ‘discovered’ and it’s wonderful! I’m getting tons of e-mail from people from all over the world now, and now with YouTube, tons of my stuff is online. I have little kids coming up to me all the time saying ‘I saw you on the ‘Muppet Show!’” For many of us who have been doing this for a long time, it’s great that a new generation of young people are just discovering us.”



# Theatre San Jacinto presents one of its favorite things:



**Brandon White**  
The Signal Staff

“The Sound of Music” and excitement are definitely in the air at San Jacinto College Central’s Slocomb Auditorium as the school’s theater department gets ready to bring the energy of Rodgers and Hammerstein’s Academy Award-winning screenplay to the stage.

Under the direction of Jerry Ivins, Theatre San Jacinto presents “The Sound of Music,” a story of a young nun who leaves her convent to care for the seven children of Austrian naval captain Georg von Trapp.

The play is loosely based on the real-life experience of the von Trapp family, who left Austria amidst the Nazi occupation of 1938. The family came to America to advance their singing career.

The enthusiasm of the cast members can easily be witnessed from just one trip to the theater. Amy Campbell, who is cast as Liesl, the oldest of the von Trapp children, is thrilled about her part in the play.

“I was excited because I have always loved “The Sound of Music,”” Campbell said. “It has always been one of my favorite musicals and getting this role was just like ‘Yes!’ I was really excited.”

Along with that excitement goes extremely hard work. Ivins lets it be known that it takes lots of time and effort to put on such a huge production.

“My mind is Jell-O right now,” Ivins said with a laugh. “We started working on this show back in the early part of October in the designing and the planning stages. We cast the show about mid-January and from that moment on we have been working on this show probably everyday including weekends and some 14-16 hour days. It’s just a massive project each time you do a big musical.”

Ivins also said that his experience with this cast has been a very good one. Most of the people who volunteered to take part in the production have stayed the course, something that any school theater director would appreciate.

“It has been very positive,” Ivins said. “Sometimes we do shows and folks have to drop out for whatever reason. With this show, we have had a few drop out but nothing that sent us scrambling, trying to fill in their position. Most of the folks that we cast are still in the show and doing very well.”

One of the more interesting things about this play in particular is the fact that it actually has a musical family playing another musical family. Rebecca Pyper, who has the lead role of Maria, is actually the wife of Paul Busselberg, who is playing the role of Captain von Trapp. On top of the real-life husband and wife duo, their two small daughters, Caroline and Camilla, play the roles of the Captain’s two small daughters, Briggita and Louisa von Trapp.

Pyper, a well-known theater actress in the Houston area, says that it is a wonderful feeling having her family in the play right along side her.

“It’s great,” Pyper said. “It’s fun to be up there together as a family. Sometimes I forget that they are my family because he is the Captain and that’s Louisa and Briggita. I don’t think of them as Paul, Caroline and Camilla. I think about them as my stage family.”

She also expresses the difficulties that her character Maria has to go through.

“She is a complex character,” Pyper said. “She has to come from being a nun to having to take care of seven children and then falls in love with someone that she wasn’t expecting to fall in love with. Then, she has to deal with the whole thing of being a nun, still while falling in love and that conflict between the church and then the human aspect of love. She is quite complex. She has to start out very young and then she grows and matures and becomes very strong at the end to lead her family over the mountain to freedom.”

When asked about his readiness for the show, Ivins answered in the same fashion that any perfectionist would.

“[You’re] never quite ready but I feel better where we are with this show than I have felt on most of the other



Brandon White:The Signal

Husband and wife duo Rebecca Pyper and Paul Busselberg prepare for their roles as Maria and Captain von Trapp for San Jacinto Central’s play “The Sound of Music,” which opened Feb. 29.

shows,” Ivins said with emphasis. “I think the cast is in good shape, the sets are in good shape. I feel better about this one but we could always use extra time.”

Theatre San Jacinto’s production of “The Sound of Music” runs through March 9. Show dates and times are March 1, 7 and 8 at 7:30 p.m. and March 2 and 9 at 2:30 p.m. General admission is \$15. For more information, call the Theatre San Jacinto box office at 281-476-1828.

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## Eyewitnesses to the Civil Rights Movement

The Texas State History Museum invited visitors to attend a conversation session with civil rights movement activists Virgil Wood, close aide to Martin Luther King Jr., and Bernadette Phifer, director of the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, Feb. 17. There, these eyewitnesses shared their past experiences of working with King and their participation in helping to change our nation.

“As a child, I was lucky to have my parents, who afforded me the opportunity to participate in the Selma to Montgomery March and the March on Washington, and just to be an activist,” Phifer said. “There were numerous times that I was on the line, and I got water hosed; numerous times I had the dogs barking in front of me and the horses nearly stepping on my toes or defecating on me. Our children don’t have to go through those extremes... but there are things we need to tell our children that happened. They need to know that they didn’t just get birthed into a perfect world, because it isn’t.”

Wood joined King in 1958 in Lynchburg, Va., after his undergraduate work and graduate theology studies. For 6 ½ years Wood headed King’s National Executive Board and some of his Virginia work planning The March on Washington.

“It was those works that led us to bring him to Boston for the march in 1965,” Wood said. “My work from the North was to fuel whatever he needed in the South; I trained over 4,000 people. Five weeks before Dr. King’s death, we were getting ready for the Poor People’s Campaign. He had tried so many things and was convinced we needed to bring mass pressure on the government and he wanted to bring the poor of America to Washington.”

One of Wood’s favorite memories of King was when he gave him a spot keynote speech as a rookie. Wood argued with King that they did not need to take their poor to Washington and ask for food stamps; they needed to take them to Wall Street, and reason together how Americans tie poor people to the wealth-generating capacity of America.

After the event was finished, Wood said that King was sick and depressed and he put his hand on Wood’s shoulder.

“You know we can’t do that now, but you stay with that,” King told him.

“That [statement] has guided my whole life ever since,” Wood said. “I will never forget it. I then put myself into Harvard right away to get a doctorate so that I could be taken seriously on economic questions and almost everything I have done since then feeds into, I think, what we now know to do. We have a climate in America now that is looking for change and looking for real solutions.”

Wood advises college students to study everything about King and the civil rights movement; everything from going beyond the “I Have a Dream” speech, to King’s ways of thinking in his letters from the Birmingham jail, to when he won the Nobel Peace Prize and to where he was a year before he was assassinated.

Wood also suggests that students ask themselves what burning questions there are that they must answer for themselves as they go along.

“Once you know what the educators want out of you, figure out the questions that you want to answer for yourself,” Wood said. “What does it require out of me to graduate? Then what do you want out of the experience? Once you figure that out it enriches your ability to give the university what it wants. Young people will figure out what their issues are and what they figure is required of a world they want to grow up in and raise their children in eventually.”

Photos by Jenna Lewis  
Design by Wendy Westmoreland



Virgil Wood: Courtesy

Activist Virgil Wood with Martin Luther King Jr. at a press conference during the civil rights movement.

## TEXAS STATE History Museum

Jenna Lewis  
The Signal Staff

“Nothing can be believed but what one sees, or has from an eye witness,” said Thomas Jefferson, July 19, 1789, while in France as the United States’ minister during the French Revolution.

Now, Texans are among those invited to experience Jefferson’s original letter firsthand along with many more important eyewitness accounts in the history of the U.S. The national exhibit, EYEWITNESS: American Originals from the National Archives, is on display at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin through April 20.

In this extraordinary, once-in-a-lifetime exhibit, visitors can see 23 written documents, audio visuals, photos and murals that help explain the stories.

The Feb. 16 opening day activities examined the many ways that eyewitness accounts are documented and how changing technology has shaped the way that people share their experiences with others. Visitors were invited to try their hand at calligraphy-style writing with quill pens, learn how to post their comments on the Internet, and meet a historic re-enactor of William B. Travis.

The first section, entitled Confrontations for Justice, shows the March 1965 attempted civil rights march for African American voting rights in Selma, Ala., where John Lewis and Hosea Williams led hundreds of demonstrators only to be confronted by 150 Alabama state troopers. The police gave a two-minute warning and after only a minute and a half, began attacking the demonstrators.

“Lewis is now a member of Congress representing Atlanta and was able to record his testimony for the audio purpose of this exhibit,” said curator Stacey Bredhoff of the National Archives. “But most are actors’ voices. Lewis’ accounts led to the petitioning of the courts to have more protection against police for black demonstrators.”

One of the most interesting audio visuals was a video sent to the U.S. by North Vietnam of Navy Cmdr. Jeremiah A. Denton, Jr. There he was held for 7 ½ years where he was tortured and starved. Interviewed by a Japanese reporter, Denton was instructed to say things to make the U.S. believe that prisoners of war were not being mistreated. Once the video aired on U.S. television, military intelligence noticed he was doing something strange with his eyes and figured out he was blinking out the word T-O-R-T-U-R-E in Morse code.

An emotional audio in the Fallen Leaders section was Lady Bird Johnson’s diary account of the day President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. Her description was so detailed that her diary account was used as her official statement in the Warren Commission.

“As we ground to a halt [in front of the hospital] secret service men began to pull, lead, guide and hustle us out,” Johnson said. “I cast one last look over my shoulder and saw in the president’s car a bundle of pink, just like a drift of blossoms, lying on the back seat. I think it was Mrs. Kennedy lying over the President’s body... Suddenly I found myself face to face with Jackie. You always think of her—or someone like her as being insulated, protected—she was quite alone. I don’t think I ever saw anyone so much alone in my life.”

At the end of the exhibit is a display of William B. Travis’ famous letter “Victory or Death” from the Alamo.

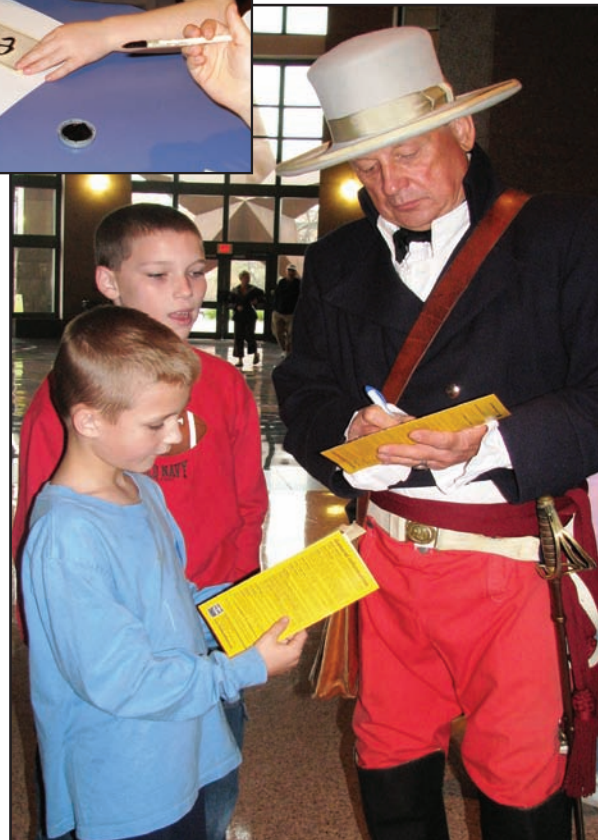
The exhibit is located in the museum’s Albert and Ethel Herzstein Hall of Special Exhibitions at 1800 N. Congress. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors, the military and students, and \$4 for youths ages 5 to 18 years old. Children 4 years of age and younger and museum members are admitted for free. You can visit [www.theStoryofTexas.com](http://www.theStoryofTexas.com) for more information and a link to the National Archives to see and hear some of what is shown in the exhibit.



Peyton Johnson, 4, tries writing her name in calligraphy style with a quill pen on opening day activities.



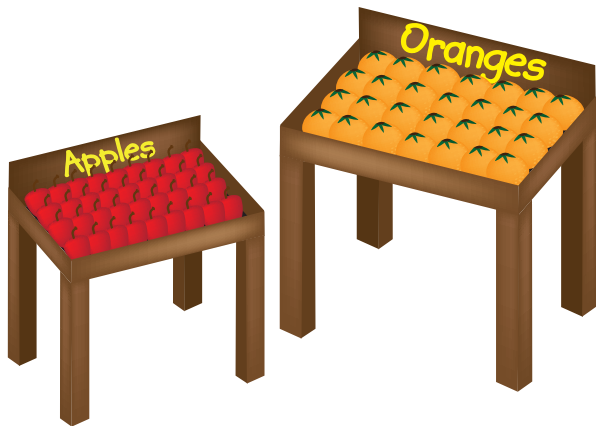
A visitor to the Eyewitness exhibit looks at one of the last photographs taken of President John F. Kennedy and First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy before his assassination in Dallas.



Visitors John Mark, 7, and Luke Maynard, 6, get autographs from William B. Travis, historic re-enactor Bob Heinonen, outside the exhibit.



# GO ORGANIC!



## Houstonians reap the benefits of eating organic

**Julie Bray**  
The Signal Staff

With the ever-increasing awareness of chemicals, pesticides and hormones being added to Americans’ food every day, many people are choosing the healthier alternative of eating organic. Houstonians are not excluded from the mix. With the help of a quaint organic produce co-op located downtown, Houstonians are changing their lifestyle choices by eating a variety of fruits and vegetables that not only taste great, but cost less than people may think.

The Central City Co-op, started nearly seven years ago by Pat Greer, owner of Pat Greer’s Kitchen, serves the Houston area by providing organic fruits, vegetables, soups, crackers, honey and more to both individuals and groups. The co-op is located on Taft Street and Welch and is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. every Wednesday. While shopping, customers can enjoy a nice cup of coffee since the co-op is hosted inside a building that boasts an art gallery and a coffee shop, complete with free-trade beans. Every Wednesday, nearly 200 people filter through the co-op and buy from its healthy selection.

Carolyn Lambeth, director of operations at Central City Co-op, said she was inspired to direct the co-op to bring better choices to the Houston community. She also feels that it is important for her family to eat organic as well.

“I think it’s important to get back to basics in eating,” Lambeth said. “And that’s what I wanted for my family. The co-op gave me a resource for information as well as food to be able to provide the best natural food for my family.”

Buying organic has also helped Lambeth in the common parental battle of making her children eat healthy.

“My children will eat the organic fruits and vegetables because they taste better, according to them,” Lambeth said. “And that’s my number one priority – getting them to eat fruits and vegetables.”

Organic foods are not only beneficial to our bodies, but eating organic foods helps the environment as well. By using no chemicals, additives or pesticides when harvesting

produce, the soil that plants grow in stays clean and pure. Also, the water used to hydrate the produce does not get mixed in with harsh chemicals that seep into the ground and could eventually come out of our tap. In addition, a significant amount of the produce the co-op provides is from local farmers, so shipping it to Houston does not harm the environment with transportation pollution as much as produce shipped from all over the country.

There are mixed emotions, however, about eating organic because to some it may seem too expensive when comparing prices to non-organic labeled produce. The co-op, however, offers great prices and deals to those who shop there. Lambeth said that if a shopper were to go to a regular chain grocery store, he or she may not find that every fruit and vegetable the store carries can be bought organic. She further explained that if a shopper were to buy everything at a regular chain store that he or she can get at the co-op, the shopper would be paying about double at the store than he or she would at the co-op.

Gabrielle Seekely, a customer at Central City and a long-time organic buyer, believes there are many benefits to eating organic.

“Health is a matter of choices,” Seekely said. “I chose to eat organic because I think that not including hormones and pesticides in my diet gives me the opportunity to be as healthy as possible.”

Central City Co-op is one of many resources in Houston where the public can purchase healthier foods. If driving down to Taft Street is not possible, there are more co-ops spread throughout Houston that get their produce from Central City Co-op.

For more information, visit <http://www.centralcityco-op.org>.




Clockwise from top left: Central City Co-op offers many homemade organic snacks and grains; customers at the co-op buy a local share, which usually includes a lot of leafy greens; Carolyn Lambeth works hard as she takes an order for a customer; Art Bars, which include a poster of art inside every wrapper, are sold at the co-op.



Photos by Julie Bray  
Design by Wendy Westmoreland







*Debbie Feuer has joined James E. Bashaw & Co. as Vice President-ORP/403(b) Division.*



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# CAMPUS CALENDAR

- March 3**  
Workshop: You Want Me to Do What? A Quick Guide to Overcoming Your Fear of Public Speaking, 5-7 p.m., SSCB 1.202.07  
Registration required.  
Call 281-283-2560.
- March 3-11**  
UHCL Women's Studies Week  
See Women's Studies article on page 1 for more information about events throughout the week.
- March 5**  
Speaker: Religions of the World: None of the Above – The Humanist Alternative, noon-1 p.m., Bayou Garden Room
- March 6**  
Co-op Orientation Session, 10-11 a.m., SSCB 3.101  
Call 281-283-2590 for more info.
- March 7**  
Workshop: Discovering Your Strengths: The Key to Becoming an Effective Leader & Fulfilling Your Potential, 5-7 p.m., SSCB 1.202.07  
Registration required.  
Call 281-283-2560.
- March 8**  
Film: Antonia's Line, 7 p.m., SSCB Lecture Hall  
Speaker panel to follow the movie screening.  
Admission: \$3.50
- March 8**  
Cultural Arts Event: BackBeat... A Tribute, 8 p.m., Bayou Theater  
Reception to follow the concert.  
Tickets: \$8-\$15
- March 9**  
Writing Center Workshop: MLA Documentation Style, 3 p.m., SSCB 2.105
- March 10**  
Speaker Series: Particle Physics in Human Space Flight, 7 p.m., SSCB 1.100.03
- March 12**  
Workshop: Writing Effective Resumes, 5-6 p.m., SSCB 3.101  
Advanced registration encouraged.  
Call 281-283-2590.
- March 14**  
International Student Symposium, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Bayou 3332  
UHCL students only. Sign-up through March 11. Limited space.  
Call 281-283-2590.
- March 15**  
Career Exploration Workshop 3, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Location TBA  
Requires intake appointment.  
Cost: \$20 for UHCL students.  
Call 281-283-2590 for details.
- March 17-22**  
Spring Holidays!
- March 24**  
Speaker Series: Impact Cratering in the Outer Solar System, 7 p.m., SSCB 1.100.03

\*\*\* Last day to drop/withdraw from regular-session courses. \*\*\*

# Howard wins Piper nomination

Britney Samperi  
The Signal Staff

University of Houston Clear-Lake students and faculty nominated Cynthia Howard, associate professor of biology and environmental science, to be the university's representative for the 2008 Minnie Stevens Piper Professor Program.

The Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation awards 15 professors from colleges and universities around the state of Texas \$5,000 for their superior teaching on a college level. The purpose is to support charitable, scientific or educational responsibility by providing for financially limited but worthy students to complete their education and obtain their degrees. Every year only one professor is eligible to be nominated from each university regardless of the size of the institution.

For the past 12 years, Howard has encouraged her students to join her on trips to the Amazon rainforest so they can experience what they are learning in the classroom. She also spends the majority of her time helping students on special projects, encouraging them to make new discoveries outside the classroom and helping them understand the overall picture of their field.

"I encourage students to get involved in research and to get in the lab and carry out their projects from start to finish," Howard said.

Nick de Vries, professor of fine arts, has joined Howard on two trips to the Amazon and will soon visit a third time.

"Visiting the Amazon was one of my life-changing experiences," de Vries said. "Cindy has such a way of communicating with life on the Amazon."

Howard said she was surprised and honored that she was nominated for the Piper Award. She did not realize that students and faculty voted for her to represent UHCL.

"She does a wonderful job of integrating student research in the class experience by requiring students to gather samples and compose their data to that from last semester," a nominator said. "In this way, she is not only allowing them to have field experience but she is teaching at a higher level of learning."

Another nominator stated, "Professor Howard has an outstanding reputation as a teacher and scholar. Evidence reflects that she is making a meaningful difference in the classroom and has an exceptional teaching philosophy."

Students and faculty nominate a professor every fall. Nomination forms and ballot boxes are located at the entrances of each building. The UHCL Piper Award Committee selects the finalist according to a ratio that compares the number of nominations and class load. The committee then calculates the top five professors who have been nominated to represent the university. From there, the top five nominees must put together a large notebook that consists of teaching skills, dimensions of leadership, and service on- or off-campus. Finally, the committee chooses one candidate to represent the university.

David Rachita, assistant dean of student life, stated that the process for choosing the best nominee is very difficult.

"Each of the top five are exceptional teachers and are all outstanding individuals," Rachita said.

The top five nominees for this year were Krishani Abeyeskera, lecturer/systems



Cynthia Howard: Courtesy

Cynthia Howard, associate professor of biology and environmental science, in the Amazon holding a wild anaconda that was pulled out of a tree.

administrator in the School of Science and Computer Engineering; Hisham Al-Mubaid, associate professor of computer science; Kimberly Case, assistant professor of psychology and women's studies; Cynthia Howard, associate professor of biology and environmental science; and Ashley Packard, associate professor of communication and digital media studies.

Howard will represent UHCL for 2008 because of her time, energy and dedication toward the Amazon trips and her students, Rachita said.

"My goal is to get everyone who wants to go to the Amazon a chance to go and make it affordable for them," Howard said.

## Staying healthy & safe this Spring Break

Amy Parnell  
The Fitness Zone

Spring Break: the words denote a week-long time of complete frenzy, or if you are me, which I know many of you are, it is time to rest and finish some big projects with an important due date and a large percentage of your semester grade.

However, there is still time for rest and relaxation in such a way in which you won't regret your time in the sun with a little bit of fun.

**The Sun**

If you are staying here, you can't get away from it. We enjoy it and are aware of the negative points, but still we love that tan. According to the American Cancer Society, skin cancer claims the lives of 9,800 people. So, what do we do?

Well, we can cover our entire bodies with clothing, however, that may seem a bit extreme in our temperatures, so instead, cover your entire body with sun screen. Make sure to cover your face and body with at least a 15 spf even if you are simply driving in your car and going to work.

For sun lovers, the key is to increase your spf and repeat coverage as necessary. Optimally you should reduce the amount of UV rays you receive from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., but again, increase the spf if this isn't a possibility.

**Water**

I say it all the time...drink water! Believe you me, I am

giving myself the same advice. Every morning wake up and create a new relationship with water.

We are 70 percent water and exertion without replenishment can lead to a 2 percent loss. That doesn't sound like much; however, when we are dehydrated our body works at a lower capacity and this includes brain and kidney function, muscular tone and increased hunger.

It is important to drink on average 8 to 12 glasses of water a day throughout the day. The easiest advice I can give you is what I do: have a bottle of water with you all day and sip. Also, it is important to realize that once you realize you are thirsty, your body is already experiencing dehydration, so bring in the water!

**Heat Stroke**

After last year's temperatures, I feel this is an area few of us really truly understand. Heat stroke is the body's inability to control temperature, usually done with our body's natural sweating.

Heat stroke is serious. It can induce brain damage and death. Look for these signs: hot, red, and dry skin; rapid, weak pulse

and breathing; and also a lack of consciousness. If you begin to experience or see someone experiencing these symptoms call 911 immediately and move that person to shade.

Last summer, a sweet friend of mine suffered from heat stroke. Her day was no different from everyone



PARNELL

of her friends that day and as a freshman in college she is very young. However, heat stroke doesn't really care about your age or health.

**Relaxation**

What if Spring Break was a break in the truest sense? I use Spring Break as a mini New Year's for myself. I review my personal goals and set aside time to rest, get a massage and rejuvenate.

Time at the Fitness Zone is a great way to gear up for your health. In fact, this year my new resolve is to feel better and more rested after Spring Break than before.....let's see if I can make that happen.

Whatever your plans, please enjoy a safe and happy Spring Break from Student Life and the Fitness Zone.



Clinton: continued from page 1



Lindsay Humphrey:The Signal

Council member James Rodriguez, Lucia Ayala-Guerra, Chelsea Clinton and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee address students at San Jacinto College Central.

humor. One such instance came with her answer to the question “What does your mom plan to do about global warming?”

“Recognize it exists!” was her quick comeback, complete with a roll of her head and a hand placement on her hips that suggested a typical mother’s reaction to her child’s insistence that he or she has done nothing wrong.

Although they were unable to participate in the discussion, the media, represented by both English and Spanish language television networks and news publications, were there to report the event.

Theresa Farfan, television correspondent for Azteca America, channel 34 in Houston, speculated about the circumstances surrounding Clinton’s visit to SJC before the event began.

“Obama has a great attraction for young people, and I think she’s trying to do the same for her mother,” Farfan said. “They really need to convince younger voters that [Hillary Clinton] has something to offer them. That’s what [Chelsea Clinton] is trying to do: attract the younger voter.”

On the whole, the Pasadena crowd seemed satisfied with the answers they received from the young woman most simply referred to as “Chelsea.” It is a trend that Deirdre Murphy, the younger Clinton’s press secretary, hopes will continue as Hillblazers make its way across the Lone Star State.

“Chelsea wants to reach out throughout the state and plans to focus and work hard to earn every single vote throughout Texas.”

“That’s what [Chelsea Clinton] is trying to do: attract the younger voter.”

Security: continued from page 1

don’t want people to be lulled into this false sense of security that we can predict that on this campus. What is going to be most important is how our police department and our community reacts to such a tragedy.”

The UHCL police department is employed to provide safety to the students and faculty and has been trained to handle an active shooter situation.

“It takes a minimum of two, but preferably three, police officers to form a tactical assault team to get the bad guy,” said Paul Willingham, chief of police. “On the bright side, we are well trained in that.”

Willingham and the UHCL police department have been training since last summer, even employing live fire exercises to learn how to operate in live conditions. There are four sworn police officers on duty on campus at all times. They all maintain a regular police skill set and refresh their training regularly.

“We had another training in September here on this campus,” Willingham said, “and will have another mandatory, all-hands training here in the summer.”

Even with school shootings making headlines, off-campus safety is not to be ignored.

“Statistics do show that violent crimes happen to college students on campus at a far fractionally reduced rate than off-campus, non-college students,” reassured Willingham. “Students shouldn’t come to campus in fear.”



Willingham drove another point home, outlining the importance of personal safety. He reminds students to take responsibility for their own safety, be alert and aware of surroundings, think of what to do in certain situations and to visualize an escape route.

“There are three things that all crimes need: motive, access to a weapon and opportunity,” said Willingham. “The only thing we can impact is opportunity.”

Willingham recommends not walking the parking lots alone after dark; knowing who does not belong on campus; and adding the number for the police department to your cell phone. If anything seems out of place or if there is a suspicious person, call 281-283-2222 (or 2222 from any university phone).

There is an alert out for a suspicious person on campus right now. A flyer is posted at the UHCL police department with a full physical description. The man has been following students to solicit tutoring services. He is not a student and has no official business on campus.

“I want to encourage people to report things that are a little unusual to them,” Willingham said. “Our job is to follow up on these sorts of things. Always err on the side of caution.”

Women’s Studies: continued from page 1

cultural and International Student Services.

At 4 p.m. Deepa Reddy, associate professor of anthropology, will discuss topics presented in the Indian film “Ankur” in the Bayou Building, room 2231. Portions of the film will be shown to illustrate the different discussion topics.

“Ankur” is a foreign film about a young landlord who seduces his female servant. She becomes pregnant and her husband, who wants to have children, takes the landlord’s child as his own.

“[The film is important] because it looks at a lot of social hierarchies and looks at gender. It’s not only about women,” Reddy said.

Dr. Ayse Coskun, a M.D. in molecular virology and microbiology at the Baylor College of Medicine, will present “HIV/AIDS: A Cry of Desperation, Are We Listening?” March 5 in the Forest Room of the Bayou Building from 7 to 8 p.m.

On March 7, at 7 p.m., the film “Antonia’s Line” will be shown in the Student Services and Classroom Building Lecture Hall followed with a discussion by Barbara Hales, assistant professor of history, and Elizabeth Klett, visiting assistant professor of literature. The event will be co-sponsored by the Student Life Film and Speaker Series. General admission to see the film is \$3.50.



“Antonia’s Line” is also a foreign film. It is about a Dutch woman named Antonia who wakes up to realize it will be the last day of her life and starts telling stories about her past experiences.

Hales said she will discuss the “notions of gender identity, family and examples of magical realism in the film.”

On March 11, at 1 p.m., Kim Case, assistant professor of psychology and women’s studies, and Shreerekha Subramanian, assistant professor of humanities, will facilitate a panel, which consists of an alumna, a professor and a student, about “Diverse Families” in the Garden Room.

“We will present questions to prompt the panelists of how their own experiences challenge notions of the traditional family structure,” Case said.

Sharon Hall, associate professor of psychology, will also give a presentation March 11 about “Parenting for Social Justice” at 2:30 p.m. in the Garden Room.

“I’d like for concerned parents to know that children are absolutely influenced by adults’ actions and that all caring adults can model and encourage children of all ages to engage in social justice work,” Hall said. “Every person, young and old, can make a difference.”

For more information about Women’s Studies Week, contact Christine Kovic at kovic@uhcl.edu or go to <http://hsh.uhcl.edu/WS/>.

Stimulus: continued from page 1

benefits, disability compensation, pension or survivors’ benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs will receive \$300 payments for individuals and \$600 for joint filers if they had at least \$3,000 in qualifying income.

The government hopes that Americans will drop these funds into the economy, making purchases they would not necessarily have made without the aid and, in turn, giving the economy a little boost. Some experts have doubts, however, that there will be any real benefits of the stimulus plan.

“I expect most will pay off bills instead of making new purchases,” said Dale Cloninger, professor emeritus of finance and economics at University of Houston-Clear Lake. “It is unlikely that the stimulus plan will do what it is intended to do. People need to feel that this is a permanent change and Congress has bent over backwards to make it temporary. There will be very little, if any, long-term or even short-term impact.”

“I think that primarily there is some concern that rebates may not be the best way to stimulate the economy,” Mackowiak said. “The Senator would have preferred a permanent tax relief.”

“A tax credit in effect every year would’ve been a more effective way to stimulate the economy and change behaviors,” agrees Cloninger.

The Internal Revenue Service notes a few specifics about payments under the package. Recipients must file a 2007 tax return to be eligible to receive the stimulus payment, even if circumstances do not usually call for filing a tax return. Recipients must also have a Social Security Number to qualify

for the payment, including all eligible children. Taxpayers who file returns with a Taxpayer Identification Number will be ineligible, as will anyone who can be claimed as a dependent on someone else’s return.

The IRS says most will receive two notices regarding the stimulus payments. The first will explain the stimulus payment program while the second will confirm eligibility, payment amount and the approximate time table for payment.

For more information about the stimulus package, visit the IRS Web site at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). To see a full copy of Sen. Hutchison’s pro-growth paper visit [http://rpc.senate.gov/\\_files/ProGrowthStim-PolNovascone.pdf](http://rpc.senate.gov/_files/ProGrowthStim-PolNovascone.pdf).





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# Journalism Day

## All in a day's words

**Ericka Paetz**  
The Signal Staff

Creativity and inspiration were the common themes at this year's Journalism Day held at San Jacinto College Central. The event, which is held annually for local high school students enrolled in communication courses, included guest speakers from various media vocations who imparted their expertise and advice for creative success.

The guest presenters for the event included Hal Wixon, founder and director of the Gulf Coast Film and Video Festival; Paul McGrath, assistant news editor at the Houston Chronicle; and keynote speaker Kinky Friedman, 2006 gubernatorial candidate. Held Feb. 22, the series of workshops was organized by Royce Walker, professor of communication at SJC, and Taleen Washington, lecturer in communication and manager of student publications at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, and comprised 220 students from 15 local high schools, college students and community members.

Wixon, along with Molly Vernon, professor of film and theater at SJC, and Alfred Cervantes, deputy director for the Houston Film Commission, spoke for the first workshop session: "The Growth of the Film Industry in the Gulf Coast." Wixon introduced the art of film production and imparted the festival's mission to encourage the work of independent young filmmakers. Two students who entered last year's festival were chosen to present their entries; Taylor Washington, San Jacinto College film student, and Paul Beckman, a senior at Clear Lake High School.

Washington presented his short film, "I'm a Lumberjack and I'm Okay," a satire on high school trends, and Beckman presented a music video, which was originally done for a history assignment on the after-effects of the Great Depression, "Still Tippin' on Hobos."

Beckman's project received the 2007 Gulf Coast Film Festival award for best music video and he conveyed the video's developing and editing processes to the audience. Beckman explained how he was able to achieve its success on a minimal budget, using props and costumes from his parents' closet and even his car's headlights to provide the lighting in one scene of the video.

"You use what you have ... it's up to your creativity and imagination of how far you can go and what you can do with that," Beckman said.

The second session, "Covering the Political Arena in a Presidential Election Year," presented by McGrath, entailed election facts and humorous anecdotes to convey the history of election news coverage. Along with advice on covering the presidential elections, McGrath explained the methods of news production and the significance of witnessing the events that inspire the process.

"That's the great thing about journalism," McGrath said. "You are watching history everyday ... history in the making."

With more than 26 years of experience in various positions at the Houston Chronicle, McGrath related his tools of the journalism trade that he has secured throughout his career. He addressed the affects on the field's integrity and its potential in an increasingly technologically based society. In closing, McGrath imparted a borrowed quote to aspiring reporters to consider in their journalistic endeavors.

"Our children are our message to a future that we will never see, so for you budding young journalists, I hope you go and write a beautiful message."

Friedman arrived for the workshop's final session, "The Days of Kinky: From Musician to Politician and Author," causing a small commotion outside of the auditorium. Friedman addressed the various political views that inspired him to run in the 2006 Texas gubernatorial race, including health care, education and the death penalty.

Friedman, who is known for his controversial and politically incorrect convictions, went on to convey his opinions on other issues such as immigration and the war in Iraq, which received cheers and applause from the young audience. Friedman welcomed questions from students who inquired about his experiences as a musician and sought advice on pursuing careers in journalism.

"To be a writer, or any kind of novelist," Friedman answered, "you have to be ahead of your time and

behind in your rent."

With an abundance of quick-witted observations and anecdotes blended with a resolute message, Friedman concluded his presentation by reading an excerpt from his sage, Friedman concluded his presentation by reading an excerpt from his book, "You Can Lead a Politician to Water but You Can't Make Him Think." The passage conveyed Friedman's reaction to his gubernatorial loss in 2006 and his feelings of perseverance on the night that he found out.

"One of the great challenges for a dealer in hope," Friedman read, "is to continue to distribute that dear commodity when almost all is lost."

Although he had previously threatened to quit in a "petulant snit," and leave behind his political aspirations forever if he lost, Friedman told the audience that he was considering running in 2010 as a democrat.

Walker, who has been organizing the event for more than 30 years, said later that this year's event was the best that SJC had ever had. Walker attributed its success to the changes in the program from previous years, such as the significance of all three speakers, and especially the inclusion of student presenters into the framework for the first time.

"I thought that the students [in the audience] responded really well," Walker said, "... they made a real connection."



Kinky Friedman, sporting his signature black jacket, cowboy hat and cigar, signs autographs for students at Journalism Day.



Paul McGrath and Kinky Friedman talk politics after their workshop presentations.



Hal Wixon, Taylor Washington, Paul Beckman, and Molly Vernon present for the film workshop.