

## UHD Name Change

Petition created due to unfairness

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CAMPUS NEWS

# Dateline: DOWNTOWN

S T U D E N T - R U N S I N C E V O L U M E O N E

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## UHD Name Change Deemed Unfair Petition Created to Save The Name

By Eric Roberson  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The University of Houston System administration is attempting to strip UHD of its common identity for no justifiable reason. At best, people have reservations about the name change. Without resignation, many will tell you they are completely opposed to changing the name. One thing most may all agree on is that the name change is being forced upon, the process is flawed and the administration has not gotten the support of its most valuable stakeholders: the students.

Student voices are being silenced. Even though some are transfer students, while others are first-time freshmen and some are undergrads, while others are working on their masters, one common identity is shared: being University of Houston-Downtown students; we are the Gators.

As students, we are taught that good research must be performed in a carefully planned, methodical and thoughtful manner. Considering that there is so much opposition to the name change, the end result will have a major fundamental flaw. We will have a name that no one identifies with. When we were asked to vote on the top ten names, keeping our current name wasn't one of the choices. Good research would have included the University of Houston-Downtown.

So far, changing our name has been everything but planned, methodical or thoughtful; it is sloppy and rushed. The UH System administration has

failed to include members of our alumni association in their research. The research is not representative of the student body. The administration is not allowing faculty to voice their concerns about the proposed change. The results of the experiment have been manipulated to suit the desires of a dying administration.

Soon Max Castillo will no longer be President of UHD. A search has been underway for some time now for a new president. Thus, Max Castillo may have no vested interest in the future success of UHD. But students, alumni and faculty do have an interest. The reputation of our school is important to

our future careers. Sue Davis, Director of Public Affairs, has only been at UHD since September 2008. It would seem that the Administration would have chosen better leadership with more credibility considering that both Sue Davis and Max Castillo are short timers.

The administration has said that changing our name is not an attempt to leave the UH System; however, not including University of Houston in our new name while remaining part of the system seems fraudulent and disingenuous. The only logical conclusion is that changing our name may be the first step in breaking off

see **UHD** on page 2

## Bailout Coming For College Students

Staff Report

COMPILED FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES

Grants to needy college students are included in the economic stimulus plan Congress approved in the last week of January, by a 244-188 vote. Up to \$150 billion in new spending over the next two years will also prevent imminent teacher layoffs and jack up the ailing financial aid systems. Pell Grant funding will go up to \$27 billion, from \$19 billion this year. No Republicans voted in favor of the bill.

The huge "education bailout" will go to a wide spectrum of educational activities, supporting school renovation, special education and Head Start, and

will be the largest increase in federal spending on education since after World War II, some sixty years ago. Republicans in Congress skewered the new funding as wasteful and a "dangerous" expansion of federal government into the field of education. National governments play a lead role in supporting education in virtually every developed country in the world except for the United States.

The proposed emergency expenditures are so huge that the new legislation may herald a significant change in the role of the federal government

in education, which has traditionally been the responsibility of state and local governments, where funding has often been hard to come by. The decline of the public school system in this country over the past half-century – including the 50 percent drop in teachers' salaries since the 1950s – has in large part been attributed to low levels of financial support from local taxpayers.

In recent years, the feds have paid 9 percent of this country's total spending on public schools, with

see **Bailout** on page 5



# STUDENT LIFE

## UHD

Continued from page 1

from the UH System. If our name changes we will lose the prestige and name recognition that comes with being the University of Houston-Downtown. It will also cost millions of dollars, much of which may inevitably be passed along in tuition increases.

UHD has a 30 year investment in its name. Students and alumni have worked tirelessly to build the reputation UHD is known for today. Houston, the fourth largest city in the United States, is recognized throughout the world. Our name is unique – there can never be another University of Houston-Downtown anywhere else in our nation. We have a great name that is recognizable geographically. It is a name that unmistakably shares in the identity and diversity of our city. On any interview with any company around the world, the University of Houston-Downtown stands out on a resume.

Some people believe that the UH Board of Regents' decision to change our name is not reversible. That could not be farther from the truth. In order for the

name change to succeed the Texas Legislature must pass a bill to change it. Bills often do not leave committee and if they are voted for on the floor we have a great chance to lobby against it. But why wait for it to go that far? The Board of Regents is similar to the board of directors for large corporations. Boards of directors reverse their decisions everyday in America. With enough stakeholder support, we can convince the UH Board of Regents to reverse their decision about changing our name. Anyone who has seen the movie "Mommie Dearest" will recall Joan Crawford single handedly persuaded the Pepsi Cola Board to change their position. Imagine the impact that we would have if we all come together as one voice to convince the UH Board of Regents to reverse its decision.

I urge you to take action now to save UHD. Sign the online petition to save our name at <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/saveuhd/>. Share this with every classmate you can and ask them to do the same.

# Student Opposition Against UHD Name Change Editorial

By James Duvall  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As many residents of Houston may know, especially those of the collegiate world in downtown, the University of Houston-Downtown is undergoing the process of a name change; reason being, to quell the confusion between UH and UHD. For some reason or another, many confuse the two as being one in the same when it truly isn't. Another reason for the change is to help increase funding and

donations from outside groups. This reason is more understandable than the aforementioned one. But I still see far more potential in the school with the same name along with it.

I have attended UHD for nearly 5 years now and I can honestly say that I am very proud of having this as my first school of choice. True, it's not the 'traditional' school that some would like, but that's debatable for a lot of colleges within the 610 loop. I'm honored to have professors as friends and have fellow students that have their mind set on getting a degree.

During my time here, UHD has undergone a lot positive changes, yet it is still expanding. I would like for it to continue this route of greater achievements with the UHD name still intact. Some have seen the school as the 'step child' of UH, but UHD is far from it.

The quality of teachers at UHD is more than up to par with many other universities,

some of whom who have been there since the beginning of UHD. UHD has potential to meet all of its goals fully at given time without political forces that affect the university's decisions or a board that doesn't show favoritism for one university over another.

The alternate names that are currently given attention to replace UHD do not represent what UHD is, nor does it represent its location of being in the heart of downtown Houston. To change the name to something completely different while still under the UH System is a conundrum by itself. If the university were to leave the UH system, then I can support the name change, but that is not the case. The University of Houston-Downtown should build a greater image about itself in the great city of Houston with the same name, rather than starting from scratch with a new name.



**Letters to the Editor:** Dateline welcomes letters to the editor from any member of the UH system. Letters should be no more than 250 words, include the author's full name, phone number or email address, and affiliation with the University, including classification and major. Anonymous letters will not be published. Deliver letters to Room S-260 Main Bldg; email them to [dateline@gator.uhd.edu](mailto:dateline@gator.uhd.edu); fax them to (713) 221-8119. All submissions are subject to editing.

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# Refutal On "Why Colleges Are Not Really As Diverse As They Say"

## Letter To The Editor

**By Melissa Herrera**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

*In response to Daniel Arp's article titled "Why Colleges are not as diverse as they say: A Description on how American colleges favor females and a call to action."*

The first claim made is that schools are neglecting males. Schools are also being hypocritical in only focusing on males, thus eliminating the idea of diversity and multi-culturalism.

First of all, the reason behind diversity and multiculturalism is that there wasn't any in the beginning of time. As in, when colleges were being built and constructed, women weren't even given the time of day to go to school. Women weren't expected to go beyond grade school, and why? Because they were supposed to be the ever lovely house wife that stayed at home, managed the kids and had dinner ready once the husband got home. Women weren't given the right to be intelligent, or the right to have

any freedoms because the husband was 'the man of the house' and what he said was supposed to happen and would happen. Women were taught to be submissive and basically, to have no brains. Right, that's diversity and multi-culturalism. I can just see the diversity in those white-bred all male schools.

White men have had the privilege of an education even before the U.S. was a settled country. White men were expected to be the brains of the home, so they went to school - the wealthy white men would go to university/college. If women wanted to go to college, they didn't say so, they didn't fight that 'rule' that women were to be present but silent, and only a good little housewife. Get this, the first all female higher education school to open its doors was in 1742, the Bethlehem Female Seminary (now Moravian College). It was the first female educational institution for women.

Notice the year? 1742. That's when education for women was allowed to be carried out exclusively to women, versus the first higher education schools for men. By the way, most schools were gender segregated until the 1960's. The University of Iowa was the very first men's college to admit women, starting in 1855. The latest case of gender segregation or denial happened just 19 years ago, in 1990 where the Virginia Military Institute was sued by the U.S. Department of Justice for discrimination. That was nineteen years ago. I was four years old at the time. I cried because I wanted to go to pre-school like all the other kids on my street. Then again, there is still The Citadel, which only admitted its first female students in 1993. Just 16 years ago women were finally being admitted there where they were established in 1842.

Now the crux of the matter: apparently schools are being unfair and hypocritically biased in focusing  
see **Refutal** on page 11

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## Students Unite At Barack Obama's Inauguration

**By Rosalinda Holliday**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Tuesday, January 20, 2009 after my morning class, I walked over to the cafeteria and noticed signs that stated where students could watch the inauguration. I chose the auditorium and since I didn't have any more classes, I got there early. The place was virtually empty. Only about six students were in there and all of them seated sporadically throughout. I started to get annoyed. Didn't this school and the students know that this day was history in the making? Oh, wait; it was the first day back at school for the spring semester. Most of them were probably still in class.

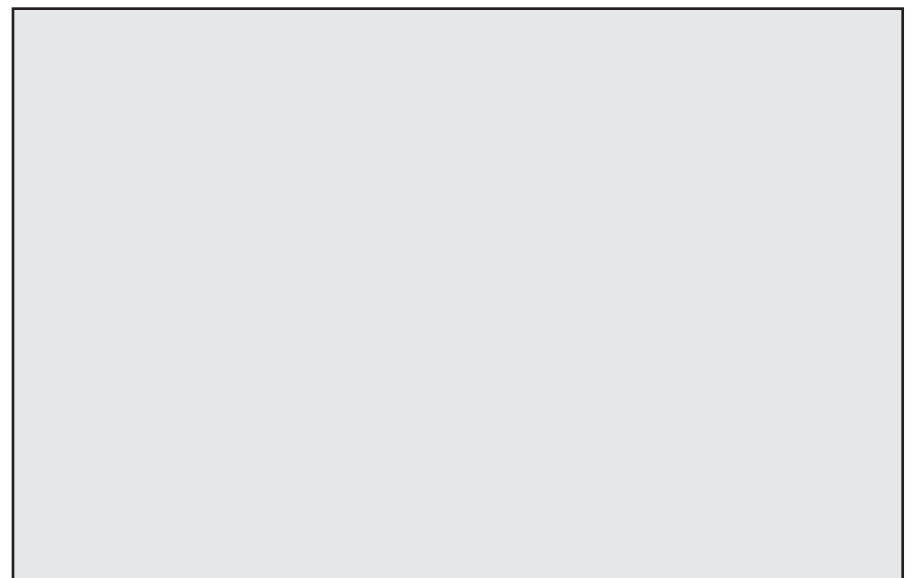
So, there I sat in the dim lit auditorium. For me, the feeling was so surreal. To be here, in college, at the age of 36, getting ready to watch the first black man be inaugurated as our 44th President of the United States. The Obama girls, Malia and Sasha, were the one of the first ones to enter and take their seats. The news media focused on them for a while and it made me think of my seven year old little girl.

Little by little, each one of the past presidents were starting to making their way out; Carter,

George Bush, Sr., George W. Bush, etc.

More students and staff members started to make their way in the auditorium. I started to look around the auditorium nervously. Wasn't there anyone I knew around here? A

see **Students** on page 10



# CAMPUS NEWS

## A New Dawn: The First Afro-American President of the U.S.

**By Huma Ahmed**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Americans viewed history on January 20, 2009 as Barack Obama, the first Afro-American President, was inaugurated. Since the first American President was elected, only a white man occupied the White House. No one around the world thought that an African descendant would ever occupy the White House; but it happened.

Despite bitter cold on that day, an unprecedented crowd gathered at the Pennsylvania Avenue to witness the inauguration ceremony of the 44th President of America. Cameras captured the emotional scenes where black men and women could not control their tears of joy. The jubilant crowd had come to welcome the man who had promised them a change. They had come to greet the man who had promised to make the vision of President Abraham Lincoln and the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King Junior come true – 'Equality for all and no discrimination for race, color and religion'. They had come to witness the new dawn.

January 20, 2009, was the end of the long dark night spread over eight years which contained nothing but killings, miseries, cries, moaning, mourning, wars, bombing, displacement of people, hacking of small babies and crushing of old and weak. Whether it was a terror attack, bombing of Iraq or Afghanistan, pounding the hapless children, women and innocent civilians of Gaza, human misery heightened to its apex.

The long dark night from 2001 to 2008, was a night of terror and tortures, kidnappings and killings; revenge and reprisals; threats and counter threats. The people all over the world had

become hysterical, scared of terror attacks and counter attacks. Racial feelings heightened and people became skeptical and scared of each other. They started avoiding and hating other colors and religions. Uncertainty, chaos and confusion ruled the world; thus, bringing it at the brink of total disorder.

The upset, confused and distrustful people wanted a change. A change to bring them out from the darkness; a change to bring hope on their worried faces; a change to bring them light; a change to bring them a new dawn to restore the image of America that it once enjoyed as the land of ideals, principles, humanity, civil liberties, human rights, compassion and sympathy. Obama saw the frustration and understood the emotions of the people. He touched their nerves. They gathered around him and behind him; the blacks as well the whites. They did not see

the color of Obama, but the light he promised them.

Not only are the Americans looking toward him to bring peace to this planet, the entire world is. They hope they will once again see peace, end to killings and sufferings and a boost to global economy.

Though it may sound very ideal, our hopes are not lost. We expect Obama to act as the President of the world community, not of only Americans. We expect him to be the light of everyone, within the borders, and beyond the borders, for the white, black, yellow and brown. We expect him to once again raise the torch of his forefathers, Dr. Martin Luther King and Abraham Lincoln, and assure the world that America is great in the real sense of the word and the period of all those who brought America a bad name are forgotten in the chapters of history.



Millions witnessed Barack Obama's inauguration ceremony in front of the Lincoln Memorial on January 20, 2009.

# Bailout

Continued from page 1

states and local districts, in theory, paying the remaining 91 percent. In fact, when sufficient funding is not there, school facilities and teaching resources get cut.

Earlier last month, Congress had allocated \$79 billion to help cash-strapped states maintain government services and avoid cuts in education, from kindergartens through college. Without those funds, local governments would have already begun to slash education budgets and services to students. Government, education, and teachers' unions say the new money will bring financial relief to the nation's 15,000 school districts and thousands of college

campuses, averting "literally hundreds of thousands of teacher layoffs," Education Secretary Arne Duncan said on January 27.

"We've been arguing that the federal government hasn't been living up to its commitments," during the Bush administration, "but these increases go a substantial way toward meeting them," said Joel Packer, lobbyist for the National Education Association. An analyst at the neocon American Enterprise Institute said the bill fails to encourage school districts to cut their budgets and live on less, to match plunging income from homeowner taxes.

## UHD Launches Insurance And Risk Management Degree Program

**Randy Cypret**

MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board this week approved a University of Houston-Downtown proposal to offer a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Insurance and Risk Management.

The new degree program is designed to develop career professionals for the insurance and risk management industry, enhance the industry's public image, and conduct research of interest for the insurance industry and consumers, said Don Bates, Dean of UHD's College of Business.

The new degree plan will be offered through the new UHD Insurance and Risk Management Center ("the Center") which will be located in the new College of Business building located at 1021 North Main. The Center will be a place of collaboration between education and industry to ensure that fundamental knowledge and theories of insurance and risk management is balanced appropriately with the real world.

"We received a lot of support from a full spectrum of players in the insurance industry," Bates said. "That support enabled us to move from the start of planning in April 2006 to approval this week

– that's warp speed by academic standards. That shows the real industry need for people who know and understand insurance and the practice of risk management."

UHD alumnus David de Roode, Houston Chief Operating Officer of BancorpSouth Insurance Services, approached Bates two years ago about the shortage of young, educated people pursuing a career in insurance and the growing void of talent within the \$800 billion industry existent in Texas today.

"The idea was to create a broad educational program that would address the various aspects and levels of the insurance and risk management industry; property and casualty insurance, life and health insurance, employee benefits, contract surety and bonds as well as other forms of risk finance and the various ways to manage risk," de Roode said. "Our ultimate goal is to provide the industry and the public with young, knowledgeable professionals who will require little or no additional fundamental training upon graduation to enable them to hit the ground running."

The Bates-deRoode team started discussions with insurance industry leaders to see if they had any

interest in developing a regional insurance and risk management program, what the program should include and whether the industry was willing to support the program. Bates calculated the start-up costs and set \$150,000 as a fund-raising goal.

"I told David, if we could raise \$150,000, then I'd start moving the concept through the approval process," Bates said. "With David's hard work and help, we raised \$180,000 in 60 days. That was the largest amount of money raised from the most donors in the shortest time in UHD's history." Bates started the approval process and with de Roode's help fund raising continued. To date, they've raised \$340,000 in cash or pledges and are continuing the fund raising and marshalling of industry resources.

The first classes will be offered next fall and registration will begin this spring. Industry professionals will teach the classes. "We are truly building this thing from the ground up," Bates said. Business degree students can major in insurance and risk management and non-business degree students can get a minor with six classes including an internship.

"We think the internship program will be a major see **Degree** on page 12

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Old-fashioned Premier Singer and Songwriter: Gavin DeGraw

By Wilbert Chinchilla  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Throughout this technological age, it seems that more people are turning to computers to find love, hurt and all of the above. Even though life is becoming more solitary by gadgets, Gavin DeGraw still believes in the organic forms of contact. While trying to abandon 21st century advances, DeGraw admits that he doesn't like to use technology because his main form of communication involves paper, pen, piano and guitar. DeGraw is most notably known for his number one song I Don't Wanna Be, which rang throughout the halls of high schools during 2005, both literally and figuratively.

The fictional teenage drama "One Tree Hill" made this song its anthem and intro to the show for two seasons. The song is befitting of a teenage drama since the songwriter behind it constantly writes about love and youth. From a soldier that can't return back to his lover in the song Young Love, to writing meaningless letters with "hollow point header" in the piano and vocal driven song Untamed, Gavin DeGraw has made a successful sophomore album. The self titled album "Gavin DeGraw" contains addictive guitar rhythm similar to Chariot, but soulful and rougher than ever. Also, this album contains the similar melodic piano that leaves any listener humming under their breaths.

With songs like Medicate the Kids that contain the message of drawing the line between drug abuse with prescription medicine and parental abuse by allowing kids to use drugs, DeGraw has solidified his standing in the music industry by penning his own songs, yet embodying the spirits of his idols Billy Joel and Phil Collins. Gavin DeGraw has currently released a new single I Have You to Thank which is now available on iTunes®.

**DL:** How's the new album?

**GD:** You tell me, I think it's going good (laughs).

**DL:** There are fans that have heard songs on your latest self titled album because they themselves have recorded shows with songs you haven't released yet; do you see that as a form of piracy or flattery?

**GD:** That's fine. The point of making a CD album is so you can sort of see or measure your own fan base. If someone wants to record



Gavin DeGraw is a talent, who in just a few short years has become one of today's premier singer-songwriters.

your music before it's launched, or if they want to record a new song and take it home, that is fine with me. Some of the reasons I sang those songs before they were released on the album is because I feel I should give my fans something new as to keep them interested. If it keeps them interested, then I am happy.

**DL:** Have you ever thought of making a cover CD?

**GD:** I have actually and it has crossed my mind. I don't know when would be the right time to do that, but I have definitely had discussions of doing something like that.

**DL:** Is there any recent song you would like to cover?

**GD:** There are a couple of songs that I really like. I like that Ryan Tedder song "Apologize." I like this other song (breaks out into "No Air" sang by Jordan Sparks). It's really smooth and the melody is really nice.

**DL:** How would you describe your transition album-wise from Chariot to your self titled album Gavin DeGraw?

**GD:** They feel pretty similar. The only difference is that there is a second album. You are touring with another album and you are competing for your prior success. That's really the only difference between the first and the last album. It was a different year and industry from the last album too.

**DL:** Why did it take so long to come out with another album after Chariot, especially

# One Step Closer to Graduation

## The Writing Proficiency Exam

by **Tynisha Scott**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

By the time you all read this, the deadline to apply for graduation will have passed and I, alongside hundreds of other UHD students, will be waiting for the official list of candidates for spring graduation to be posted. However, if you are one of those applicants who has yet to take the Writing Proficiency Exam (WPE), your wait may be more anxious than those who have already seen a "S" listed on their grade history on e-services. According to the UHD Catalog, the WPE is a writing exam designed "to determine if students have retained the language skills learned in their lower-division composition courses, and to ensure that students proceeding to upper-division work possess college-level writing skills." Every student who plans on graduating

from UHD is required to take the WPE in order to be eligible for graduation. Moreover, this exam is supposed to be taken sometime after a student has completed sixty hours, but before they have completed seventy-five hours. Still, many seniors approaching graduation often procrastinate to take the WPE until the beginning of the semester when they plan to graduate. I am one of the many.

Nonetheless, as I was in the midst of jotting my essay response in January I couldn't help but become more and more annoyed that I was only taking this exam to prove that I could write a grammatically correct and coherent set of thoughts. Hadn't I done this numerous times before in my various junior and senior level classes? Why did I suddenly feel as if I was back in high

school taking the TAAS (now TAKS) once again? Why was this exam even a requirement that seems to be seldom enforced until the eve of graduation preparations?

Considering upper level course work often involves a heavy writing component in a variety of forms, the efficacy of the WPE is arguably negated because if one does not demonstrate a strong propensity for effective writing within these courses they typically will not be able to complete the course with a passing grade. While I would greatly prefer that the WPE constraint be omitted from any UHD degree plan altogether, clearly an option such as that is not achieved easily. However when and how this policy should be enforced surely needs to be revised.

The easiest solution would be to have a hold automatically placed on every student's account when they reach sixty credit hours. If a student does not take the WPE within the semester after they become a junior, then the hold will keep them from registering for classes the following semester. Another solution would be to take away the option of when to take the WPE altogether. Since every student is required to take one English literature course within their degree plan, the WPE could be one of the requirements a student must complete before they are allowed to register for any upper-divisional courses within their major. Though neither of these solutions is without complications, the ability to enforce the WPE prerequisite with either of them is much more  
see **WPE** on page 12

# COMICS



## Toilet paper and other disposable paper products decimate forests

### EarthTalk™

From the Editors of E/The Environmental Magazine

According to the nonprofit Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), forests at home and abroad are being destroyed to make toilet paper, facial tissues, paper towels and other disposable paper products. Giant paper producers such as Kimberly-Clark (Scott, Cottonelle, Kleenex and Viva) and Procter & Gamble (Puffs, Charmin and Bounty) are, in the words of NRDC, “forcing the destruction of our continent’s most vibrant forests, and devastating the habitat for countless wildlife species in the process.”

Much of the virgin pulp used by these large manufacturers comes from Canada’s boreal forest. Some 500,000 acres of boreal forest in Ontario and Alberta alone—key habitat for caribou, lynx, wolves and scores of birds—are felled each year to provide pulp for disposable paper. Beyond wildlife concerns, Canada’s boreal forest, which stretches from coast to coast, comprises perhaps the world’s largest terrestrial storehouse of carbon dioxide, so it is critical to keep it intact to help mitigate

global warming.

Kimberly-Clark uses some 1.1 million cubic meters of trees from Canada’s boreal forests each year to produce 465,000 metric tons of pulp. Only 19 percent of the pulp it uses to make home use disposable

paper products comes from recycled sources. Some of its brands, including Kleenex and Scott, contain no recycled content whatsoever. Nor do Procter and Gamble’s Bounty, Charmin or Puffs, says NRDC.

Another issue with tissue (and paper overall)

is the use of chlorine for whitening. Chlorine used in many bleaching processes contributes to the formation of dioxins and furans, chemicals that end up in our air and water and can cause cancer. Safer processes use oxygen compounds and result in paper that is “totally chlorine free,” “process chlorine free” (chlorine free except for recycled fibers that were previously chlorine-bleached) or “elemental chlorine free,” which substitutes safer chlorine dioxide for chlorine.

NRDC and other groups are pressuring the tissue products industry to change its ways, and are working to educate consumers about their options when buying tissue paper products. NRDC’s online “Shopper’s Guide to Home see **Paper** on page 9



Some 500,000 acres of boreal forest in Ontario and Alberta alone - key habitat for caribou, lynx, wolves and scores of birds - are felled each year to provide pulp for toilet paper, paper towels, paper tissues and other disposable household paper products. (Photo by: species snob, courtesy flickr)



# \$5.5 Million Grant to UH For Biomedical Research

Office of the Governor  
RICK PERRY



The grant will boost medical research and the national reputation of the University of Houston

Gov. Rick Perry has announced the state will invest \$5.5 million in the University of Houston to create the world class Institute of Biomedical Research in conjunction with the Methodist Hospital Research Institute, which will house the Texas International Center for Cell Signaling and Nuclear Receptors. The governor also urged the Texas Legislature to continue to appropriate funds to the Texas Emerging Technology Fund (ETF).

“The biomedical industry is one of the largest in our state, and has the potential to greatly improve many Texans’ quality of life with continued research and expansion,” Gov. Perry said. “This world class research team will lead the charge in developing treatments for diseases that plague our citizens and enhance the University of Houston’s presence as a biomedical research institution.”

Gov. Perry is committed to enhancing the quality of Texas’ higher education system and building universities’ research potential through the ETF by attracting world class researchers and their staffs to institutions in the state. This provides

a dynamic environment for graduate and doctorate students, while building a culture of commercialization for research projects.

Jan-Ake Gustafsson of Sweden will serve as director of the center, and will work with longtime research partner Margaret Werner of Sweden and a 10 member support staff from Sweden’s Karolinka Institute. Preliminary research will extend Gustafsson and Werner’s work in the use of nuclear hormone receptors as therapies for an array of diseases.

Initial research has shown that estrogen receptor drugs have potential applications for treatment of breast and uterine cancer in women and prostate cancer in men. Studies have also shown that other nuclear hormone receptors can be used to treat atherosclerosis, type 2 diabetes, Parkinson’s disease, Lou Gehrig’s disease and depression. The center will work to commercialize this research.

The ETF is a \$200 million initiative created by the Texas Legislature in 2005 at the governor’s request and was see **Grant** on page 12

## DeGraw

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since you had enough new songs to start a new album?

**GD:** It took a long time because I released Chariot in 2005. Then later on in 2006 that the album was catching on, I went on tour, took it to other places and put the album to work. After the success of the album I did two years of promotion. Then I was home, took some time off and started writing. I cut almost an entire album with a producer, but the industry was changing so we had to scrap the entire record.

**DL:** There was a video on YouTube about you having a sore throat for a concert in San Francisco and you

actually went outside to apologize for a canceled show as well as staying for autographs. Do you always do that for your shows?

**GD:** I didn’t want to cancel that show. I really couldn’t sing and I tried to make it a point to give my fans attention. I don’t lip-synch, so I am not going to put on a show. I rely on my singing. It’s a live show and I just wish I wasn’t out of it. Of course, I felt really bad. Since a fan is outside, standing in line, spending money on a ticket; money that some necessarily don’t have. I try to put the time in with my fans and it brings good things back.

## Paper

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Tissue Products” offers reams of free advice on which brands to look for—and which to avoid. Marcal is the only household name that NRDC rates high on paper sourcing (100 percent recycled and 40 to 60 percent post-consumer content) and chlorine use (process chlorine-free). Brands ranking highest (up to 80 percent post-consumer content and process-chlorine free) include 365 (the Whole Foods brand), Seventh Generation, Earth First, and Planet, among others. No brands are totally chlorine free.

In general, consumers should seek out brands that specifically tout use of 100 percent recycled materials with a high percentage (40 percent or more) of post-consumer waste, and not just keywords like “green” or “eco” on their labels, which may be misleading. Also, before you even purchase that next roll of disposable paper think about how you can reduce the amount you use in the first place. Paper tissues, towels and napkins, for example, have re-usable options in handkerchiefs and cotton towels and napkins.

# Car Rental Companies Go Green

## EarthTalk™

From the Editors of E/The Environmental Magazine

No doubt, rental car companies large and small have responded to increased consumer demand for fuel efficiency in the last few years by stocking up on gasoline-electric hybrids and other vehicles with better mileage and lower emissions. But whether or not these companies will continue their commitment to fuel efficiency as gas prices fall and consumers begin to look again at bigger cars remains to be seen.

Hertz may have sparked the trend in 2006 when it launched its Green Collection, which includes thousands of fuel efficient cars such as the Toyota Camry, Ford Fusion, Buick LaCrosse and Hyundai Sonata. These models, now available at 50 airport rental locations, average 31 miles per gallon (mpg) on the highway, and most carry the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) SmartWay certification, indicating lower greenhouse gas and other emissions. In June 2007, Hertz bolstered its green offerings significantly by incorporating some 3,400 Toyota Prius hybrids into its American rental fleet.



Rental car companies are offering many more hybrids and other fuel efficient vehicles in response to increased consumer demand for better mileage and lower emissions. **Pictured:** a Hybrid Hyundai Sonata on a Hertz lot in Louisiana. (Photo by: dpriddy, courtesy Flickr)

Meanwhile, other companies are towing the line as well. Avis and its partner Budget offer 2,500 hybrids (Toyota's Prius and Nissan's Altima) for rent in the U.S. And Advantage Rent-a-Car, a smaller but up-and-coming player in the industry, has pledged to turn 100 percent of its rental fleet "green" by 2010.

Not to be outdone, Enterprise—the nation's largest

rental car company with a total fleet of 1.1 million rental vehicles—offers some 440,000 vehicles that get 28 mpg or better in highway driving. Some 5,000 of the total are hybrids (Toyota's Camry and Prius and Ford's Escape SUV), while another 73,000 can run on the ethanol-based biofuel or on regular gas. Customers of Enterprise (or one of its sister brands, Alamo or National)

can also opt to pay an extra \$1.25 per rental to offset their carbon emissions. (Funds go to Terra Pass, which funds clean energy projects.) And last year the company opened several new "green branches" where 60 percent of the vehicles for rent are hybrids or other fuel efficient models.

Of course, green car rentals do come with a premium. Renting a hybrid typically costs

\$5 to \$15 more per day than an equivalent conventional car. In a recent comparison on overall costs (including gas expenses), SmarterTravel.com's Sarah Pascarella figured that a two-day trip from San Francisco to Yosemite National Park was \$55 cheaper in one of Hertz's Hyundai Accent economy cars than in a hybrid Prius from their Green Collection. Comparisons with vehicles from Avis and others yielded similar results. "I found choosing an economy car over a hybrid was often the more economical choice," she reports.

In order to encourage greener rentals despite the cost premium, San Francisco International Airport now offers travelers a \$15 credit if they rent a hybrid from any of the companies operating there. Elsewhere, in-town rental locations usually offer better deals on hybrids, although customers should still expect to pay a premium for renting green no matter where they are—at least until both supply and demand for such vehicles rises, which will inevitably lead to price reductions.

## Students

Continued from page 3

familiar face? I started to feel myself getting excited and emotional. Who was going to be there sitting next to me and share that experience?

It was getting closer and closer to the moment when Obama would be making his way out in front of the United States Capitol to be sworn in. More students and staff started to pour into the auditorium and the place started to get filled up. Their eyes would wander all over in search for a seat and whispers of "excuse me" would be heard as they tried making their way into the isles.

After Joe Biden was sworn in as Vice President of the United States, a musical selection by John Williams composer/arranger played. The piece was, "Air and Simple Gifts." I thought I was watching angels perform as Yo-Yo Ma, Gabriela Montero, Anthony McGill, and Itzhak Perlman played with a feverish passion. My eyes were already brimming with tears.

Then, the moment came. Chief Justice of the United States, John G. Roberts, Jr. was introduced to administer the presidential oath and everyone was

asked to stand. Barack Obama stood up and took his place in front of the Chief Justice. The auditorium became filled with excitement as some students and staff stood off their seats. One student in particular went into an excited fury. Then, everything became quiet. Immediately every person took their seats. It was so quiet, that I started to feel my stomach turn into a nervous knot.

And just like that, at 11:05 a.m., about 145 University of Houston- Downtown students and staff witnessed, in the auditorium of the school, President

Barack Hussein Obama become our 44th President of the United States. All of us became wild with excitement. Students were jumping out of their seats. The sounds of clapping joyous hands filled the room. Friends turned to each other and screamed and held each other in happy embraces. I witnessed tears in the eyes of both men and women. I looked around and saw the faces of beautiful students, beautiful Americans, who were smiling. This lasted about a good 10 minutes. It was sheer happiness that filled the room.

# LIFESTYLE

## Tips To Saving Money

### The Easy Way

By Carissa Larson  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Current financial crisis has now been called the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. For the majority of Americans today, the Great Depression almost seems mythical. So we are, at least, aware enough to realize that when we hear the phrase “since the Great Depression...” we know it is time to buckle down. There are ways to cut back during this recession that require little or no effort. Here are a few simple tips and tricks to save you money without too much of a sacrifice.

#### Ditch that Designer Coffee Habit

We all know how much everybody loves Starbucks, but just how much do we love it? Brewing your own coffee at home is much cheaper. Over a 10-year period, switching from designer to do-it-yourself will save you around \$8,000.

#### Stay Fashionable on a Budget

Two words: Resale shops. It may take a bit of digging, but there is a little something out there for everyone in the resale world. You can find the most amazing deals, and at most stores, you can trade in old clothes for new ones. Another way to keep up your appearance on the cheap, is to splurge on just one wardrobe staple. Just make sure it is something that will get put to good use and can be dressed up or dressed down. Investing in one item will make it simple to look like a model on any occasion.

#### Pay Your Bills Online

Quit writing checks to pay bills. Almost every bank offers an online bill payment service now. Not only does it save money for postage, it saves time and you can keep better track of how well you are budgeting your money.



#### Watch Your Cash Spent on Gas

Easily save a bit of gas money by planning ahead and filling up early morning, or late at night, when it is cooler. The lower temperature outside allows you a more densely packed concentration of fuel. Also, do not “top off” more than once; doing so results in the gas sloshing over and out of the tank.

#### Become a Coupon Clipper

Great ads appear in the newspaper every Sunday. They show special sales or clearance sales that certain stores have coupons for. However, if you are not into sitting at home and slowly cutting coupons out of Sunday’s paper, I suggest buying a ‘2009 Houston & Surrounding Areas Entertainment Book’. The entertainment book contains over \$22,800 in savings on groceries, attractions, shopping, movie tickets and more. These can be found at local stores or online. If you choose to buy

online during the whole month of February, the entertainment books are %35 off. Also, if they have mailing lists at stores you frequently shop at, go ahead and sign up. You can receive coupons in the mail or printable coupons at your e-mail address. Plus, certain stores are now accepting competitors’ coupons.

#### Rid Yourself of Addictions

Make 2009 the year you quit smoking. Cigarettes have always burnt a hole in your money, but as the years pass, they get more and more expensive. During 2009, we are expecting another rise in the price of cigarettes. At the current price, a pack-a-day smoker will save about \$1,500 this year alone. On the other hand, if you lack the willpower, you can at least save \$350 this year by switching to a more generic brand.

#### Lower that Electricity Bill

Air conditioning is the single biggest cause of high electric bills in Texas. An average sized unit uses 3500 watts for one hour of use. Compare that to the use of televisions and refrigerators; watching television for one hour only uses 75 watts while leaving the refrigerator door open for one hour uses 350 watts. Raising the thermostat by just a little will save you money. Every degree closer to 78 degrees will save you 3% to 4%. Also, invest in energy efficient light bulbs. They use about 75% less energy than standard light bulbs and last about 10 times as long. Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs will save you at least \$30 in your electricity costs over each bulb’s lifetime.

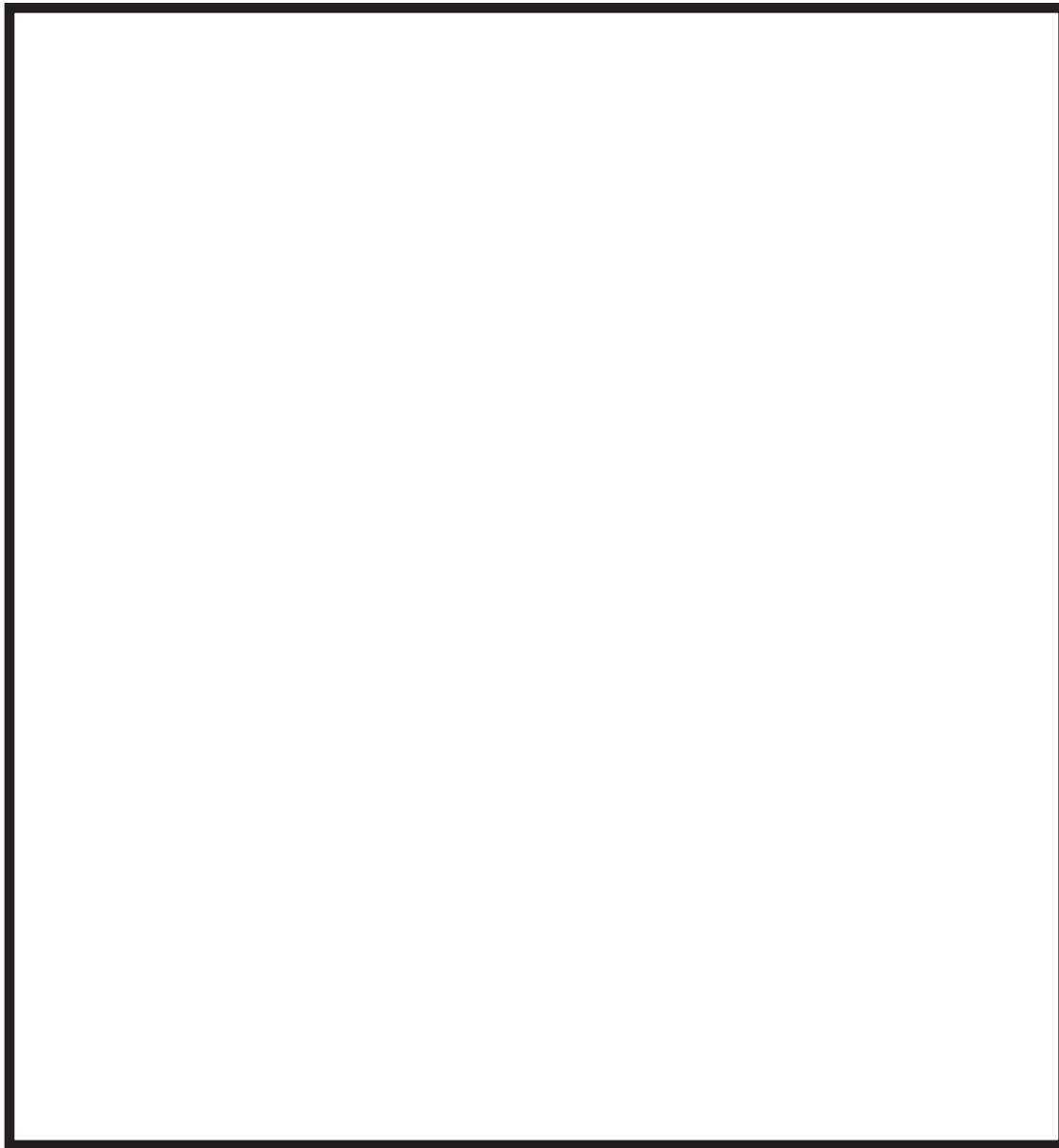
## Refutal

Continued from page 3

on women, or so says Daniel Arp. I beg to differ; in fact, I’d prefer schools to be even more biased and ‘unfair’ so that more women would come to school and get the education that we all need. Not only does Daniel Arp make awful claims on schools, he does so standing on the side of men. Women have been kept out of schools because of social constraints and societal rules that are now being realized as ignorant and completely unfair. And might I point out, white men have always had the top pick. The pyramid of who gets rights first is like this, white men, black people and then women. We’ve had white presidents for hundreds of years. Now we have a black president who had a woman running against him. Look at who won? Because the way things go in history, women get their rights last. Slavery was abolished and then women’s suffrage. We got a black president, not a woman. It doesn’t even matter the political ideals of the candidates. A man took the job, and he also happened to be black.

Are schools being hypocritical in focusing on women, or does it just so happen to be that a man is finding it unfair that he doesn’t have any clubs to call his own? They’re out there, and they can be found. There just happens to be some competition coming from the other (better) gender.

# CLASSIFIEDS



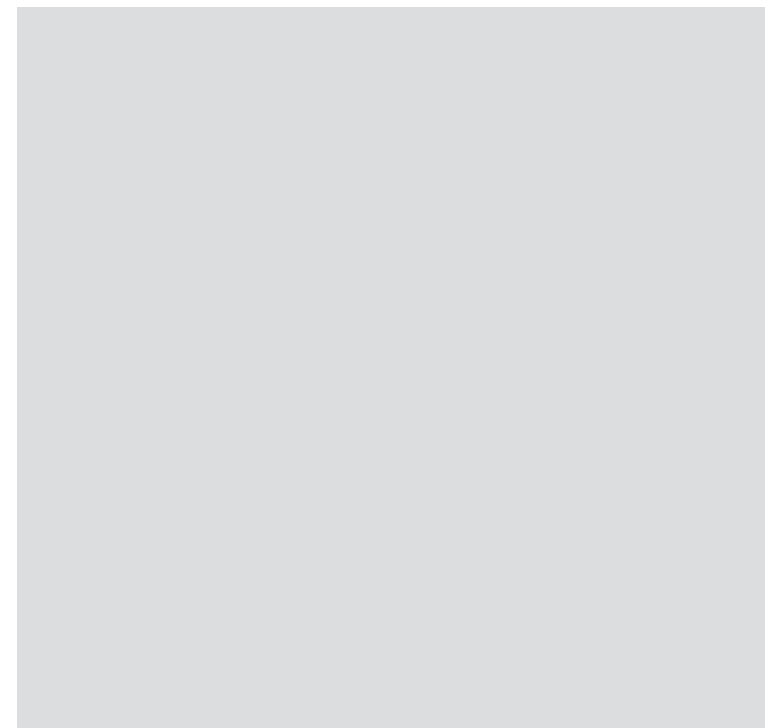
## Degree

Continued from page 5

source of initial employment for our students,” Bates said. The Center will offer scholarships to students with grade point averages of 2.8 or higher. The higher the student’s GPA, the larger the scholarship award.

The first students who sign up for the degree program will have opportunities to access scholarships, shape the insurance and risk management student association, impact course content and interact with industry leaders, he said. Students also will be prepared for a field that offers secure, stable, well-paying jobs.

For more information, email Bates at [cobdean@uhd.edu](mailto:cobdean@uhd.edu) or call his office at 713-221-8179.



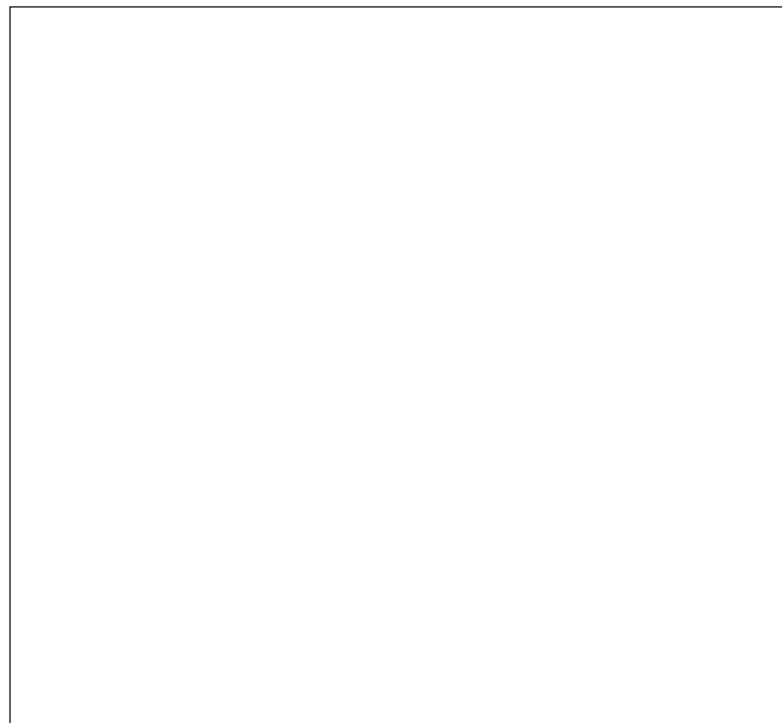
## WPE

Continued from page 5

practical and effectual than the process in current use. In fact, the College of Business has a stipulation in place that prevents students within their college from taking senior level courses until they have passed the WPE.). Minor policy alterations such as this would go a long way in curtailing student frustration and enhancing policy efficacy.

Even so since the WPE is here to stay for the

foreseeable future; I do not recommend pushing the WPE off until the midnight hour. With all the stress that comes with completing your undergraduate degree, why augment it? If you have already completed sixty credit hours and cannot wait to graduate, register for the WPE as soon as possible. For more information about the exam and to register visit <http://www.uhd.edu/admissions/testing/WPE/aboutWPE.htm>.



## Grant

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reauthorized in 2007. A 17-member advisory committee of high-tech leaders, entrepreneurs and research experts reviews potential projects and recommends funding allocations to the governor, lieutenant governor and speaker of the house. To date, the ETF has allocated \$56 million in funds to 16 universities, attracting more than 40 top researchers and their teams to the state and creating more than \$69 million of industry capital investment.