



UHD soccer teams score victoriously

Sports

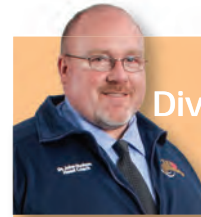
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"keeping an eye for news"

DATELINE DOWNTOWN

THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON - DOWNTOWN
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STUDENT RUN NEWSPAPER SINCE VOLUME ONE
Volume 51 Issue 3

UHD's LGBTQ organization, Safe Zone, honors members



Safe Zone recognized outstanding members in their organization at their first annual Pride Awards ceremony on August 1. The LGBTQ organization has their agenda plan out for the fall 2013 semester and welcomes students to join them.

(Elizabeth Padgett / Dateline Downtown)

Student Clubs

by Elizabeth Padgett
Staff Writer

On August 1, UHD's official LGBTQ student organization, Safe Zone, held their first annual Pride Awards. The ceremony highlighted members' contributions to the LGBTQ community over the past year. Safe Zone President Kristopher Sharp thanked members and attendees for their interest in Safe Zone.

Safe Zone member, Brenda Henderson, presented the awards for the evening. The winners included:

Carmen Guajardo for Best Performance at the 2012 Masquerade Ball.

LaTrina Carter for Outstanding Volun-

ter of the Year Award. ShellyAnn Ramcharan for Ally of the Year Award

Kristopher Sharp for The Stonewall Award and The Pride Award.

Presidential Recognition for outstanding commitment was given to ShellyAnn Ramcharan, Latasha Seward, LaTrina Carter, Heather Strange, and John Franklin.

In Sharp's acceptance speech, he made it clear that these awards are "truly shared with everyone and wouldn't be possible without Safe Zone's support." After the ceremony ended, he took the time to discuss the upcoming fall agenda.

Monday, September 23 is Celebrating Bi-
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World

U.S. and Russia finalize agreement with Syria



(FreedomHouse via flickr / creative commons)

by Alexis Jason Arbiza
Contributing Writer

A cloud of Sarin gas descended upon the town of Ghouta, a Sunni majority suburb of Damascus. Images of dis-

orientation, mass burials and suffering throughout the world depict the aftermath of the barbarous attack on civilians. The Syrian government is believed to have launched a chemical attack on Au-

gust 21, 2013 that killed in excess of 1400 people -- many of them children. The American people are outraged at the thought of chemical warfare and denounce the inhumane attack.

The Obama administration was ambivalent towards the conflict: It sought to employ limited military action to hinder the Syrian governments ability to practice chemical warfare.

Now, however, the rhetoric denouncing chemical warfare and advising forceful entry into the Syrian civil war has

ended. Instead, the western powers have decided to forego military action and now seem to be willing to solve the predicament diplomatically. No more rabble-rousing, the conflict has gone from a tense argument over warfare tactics and strategies, to diplomatic treaties and resolutions.

Britain, France, and the United States are willing to backdown from military action in favor of peaceful Syrian disarmament. The decision to forego military action could lead to the

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Student Health Corner

Do I have the flu?

Flu shots for the 2013-2014 flu season are now available for students, faculty and staff in the UHD Student Health Clinic, 445-S, for \$20.



(noodlesandbeef / flickr via creative commons)

It is often difficult for an individual to decide if they have the flu (influenza) or a common cold (upper respiratory infection). Both illnesses are caused by a virus. The symptoms are similar, but there are differ-

ences between these two annoying illnesses. The most common symptoms of the flu are chills, fever, sore throat, muscle pains, severe headache, coughing, weakness/fatigue and general discomfort. Influenza might also produce nausea and vomiting-particularly in children.

The symptoms of a cold include: stuffy nose followed by a runny nose, sneezing, a sore throat and a cough. In adults and older children, the

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UHD names new Director of the Center for Student Diversity, Equity and Inclusion



(courtesy of uhd.edu)

by **UHD Public Affairs**
via uhd.edu

The University is proud to announce John Hudson, former assistant professor of English at UHD, as the new director of the Center for Student Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

UHD recently created this position as recommended by the Diversity

and Equity Advisory Council, appointed by President Bill Flores in fall 2012. Hudson has served on this committee since its inception, and has played an integral role in the ongoing development of a comprehensive diversity plan for the University.

A champion of equality for all students, Hudson is leading the development of a UHD campus climate survey to gather critical data about students' perceptions of diversity, equity and inclusion on campus. This feedback will be critical to the committee's work in crafting a diversity plan specifically tailored to UHD.

For the past four years, Hudson has served as the chair of the UHD Safe Zone program, which is committed to combatting homophobia and heterosexism on campus. He also has served as faculty advisor for several student LGBT

organizations since 2008, including the current Safe Zone student organization.

"I am honored and excited to assume this important new role at UHD," said Hudson. "I thoroughly enjoy working with students, faculty and staff in creating the most inclusive and welcoming atmosphere possible on our campus. I care deeply about the University's goals for this new position and look forward to enhancing the support and opportunities for all individuals at UHD."

In his new position, Hudson will assess programmatic needs that support diversity and social justice, provide leadership for the Center for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion that fosters a supportive and inclusive environment for all students, and oversee diversity trainings, mentoring, outreach and advocacy. He also will play an active role in the recruitment and

retention of students associated with Center and diversity initiatives and advise Safe Zone and other diversity related student organizations.

"Dr. Hudson's commitment to diversity and the success of all students, regardless of race, gender or sexual orientation, is a tremendous strength for UHD," said Flores. "I am confident that his leadership in this significant position will greatly enhance our diversity initiatives and further extend UHD's reputation as one of the most diverse universities in the nation."

Hudson has served as the head coach of UHD's award-winning powerlifting team since 2007 and recently was a finalist for the 2012-2013 Excellence in Service faculty award.

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Syria

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adoption of a resolution in the coming weeks. A recent United Nations report on chemical weapons reveals that the Syrian government most likely launched the attacks and is therefore responsible for the atrocity. Many agree, but Russia believes that the report is biased. In many instances, it is quite clear that the Syrian government is responsible for the attack, but some claim that there is still not enough evidence to justify military action. The internal dissension between Russia and other powers may lead to discord, but this is nothing than a minor problem. Recent developments all lead to a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

According to the Guardian.com, Syria has agreed to sign an international chemical weapons treaty and make manifest a list of its chemical weapons arsenal. President Bashar-al-Assad has agreed to cooperate with the effort of resolution, if and only if, the US and other powers desist from threatening military action in Syria. No country would willingly disarm if

there were the threat of military action looming against it. According to the Guardian.com, Russia plans to work with Assad and the UN to construct a disarmament plan that includes no use of force.

For now, military strikes have been avoided, but there is much more to be done in order to quell the instability in the Middle East. This will be an arduous and lengthy diplomatic endeavor, but it seems the

conflict will be soon resolved. There is a responsibility among governments to care for the needy and abused. The Syrian people have been abused, slaughtered and deprived of the necessities of life. Diplomatic problems should not take precedent over human rights and safety. According to the Independent.com; UK, Kuwait and the US have given a considerable amount of financial assistance to aid humanitarian

efforts in Syria. Many other powers lag far behind. This conflict is not only a conflict of diplomatic importance, all must remember that human lives are being lost at appalling rates. While talks of disarmament and resolution are running rampant, actions of relief and support should ensue.



(FreedomHouse / flickr via creative commons)

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New anti-abortion law brings changes to Texas



(flickr via creative commons)

by **Jessica Hernando**
Staff Reporter

Texas abortion clinics are getting ready to close down due to strict regulations of a new state law regarding abortion. Two clinics have already shut down this year. Four clinics in Bryan, Harlingen, San Angel and Midland announced they will be shutting down as well.

The anti-abortion bill was passed by the Texas House and Senate this past July, and was approved by Governor Rick Perry later that month. The newly passed law bans abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy,

limits access to abortion-induced medication, and requires clinic doctors to gain admitting privileges to a local hospital.

The law also calls for clinics to meet surgical facility standards, which only five of the 42 clinics in Texas meet. Even though the rest of the clinics have until September of next year to conform to these standards, many clinics claim the request is impractical and unaffordable.

These abortion regulations are seen as some of the toughest in the country. Democratic opponents believe that the bill will not last, see-

ing that similar attempted restrictions in other states have either been legally challenged or blocked by state courts.

While Republicans continually state that these changes are meant to protect women's health, Democrats conflictly argue that the law limits women's health care, making it a lot harder for women to obtain safe and sterile abortion procedures.

Supporters of the law believe they are protecting not only the woman's health, but the health of the unborn baby as well, by ensuring quality care and forc-

ing abortion clinics to upgrade their facilities. President of the Texans for Life Coalition, Kylee Wright stated, "We believe very much that the standards are reasonable, they're intended to provide a necessary step to protect women, and we're not sorry."

On the other hand, opponents see this law as unconstitutional. Democrat Senator Kirk Watson stated these restrictions are "as extreme as any in the nation" and that the measures about protecting women's health are "bogus and hypocritical."

Opponents believe that legal restrictions on abortion do not affect its occurrence. Seeing that this law will practically ban most abortion opportunities in the state, many Democrats and pro-choice activists are afraid that women will resort to desperate measures of unsafe, illegal abortions. These "back-alley" abortions pose a great health risk and high mortality rate for women as seen decades ago, before the infamous Roe vs. Wade case.

The favorable and most apparent out-

come of this law, is a decrease in Texan abortion rates which will directly lead to an increase of Texas population. On the downside, an increase of unwanted pregnancies brought to term means that there will also be an increase of unwanted babies. As a result, foster care and adoptions centers will be in higher demand for occupation and resources.

The question that still stands is if there's a way to solve the abortion problem that would satisfy both pro-choice and pro-life activists? Let's take a look at these numbers:

In 2009, 77,152 babies were aborted in Texas, 31.7 percent were white babies, and 63.1 percent were Black and Hispanic babies. A recent survey estimated that about 70 percent of women, who have abortions, are economically disadvantaged. In a study conducted by The Alan Guttmacher Institute, women were asked their reason for abortion and one of the top three answers was, "can't afford baby now."

According to these statistics, the solution to the abortion prob-

lem may not be closing down clinics but in fact, providing more money to women. If the Texas government does not want women having abortions, a set amount of money should be provided to women so they will be able to healthily carry out their pregnancies and take care of their babies.

An alternate solution, stressed by Texas Right to Life and NARAL Pro-Choice Texas organizations, is sex education. Education about safe sex, STD's, and contraception to both males and females, especially in poorer communities, can significantly reduce the numbers of unwanted pregnancies. If more money was invested in education and resources, abortion would cease to be an issue.

While many believe that this law will bring good to the future of Texas, others believe that it will be the cause of Texas's downfall. Despite the conflicting opinions, abortion continues to be a pressing issue in today especially with the passage of this new law in Texas.

News briefs: shooting in DC, Colorado flooding and Costa Concordia



(media.nbcwashington.com)

via [uwire.com](#)

Shooting at DC Navy Yard leaves 12 dead

A mass shooting Monday at the Washington Navy Yard, left 12 dead and approximately 14 wounded. The suspect, 34-year-old

Aaron Alexis, a military contractor, was also killed. Washington police said they were confident the shooter had acted alone.

The shooting began at 8:20 a.m. in the southeast Washington

facility, which serves as a ceremonial and administrative facility for the Navy. Law enforcement officials said Alexis, a former petty officer in the Navy who was discharged following what CNN called "a pattern of mis-

conduct," was armed with an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle, another rifle and a Glock handgun.

Late Monday night, CNN announced that seven of the 12 victims' names had been released. They were all described as civilians or contractors.

The attack led to increased security at the Pentagon and caused at least eight schools in the area to lock down. Air traffic into Reagan National Airport nearby in Virginia was also suspended, and a Washington Nationals baseball game was postponed.

Death toll climbs to eight in Colorado flooding

Hundreds of people re-

main missing in Colorado after a week of torrential rain in the eastern Rocky Mountains caused widespread flooding, according to Fox News. The search for survivors continued Monday after more rain over the weekend held up rescue efforts.

Fox said the majority of the missing are from Boulder and Larimer counties north of Denver, which consist largely of remote, private residences that are difficult to access even under ordinary circumstances. However, the flooding has impacted more than a dozen Colorado counties, and damaged or destroyed an estimated 19,000 homes.

Costa Concordia dragged upright 20 months after wreck

A team of engineers succeeded in hauling the cruise ship Costa Concordia upright, well over a year after the ship capsized off the Italian island of Giglio, killing 32. According to the BBC, the operation, which used cables and metal boxes filled with water to roll the ship onto a platform, took all day Monday and went into the early hours of Tuesday local time.

The ship weighed 114,000 tons, more than twice the weight of the Titanic, and stretched to 951 feet long. Such an operation had never been attempted by engineers before.

First apartment? No problem!



(Milestone Management via Flickr/creative commons)

by **Desiaire Rickman**
via uloop.com

Let's be honest here. It's never easy trying to rent your first apartment, especially if you're a college student on a set budget.

Housing isn't cheap when it comes to living near campus, but taking that leap to move away from the dorms can be beneficial for you in the future. Getting your first lease and truly living as a growing adult will not only increase your independence, teach you how to live on a budget and make you become

responsible about paying your monthly debts, but it will also build your rental history. Having rental history will in turn make it easier to rent other apartments or buy your own home.

Selecting your first apartment is sure to be a nerve-wracking and time-consuming process, but having the right information can get you on the right track to your new, off-campus home. Step-by-step instructions for first-time renters from ArtOfManliness.com will help guide college students on their search.

"Figure out how

much you can afford." Before even starting your search for available apartments, know your budget and what your monthly expenses will be. Besides rent, you're paying for utilities, food, furniture and other expenses that must be met to uphold an apartment.

"Create criteria for your ideal apartment." What do you want out of your first apartment? Do you want to live by yourself or with others? Should you rent an apartment or house? Will your apartment come with appliances, or will you have to furnish it yourself? Do

you want to live in an urban or suburban community? How far are you away from retail stores? What's the crime level of the community that you chose?

All of these questions and many more have to be examined and evaluated. This will help narrow down the apartments you start to check out.

"Identify potential apartments." The fastest and easiest way to search for apartments is on the internet. Thousands of apartment listings are online and can be narrowed down based on your preferences. Craigslist.com, apartmentguide.com and rent.com are all great websites to visit. Ohio State even has its own website, off-campus.osu.edu, for all of the realty properties surrounding campus.

"Make a good first impression when visiting prospective rentals." Just as you are inspecting the landlord and the apartment, the landlord is checking you out as well. "They want to make sure the people they rent to are reliable, courteous and easy to get along with," according to ArtOfManliness.com.

"Check for problems." While touring the rental, be on the lookout for any and all things that may require fixing or replacing. If you're not careful, you may end up paying for them in the future.

"Ask questions." This is very important. Don't shy away from ask-

ing about the property. Firmly, but politely, ask any and all questions that you have before, during and after the tour. Red flags should fly if the landlord can't give you a straight answer on most of the questions.

"Ask current tenants about their experience." If you run into current residents of the rental you're viewing, don't be afraid to stop them and ask them questions about the property, the landlord, the neighbors, and the community. They will be able to give you a more in-depth analysis of the area than the landlord.

"Check your credit history before submitting a rental application." ArtOfManliness.com recommends that you get a free credit report from AnnualCreditReport.com because landlords will check your credit history. Correcting any mistakes on your credit report will enhance your chances of getting the apartment.

"Be ready to pay a rental application fee." According to ArtOfManliness.com, most application fees are \$20-\$30 to cover the cost of the credit check.

"Have a list of references ready." Most landlords will want references to validate your information, so have a list prepared.

"Have enough money in your checking account to cover the security deposit and first month's rent." Both payments are normally re-

quired at the signing of the lease, so be sure to have the amount ready to go at signing.

"Read the lease or rental agreement before signing." Never sign a contract before reading it. Understand the terms and conditions and ask questions about anything you don't see or don't understand.

The difference between a lease and a rental agreement is time. Understand which document you are signing because it will determine if you're renting month-to-month or leasing for a year.

ArtOfManliness.com also recommends that you inspect the apartment before leasing (remember that tip from earlier?) and to get renter's insurance. "Renter's insurance covers any loss to your personal property due to robbery or accidents."

Finally, know your rights and responsibilities as a renter. You have a right to privacy and a right to live in a safe and habitable place. You are also responsible for keeping the apartment clean, safe and in good repair. If you don't honor those responsibilities, be ready to reimburse the landlord for any damages you cause.

If you're responsible and decide to move out at the end of your lease, you will be able to get back the security deposit you had to pay at the signing of your lease.

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Tattoos: Body Art or “Tramp” Stamp

by Dana Ayres
Staff Editorial

Theresa Vail won the state title of Miss Kansas and was moving to the next step of vying to become Miss America.

During the Miss Kansas pageant, she displayed a tattoo on her right rib cage—the Serenity Prayer—in the swimsuit competition. To be honest, I didn’t even notice the tattoo, until it was pointed out. Perhaps the media attention to the issue raises the question of how far our cultural institutions in America have to go in order to catch up with the

popular “norms.”

I’m desensitized to the whole “tattoo” thing. To me, it’s no big deal. Judges questioned her personality; however, she appeared to be a highly intelligent, talented, and high-functioning individual. She is also spiritual—hence, the tattoo. She has another tattoo on her shoulder—a military medical insignia. Currently, her major goal is to enter dental school. I was impressed, not with the tattoos, but what the tattoos represent. The images are a reflection of who she is and what she stands for.

To some de-



(flickr via creative commons)

gree, the fact that the Serenity Prayer was her chosen tattoo may have helped her chances to win the state title. Perhaps if her tattoo had been something vulgar or gothic, she wouldn’t have won, much less gotten to compete. The only way, the public will ever know if body art really matters is if someone like Miss Vail shows up with a dragon tattoo or a heart shaped tattoo plastered right above her gluteus maximus.

The criticism about the tattoo was just to get people talking. Wonderful strides were made in the 1980s and

1990s with the African-American winners, like Vanessa Williams and Suzette Charles, and the recently crowned Miss America, Nina Davuluri, of Indian decent. Yet, being fair and objective means more than just throwing out a bone ever so often. It seems as though the Miss America institution is a steel ceiling that the deciders crack open occasionally to let out some steam. I think that Miss Vail, had she won, would’ve made a fine Miss America, tattoos and all.

Do you agree or disagree? We want to know -- gives us your two cents about this topic. Email us at datelinedowntownweb@yahoo.com. Please refer to the “Submission Policy” on page two before sending us your response.

We are watching and will prosecute illegal dumpers



courtesy of Annise Parker

by Mayor Annise Parker
City of Houston

The City of Houston is beginning a pilot project to catch those responsible for illegal dumping. Funding for the project, approximately \$250,000 was provided by a budget amendment presented by District B Council Member Jerry Davis. Five surveillance cameras have been placed at undisclosed locations in Davis’ northeast Houston City Council district. If the program is successful, another 20 to 25 cameras will be purchased. Illegal dumping shows disrespect for our neigh-

borhoods. Residents are tired of it and should not have to tolerate it any longer. This puts everyone on notice that we are watching, we will catch you and we will prosecute you. The exact locations of the cameras will NOT be made public. During the three-month pilot project, Houston Police Department’s Environmental Investigations Unit (EIU) will monitor and maintain all activity captured by the cameras. When signs of illegal dumping are observed, EIU will send the information to HPD’s North or Northeast Divisions for follow-up. It is estimated 50 to 80 cases will be generated each month. Contract the city’s Solid Waste Department of the illegal dumping site and request that they make a special pick up. HPD will be compiling the following information:

- Number of violations
 - Number of people involved
 - Types of arrests and charges
 - Types of trash being dumped (garbage, tree trimmings, furniture, tires, etc.)
 - Pounds, volume, or cubic feet of items dumped
 - Interviews with the suspects to determine why they dumped at this location, have they dumped before, and do they know about the COH sites for legal elimination of items
- The above information will help in deciding whether or not the program should be expanded. The City of Houston offers monthly heavy trash collection and operates several drop-off facilities so there is no excuse for dumping in our neighborhoods. Information about the heavy trash collection schedule for you neighborhood is available at the 311 helpline. 311 is also the place to call to report illegal dumping.

Background checks aimed at mentally ill Americans



(wikipedia via creative commons)

by Stephanie Claybourn
Staff Editorial

There has been talk about changing the mental health requirements on background checks for purchasing firearms. U.S News reported that Senator Joe Manchin (D-Va.) said he supports rehabilitating people with mental illness, but feels “...that people who are not rehabilitated should not, because of their past record, be able to purchase a gun through a commercial sale.” However, a bad thing happening

doesn’t justify doing more bad things to the innocent.

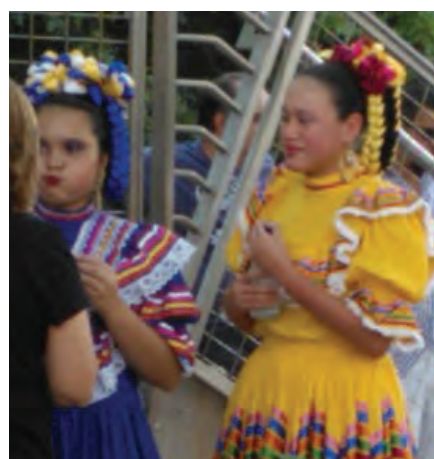
The problem with tying anything to a person’s mental health is that many American’s aren’t mentally healthy. ADD, ADHD, depression, schizophrenia and anxiety are commonplace in society today. The CDC even “... recommends increased efforts to monitor mental illness and anxiety disorders” in a U.S Adult Mental Illness Surveillance Report that can be found on cdc.gov. The first problem with changing background checks is that most mental health diagnoses are based on the presence of multiple indicators. There isn’t an easy way to identify an ill person, or to tell how ill they are. Second, why would a person who needed help ever come forward if they

will lose some of their rights and privileges? Will going to counseling, which is considered a mental health service by insurance companies even if you aren’t being medicated, keep you from being able to purchase a gun? What about women with Post-Partum Depression? What about people with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder? If those people are unable to purchase a firearm for recreation or protection, they will become more ostracized and stigmatized than they are now. Those people affected become the legal equivalent of babies, unable to avoid harming themselves or others.

Making the decision to seek help and commit to it is a difficult and highly personal one. Penalizing someone for it will only make it harder, and it won’t stop bad things from happening.

Do you agree or disagree? We want to know -- gives us your two cents about this topic. Email us at datelinedowntownweb@yahoo.com. Please refer to the “Submission Policy” on page two before sending us your response.

Latin Fest kickstarts Hispanic Heritage Month



(Stephanie Claybourn / Dateline Downtown)

by **Stephanie Claybourn**
Staff Writer

To kick start the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, Jone's Plaza hosted the Second Annual Latin Fest September 8. The first Hispanic Heritage observation began as a week-long celebration in 1960. However, President Ronald Reagan enacted a law on August 17, 1988 to cover a 30 day period between September 15 through October 15 of each year, to celebrate the contributions and presence of Hispanic and Latin America cultures in the United States.

The terms, Hispanic and Latino, not only encompasses the countries of Mexico and Spain, but also includes tropical islands like Cuba and Puerto Rico. Hispanic Heritage month also celebrates the countries of Central and South America including Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Chile.

"It is good to unite the different groups, but I don't want to see all Hispanic and Latin cultures homogenized. All Latin countries have distinct cul-

tures and customs. The language context changes depending on the country. All those differences deserve respect," said Aeloheim Balthrop, a student at UHD that has close ties to the culture of Mexico through his mother.

The Latin Festival united all Latin cultures and gave each culture the chance to experience one another through music, art and food. The entertainment lineup included dance groups from Bolivia, Panama, Brazil, and Mexico. In between the dance performances and musical acts, spectators took a chance to their creative side painting ceramic figurines.

Eric Edwards, president of the Latin Fest Committee confirmed the preparations for next year's Latin Fest. "We don't have the line up of performers yet, but we do have a location. Latin Fest 2014 will be hosted at City Hall, instead of Jone's Plaza," stated Edwards.

UHD will also be hosting a series of events honoring the Hispanic-Latino Culture. The events will show films that depict the unique history of various Latin countries.

Films in room N420:

- Haiti & the Dominican Republic: An Island Divided -Thursday, Sept. 26, 11:00 a.m. to noon
- Cuba: the Next Revolution - Thursday, Sept. 26, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m.
- Brazil: A Racial Paradise - Tuesday, Oct. 1, 11 a.m. to noon
- Mexico & Peru: A Hidden Race Tuesday, Oct. 1, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m.
- Brown is the New Green: George Lopez and the American Dream

Thursday, Oct. 3, 11 a.m. to noon

- The Core Ensemble will present at the Cullen Robertson Auditorium, October 3 from 7:00 -9:00 p.m.
- To fully indulge in the Latin culture, a Salsa and Bachata night is scheduled for October 10, 6:00 -10:00 p.m.
- A forum discussing the Dream Act closes the 30 day period of the Hispanic Heritage Month, October 15 from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Saxon and Fozzy: The Sacrifice and Sin Tour

by **Juan A. Hernandez**
Staff Writer

On 28 September, New Wave of British Heavy Metal pioneers Saxon will play a headline show at the House of Blues featuring one of heavy metal's most energetic bands to ever set foot on a concert stage, Fozzy. This eclectic pairing of bands will definitely give people their money's worth, a trend that most bands have been following for the past few years due to the music business' current financial state. Dubbed the "Sacrifice and Sin" Tour, both bands will be supporting their latest albums; with Saxon promoting "Sacrifice," released last March, and Fozzy with "Sin and Bones," released last year.

Saxon has been performing all over the world for more than 30 years since 1976. With 20 studio albums under their belt, they are highly regarded as one of the pioneers of the New Wave of British Heavy Metal scene that emerged from Europe in the late 1970s. Even though Saxon has always had a tough time charting very high in the US charts, their influence is arguably one of the most important factors in devel-

oping major heavy metal acts such as Metallica and Megadeth.

Led by front man Biff Byford, songs such as "Motorcycle Man," "Wheels of Steel," "Heavy Metal Thunder," "Denim and Leather," "Crusader," "Sacrifice," and "Made in Belfast" truly separate Saxon from every other heavy metal band and put them in a category of their own. Never fallen victim to trends in music, Saxon successfully re-emerged in the heavy metal scene with new material in "Call to Arms" from 2011, and "Sacrifice" earlier this year; both received with critical acclaim.

A headline act is not complete without an amazing supporting act, and Fozzy is the perfect fit for that bill. Formed in 1999, Fozzy is led by lead singer/WWE professional wrestler Chris Jericho, guitarist Rich Ward and drummer Frank Fontsero from pioneering rap metal Stuck Mojo, bass player Paul DiLeo from Adrenaline Mob, and guitarist Billy Grey from Dangerous New Machine. Most people might know about Fozzy due to Chris Jericho's popularity in the WWE, but the band has attained critical acclaim in the heavy metal scene in the last few years. What



(wikimedia via creative commons)

was once viewed as a part-time job for full-time wrestler Chris Jericho, is now seen as a full-time band, and has Jericho wrestling only part-time.

Jericho and Ward are one of the many perfect pairings that a band could ever have, and are almost reminiscent to a heavy metal version of John Lennon and Paul McCartney. Whether you listen to "Enemy," "All That Remains," "God Pounds His Nails," "Let the Madness Begin," "Spider in my Mouth," and "Sandpaper," Fozzy is always pushing

the boundaries to deliver the goods, and never accept any limitations. Diversity is what makes a band obtain quality, and Fozzy continues to deliver perfect quality.

Do not miss your opportunity to see both bands perform live, because bills like these do not come around too often. With both bands playing old and new material, it is one of the most unique pairings that a touring bill has had to date.

UHD soccer teams defeats HCC

The UHD women's soccer club beat Houston Community College-Northwest, 2-0, on Sept. 14 at Bayland Park (UHD's "home-field" located in southwest Houston) while UHD's male soccer team defeats HCC-NW male counterparts, 8-0.



Gator Daniela Solache scores the season's first goal in a 2-0 win over Houston Community College-Northwest on Sept. 14



UHD's Diana Ramirez takes a shot on goal.



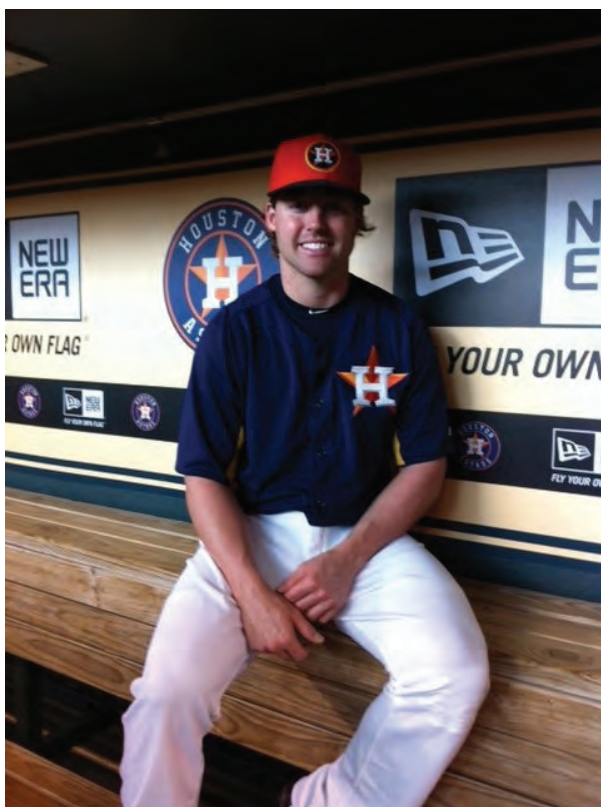
UHD's Andy Andrade with a spectacular bicycle-kick shot on goal.



Gator Medardo Ayala scoring one of his two goals in a 8-0 win over Houston Community College-Northwest on Sept. 14

(photos courtesy of UHD Sports and Fitness)

Q&A with Astros infielder, Jake Elmore



(Vanessa Olivares / Dateline Downtown)

by Vanessa Olivares
Staff Writer

On August 19, we were able to interview Astros infielder, Jake Elmore who became the fourteenth player to both pitch and catch in the same game during the Rangers versus Astros game, winning 16-5.

Born in Pleasant Grove Alabama, Elmore played college baseball at Arizona State. Elmore debuted with the Arizona Diamondbacks in 2012, where the Diamondbacks claimed him off waivers and was chosen by the Astros for 2013.

Jake Elmore replaced Carlos Corporan, who suffered a concussion from a foul ball during the third inning of the game. Elmer played

2013 NFL Season Begins but Houstonians have more to be excited about



Football fans are excited for the new season of the NFL, and Texans fans have more to be excited about, as Houston is only four years away from hosting Super Bowl LI.

(Louie Galvez / Dateline Downtown)

by Juan A. Hernandez
Staff Writer

Football season is finally here, and that means Sundays are once again welcomed with tailgating, barbecuing, and rooting for your favorite team. The 2013

NFL is one of the most anticipated sports each year and key teams are showcased with one goal in mind: Super Bowl XLVIII. Last year, we saw one of the most exciting playoff games in recent history, with the Hous-

ton Texans reaching the divisional playoffs, before being eliminated by the New England Patriots. The Baltimore Ravens stunned the San Francisco 49ers and beat them in an amazing comeback game crowning them as Super Bowl

Bible stories inspires Jace Everett's new album



(hearthetrack.com)

by **Stephanie Claybourn**
Staff Writer

Jace Everett's decision to turn to the Bible for inspiration is reflected in his new album, titled *Terra Rossa*. Jace Everett will be performing at the Armadillo Palace on Kirby Drive September 27 and releasing the album October 29.

New and even longtime fans of the True Blood theme song singer, Jace Everett, might find focusing on the Bible a bit jarring, but Everett doesn't share that opinion. "The Bible is both inspiring and infuriating, so it makes for some great material; particularly the Old Testament [which] is

pervasive with sexuality, darkness, and violence" stated Everett.

The album does not mean to offend Christians or the deeply spiritual, but rather to present the artist's personal views derived from experience, psychological makeup and personal belief. *Terra Rossa* focuses on 11 distinct stories from the Bible. These stories touch the sensitive subjects of creation, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Jonah and the Whale, and the role of Judas Iscariot.

Throughout *Terra Rossa*, themes of guilt and innocence, sexuality and the state of the Church in the modern world, are discussed. The tracks of

the album hope to raise awareness on the different point of views regarding religion. Listeners can expect confusion at the idea of comparing the lyrics of the track with one's personal belief.

There is the possibility that a personal revelation will happen.

Besides the controversial subjects of the tracks, different genres of music flow throughout the album. No two songs are done in the same style. Known for his ability to hop from one genre to another, Everett is aware how hard it is to identify his music style. However, he describes his unidentifiable identity as a positive mixture of

"Texan rock music, with a bluesy voice that adheres to pretty traditional song crafting," and you can't be from Texas without a country element. As frustrating as that can be for those who need identifiable genres, it adds a layer of complexity that can have a listener focusing on why a particular style was used to compliment the lyrical content of a song.

The imagination and personal expression found in *Terra Rossa*, hopes to take fans on an exploratory trip to discover spiritual awareness and the contrasting opinions.

Elmore continued from page 7

a catcher in the fourth inning and then pitched in the eighth inning. Elmore became the first player to play all nine positions in one season. When asked about his feelings regarding this unique recognition, he stated, "I think when any player plays out of position, it's always fun to watch and see what happens."

A complete transcript of the interview is below.

Vanessa: Did you fully expect the trade to sign up with the Astros? When was the final decision made in the process to sign with Astros?

Jake Elmore: I was with the Diamondback of last year and they placed me on waiver, where any ML can pick. The Astros automatically chose me to sign with them.

V: How did you feel when you were moving to Houston?

J: It feels great anytime when you're on the triple A and you have been called. It's an experience and over exciting and enjoying time here.

V: What do you think

about Houston?

J: I really like it and there is a lot of people to meet. It's a very entertaining city with a lot of places to eat and to check out.

V: Who was your favorite baseball player growing up?

J: Chipper Jones, I'm a big Atlanta Braves fan, he was an idol of mine as a child.

V: What are your proudest accomplishment on the baseball field?

J: making the big league as the cornerstone of your career. Pitching and catching in the same game was very interesting and joyful. Unprofessionally, I won Junior College World Series and won the Big Stick Award for the highest batting average of the World Series.

V: What do you consider to be your greatest baseball skill(s)?

J: my best aspect is hitting

V: What do you do for fun when not playing baseball?

J: I really enjoy going by the pool, hanging out at the movies, and playing golf. I also love traveling and I'm going to Hawaii this year and also live in Arizona.

V: If you could send out a message to UHD students what would it be?

J: I will say that the Astros will be back, we have a young team, playing well and a bright future for the young players in our team. And continue to support us and it will pay off down the road.



(lukebox.files.wordpress.com)

NFL Season continue from page 7

champions. This year, however, things are looking to be more interesting and filled with more excitement.

Washington Redskins quarterback and 2012 Rookie of the Year Robert Griffin III (RG3) was one of the league's hottest players last year, but his momentum was cut short due to an ACL and LCL injuries that he suffered on his right knee at the end of last year's season. 2013 will be a slow start for RG3 who is anxiously awaiting a comeback.

2012 featured the release of Peyton Manning from the Indianapolis Colts and initiated the Andrew Luck era. A Stanford University graduate, Luck was drafted to the Colts and had some really big shoes to fill. Luck showed no intimidation from what Peyton Manning had laid the foundation to and proved to be a major asset to the team as a star quarterback. This season, Luck hopes to lead his team to the playoffs, reeling from last year's defeat by the Ravens that denied them a playoff spot.

Peyton Manning's release from the Colts led him to signing with the Denver Broncos,



(logospictures.blogspot.com)

and managed to get the team a spot in the playoffs. The Ravens however, were the ones that eliminated the Broncos from the playoffs. Manning will definitely be a key player in leading the Broncos to another playoff run.

The New York Jets might be the only hyped up team that has already failed to prove themselves worthy in the league, thanks to Coach Rex Ryan's unnecessary dramatics that he delved in with quarterbacks Tim Tebow and Mark Sanchez last year. By releasing Tim Tebow and putting in Mark Sanchez to play when it wasn't necessary, Rex Ryan cost the team in the end because of a shoulder injury that Sanchez suffered. Realizing the mistakes that Ryan made last year, he still failed to make his team improve in the

2013 pre-season. With Ryan worried about winning a game that doesn't count, the Jets will be a disaster by the start of the season.

The New England Patriots, Dallas Cowboys and Houston Texans have a very high chance of making the Super Bowl this year. The Patriots have Tom Brady, one of the best quarterbacks of all time, the Cowboys were able to get it together after missing out of the playoffs too long, and the Texans for showing major improvement and landing a playoff spot for two years in a row.

If, by any chance, the Texans do not make the Super Bowl this year, Houston will have a chance to experience the Super Bowl by hosting it in 2017. The last time that Houston hosted a Super Bowl was in 2004, where the Patriots defeated the Panthers and also featured the Janet Jackson halftime show controversy. The latest renovations at Reliant Stadium will make for a great Super Bowl experience, and the city's economy will ultimately benefit by attracting millions of people from around the world.

Revolution, revolt and reform in North Africa

Dr. Ricardo Rene Laremont addressed a standing crowd of students, faculty, and staff on the causes and effects of the revolutionary movement in the Arab world.



(Theodore Shull / Dateline Downtown)



Professor Alvarez of UHD & Dr. Ricardo Larémont on September 12, 2013

(Theodore Shull / Dateline Downtown)

By Theodore Shull
Staff Reporter

Dr. Ricardo René Larémont, professor of Political Science and Sociology at SUNY Binghamton and a Carnegie Corporation Scholar on Islam, delivered an intriguing perspective in speech Sept. 12, to UHD

students and faculty addressing the Revolution, Revolt and Reform movement in North Africa.

He began his speech with a description of the causes and effects of a movement that began with one young man in South-Central Tunisia, rapidly expanding to North Africa and the

Middle-East. The result of this movement ended the long decades of oppressive regimes in three countries. Regimes, that according to Dr. Larémont, represented an “architecture of authoritarianism sustained by the United States since the Iranian Revolution.”

From the first signs of discontent in December 2010 until Tunisian President Zine Ben Ali fled Tunisia in a jet bound for Saudi Arabia in 2011, the White House issued no public statements about the movement unfolding in Tunisia.

Young people from Egypt, Libya, Bahrain, Yemen and Saudi Arabia joined with Tunisia proclaiming, in an Arabic expression, “leave, it’s time for you to go”. Leaders of the United States were unprepared for the rapidity and momentum of the

movement as it spread across the regions of North Africa through the availability of cell phone technology, social media pages, such as Facebook, and the constant television broadcast of the effects of the movement in the Arab World, particularly the networks of Al-Jazeera and Al Aribiya.

No one in the western world predicted that in January 2011, President Ben Ali would be forced into exile while former president of Egypt, Hosni Mubarak, would be told to step down from power by his own generals, or that Colonel / Leader Muammar Qaddafi would be captured and assassinated by a rebel militia.

Dr. Larémont confirmed his feelings by stating that “in those heady days of 2011, all of us felt as though, finally, the air of liberty had arrived in North Africa.”

When Dr. Larémont was asked by the audience what these events looked like from a historical context, he stated that what was transpiring in 2011 to the present, closely resembles the 1848 European Revolution.

The European Revolution was a movement organized by peasants and workers under the leadership of the Socialist / Communist political parties in the region which spread from Sardinia to Naples, Paris, Vienna and Berlin overturning a series of governments in one short year – very much as in 2011. The participants in the European Revolution sought to gain political rights in addition to better pay and better working conditions. This movement quickly changed the government structure in Europe for a short time because they

were not affiliated with the government’s political party system. Without any justifiable political leadership, they quickly broke apart as the counter-revolution forces returned.

Dr. Larémont speculated that if history were to repeat itself, where status quo governments retake the region, there would be reprisals. Egypt, one of the countries that joined the movement, is now facing reprisals. Members of the Muslim Brotherhood, which played a major role in their revolution and briefly took control of Egypt through elections, were recently arrested.

Dr. Larémont concluded by saying that the recent phenomena in North Africa and the Middle-East “is only a revolt by the youth, and their revolution may never arrive.”

Upper division Humanities and Music courses explore Jazz

by Alicia Callender
Staff Writer

Offered every semester, the Jazz Styles classes cover topics in various styles of jazz, famous figures and influences of jazz. The Jazz Styles courses, taught with enthusiasm, are highly popular and offer valuable insight into music and history for students at UHD.

In the beginning, jazz was influenced by music from the Caribbean and can trace its roots to New Orleans. The main genres of Jazz include traditional, swing, bebop, hard bop, cool, jazz rock fusion, modern, Latin Jazz and contemporary. Drama, in the form of minstrel shows, also influenced Jazz. This musical tradi-

tion continues to be influenced by other genres of music including, blues, bossa nova, rock, classical, rhythm and blues and electronic music. Jazz continues to be present in many areas around the world especially in major European cities such as Paris, Barcelona, and Berlin.

Besides the expected requirements for the course, Professor Robert Wilson likes to complement the topics with concerts and recordings of famous jazz musicians. “I hope to discuss the influence of famous jazz musicians, such as Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald, but I would also like to introduce musicians, such as Esperanza Spalding, that students [are not] familiar



(wikipedia via creative commons)

with,” stated Professor Wilson.

Two students currently enrolled in the jazz styles classes shared their experiences. Carla Cange-mi, an Interdisciplinary Studies major, said “the classes were recommended to me and fulfill the requirements for a humanities elective. After

taking Jazz Styles II, I decided I wanted to enroll in Jazz Styles I.” Her favorite jazz musicians include Charlie Parker and Louis Armstrong.

Tonya Brown, also an Interdisciplinary Studies major, chose the course after a conversation with Professor Wilson in MUS 1303, Reading Music, a

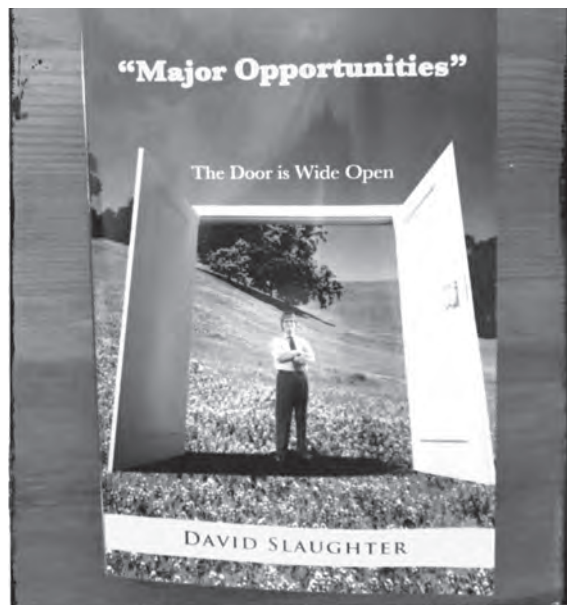
class she took during the summer. “I told him I have always loved jazz music and he recommended the Jazz Styles courses. Overall, I feel that jazz is extremely multicultural and that if you’re not sure you like jazz, you should give it a chance.” Her favorite musicians include Kirk Whalum and Boney James. Both students recommend taking the courses as they both agree that the course is enjoyable, engaging and relatable.

Professor Wilson has experience working with jazz musicians and, with humor, mentions that “many students feel that they cannot find a form of jazz that they like,” but reassures students that “the genre is multifaceted and that every stu-

dent can find something that they enjoy in both classes.”

Students interested in the courses do not have to fulfill any prerequisites, despite conflicting information in the undergraduate catalog. Although the semester has started, the courses are offered regularly.

The courses are cross listed as MUS 3303 and MUS 3304. In addition, students looking for classes in other departments that cover related issues may want to consider courses such as DRA 3309, African American Theater: History and Perspective, MUS 3305, World Music, or MUS 4301, Jazz Heritage, a class offered occasionally, that allows students to travel to New Orleans or Paris.



(Lauriston Brewster / Dateline Downtown)

by Lauriston Brewster
Staff Reporter

University of Houston-Downtown student David Slaughter released his first published book Sept. 9, titled "Major Opportunities: The Door is Wide Open" from AuthorHouse book publishing company. If David Slaughter's name sounds familiar, it's probably because you've seen him as

a part of UHD's prevalent 'Major Opportunity' marketing campaign, which espoused the personal successes of students around campus.

As a young man, Slaughter said he was a prolific debater at Bellaire High School and under a debate scholarship, attended the Houston Baptist University (HBU). He admitted regretfully that while attending

UHD student debuts book

HBU, he was an academic under-achiever, stating that he "had often put [his] ego first into...pursuit of [debate] trophies."

Following a personal tragedy and with his scholarship funds depleted, he left HBU before completing his degree. Instead, Slaughter worked for Stage Stores Inc., climbing his way up in the same company for 24 years, obtaining the title of Senior Vice President, before retiring in 2007. After some reflection, he decided to go back to school and obtain his bachelors. At 53, he decided that the University of Houston-Downtown was the right school for him.

Slaughter is currently both a business consultant and a motivational speaker. After receiving his B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies in 2012, he returned to UHD

this year to get a Masters in Non Profit Management.

UHD Dean of University College Dr. Christina Birchak explains that Slaughter's book gives "examples from the retail and the university setting [to] illustrate the strategies for personal and professional success." Dr. Christina played a major role in the development of Slaughter's book as she helped him with the publishing process.

Slaughter's book gives examples of his own experiences throughout his professional and academic career, where he searched for figurative "doors of success" and walked through them. In lieu of personal setbacks and tragedies, he asserts that one can still find opportunities for success if they are only willing to look and be receptive.

Opportunities, like doors, are always open to us. Excerpt from the book:

"I say to each of you, 'Do what you do the very best you can do it, find happiness in doing what is right and live your life with pride, knowing that it was the best you had to offer. I will awake in the morning to say once again, 'Today is the first day of the rest of my life,' and to you I say: Now go find your door of success and I will see you at the top. The door is wide open!"

The most important message Slaughter wants readers to garner from his book is that it is "important that [people] give back to the community" because there is a chance that a good deed could be reciprocated back to you. According to his philosophy, espoused thoroughly in the book, Slaughter does not want his readers to take for

granted the things they are presently working on, as they could have a huge impact on life later on.

When asked if he had any upcoming projects, he informed us that his inaugural book is actually a predecessor for an upcoming project, titled "Major Opportunities of the Heart, the Soul and the Mind" which will chronicle many people that have persevered in spite of hardships. Slaughter plans to keep writing with the intention of releasing five books in five years with every release date being September 9.

If you missed David's book event at the UHD bookstore on September 17, you can get a copy of "Major Opportunities: The Door is Wide Open" online.

Safe Zone continued from page 1

Sexuality Day. Look for the Safe Zone booth in the ticket booth area from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with music and giveaways.

Thursday, October 10 is UHD Coming Out Day

The Safe Zone booth will be in the ticket booth area from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with music and giveaways. Additionally, a Speed Dating event will also be hosted in the coffee house.

Monday, October 12 is Spirit Day

Meet Safe Zone in the mural area between 12:15 p.m. -2:00 p.m. in order to receive a rainbow handkerchief to show your own spirit or ally support.

Wednesday, November 13 is the Masquerade Ball

The Masquerade Ball will take place in room A300 from 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. If you think you can give Guajardo a run for her money for the Best Performance award category or just want to enjoy the amazing performances as a spectator, be sure to mark your cal-

endar.

Wednesday, November 20 is Transgender Day of Remembrance

Safe Zone will be volunteering at the greater community TDR event.

Monday, December 2 is World AIDS Day

One of the biggest events Safe Zone will be partaking in this year, booths will be located in the mural area, the center area and both ticket booth tables. The event will last all day from 10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Safe Zone will also be sponsoring free HIV testing in room S269 during the same hours. An HIV Awareness event is also planned to start at 1:30 p.m. in the third floor hallway.

Thursday, December 5 is the Toys for Tots Drive

This year Safe Zone plans to sponsor the Toys for Tots drive. All donations will need to be made on this day in order to be presented to the foundation. Look for Safe Zone at both ticket booth tables. To celebrate the winter season, they will be selling cookies and apple cider as well as

having as inviting students to take a picture with a surprise special guest for \$5.

General Safe Zone assemblies:

Will be held the following dates in room S290 from 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. and are open to the public.

- Wednesday, October 16
- Thursday, November 7
- Wednesday, December 11

All students are welcome to join Safe Zone and partake in any of the above events. The purpose of Safe Zone is to provide an open, safe, inclusive space and community that is committed to challenging homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and heterosexism. It is also the self-proclaimed most exciting, fabulous and divalicious student organization on campus.

For more information, visit their website at: <https://sites.google.com/site/uhdowntownsafezone/>

Flu shots Student Health Corner continue from page 1

cold will usually last for about a week as the body fights off the infection. In younger children, the symptoms can last up to two weeks.

Do you see the similarities?

The flu is often confused with a cold or sinus infection, but influenza is a more serious illness. Approximately five to 20 percent of all Americans contract the flu and over 200,000 are hospitalized annually due to complications related to the flu. In serious cases, flu can progress to pneumonia which can be fatal especially for children and the elderly population. The disease lasts anywhere from three to seven days, but symptoms can endure for as long as two weeks. It is important to schedule an appointment to be evaluated by a medical provider for any prolonged symptoms, fever, chills or other worrisome symptoms.

Typically, influenza is transmitted through the air by coughs or sneezes, which create aerosols containing the virus. Influenza

can also be transmitted by direct contact with bird droppings or nasal secretions or through contact with contaminated surfaces. The good news is the virus can be inactivated by soap! Frequent hand washing greatly reduces the risk of infection. Cover your mouth and nose during coughing and sneezing to avoid sharing your germs.

Another very good preventative is the flu vaccine. Individuals six months of age and older are encouraged to receive a flu vaccine every fall. Flu shots for the 2013-2014 flu season are now available for students, faculty and staff in the UHD Student Health Clinic, 445-S, for \$20.

No appointments are necessary. Shots will be given on a walk-in basis during the following times: Monday through Tuesday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Wednesday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; and Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It is a fairly safe immunization with few po-

tential side effects. Mild reactions to the flu vaccine include soreness, headaches and fever. The vaccine offers significant benefits, which include reduced length of illness, avoidance of lost work time, hospitalization and even death.

Antibiotics are not recommended for treatment of the flu because they treat bacterial infections and are not effective for viral infections. However, there are antiviral medications which can be prescribed for treatment of the flu. The most commonly prescribed is Tamiflu, and it is intended to help shorten the illness by possibly one to two days. However, it is an expensive medication and must be started within 48 hours of the onset of symptoms to be effective. Remember: prevention is considered the best medicine.

Patricia A. Obulaney, MSN, RN, ANP-BC
UHD Student Health Services

The price to pay for safety

by Mark Steven Caffey
Staff Columnist

Flame retardant clothing containing Brominated Flame Retardants (BFR) is widely used to prevent injury from flash fires, but recent studies have identified that BFR as a cancer causing agent.

Houston has the world's largest concentration of refineries and chemical plants in the world. This industry provides thousands of jobs in our area and safety is a major factor for these employees and their employers.

BFR is a compound that helps inhibit the ignition of combustible organic materials and is widely used as a commercialized chemical flame retardant. BFRs are used in the uniforms worn by chemical and



(via fuelfix.com)

refining employees. It is also very effective in reducing the flammability of electronics, clothes and furniture at the home - affecting pillows, upholstery, paint, kitchen appliances, televisions and carpet.

Tetrabromobi-

sphenol A (TBBPA) is a BFR used in several consumer products initially released on the market to replace Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE). PBDE phased out of the market when a study linked it to increased hormone activity in the

body. The new study suggests that TBBPA causes the same biological effect as PBDE.

Brominated Flame Retardants are toxic to our environment and humans. Recent studies linked BFR to increased neurobehavioral ef-

fects and endocrine disruption. Earlier this year, a study revealed TBBPA to cause cancer in lab animals, however, it is not certain whether it can cause cancer in humans. This study showed that TBBPA attaches to estrogen sulfotransferase

(EST), an enzyme that regulates estrogen levels, on an atomic level. The interaction between EST and TBBPA can cause abnormal enzyme activity, which has been linked with uterine cancer.

There has been increased criticism against BFRs. Although studies show BFRs could have harmful effects on humans and animals, the production of TBBPA has not stopped - it has continued to increase. It is the most heavily produced brominated fire retardant in the world. Over 200,000 tons of TBBPA are produced annually. Through medical screenings, BFRs have been found in people all over the world. Due to safety concerns, a few European countries have decided to ban some of these chemicals.

3 Ways Technology Is Making Us Impersonal



(Jason Howie via Flickr / creative commons)

by Elena Novak
via uloop.com

Technology is progress. It is the essence of evolutionary superiority, a proof of the vast intellectual prowess of the human mind. It is convenient, exciting, promising - but it is an exchange. We press forward at the expense of the "old ways," which in some cases were sorely outdated, but in others made us a more interpersonal, less selfish, and perhaps a more intellectually challenged society.

Certainly tech-

nology has made us connected - we are always a touch screen away from the latest global news, celebrity gossip, and the minute details of the lives of our local, national, and even international acquaintances, but it is plainly evident that this information overload has fully absorbed our attention and left us lacking in true social connection with individual human beings.

Social media

We all know how it goes. Our Facebook

friendship count is indicative of our "social class," and the more friends you have, the more likely you are to be invited to the ball at Pemberley this evening. Yeah, right. I have 619 friends on Facebook, but the people I consider "real friends" only amount to about ten. We have a veritable overload of acquaintances, and the chances that we'll take those "friendships" beyond Facebook are as likely as Ross' chances of getting beyond the friend zone during the first season of Friends.

Texting

Texting basically killed the catch-up phone call. Now we can catch up with our long-distant or long-time-no-see friends with a bunch of vague comments about our lives punctuated with emoticons that make us look excessively friendly. "I'm great. :)" "Yeah, I ate a burrito today. :)" Or even creepy. "So, what's new with you? ;)" Texting is, admittedly, more comfortable and simple than a phone call which limits you from doing other things, but that right there is the problem - why can't we take 30 to 60 minutes out of our day to chat with a friend we care about and have rare chances to hang out with in person?

E-mail

Call me old-fashioned, but I love handwritten letters. A thoughtful, well-written letter in a person's unique handwriting and on personalized stationery is more intimate in my opinion than receiving an e-mail

in stock font on an impersonal screen. Not to mention the fact that researchers into personal marketing techniques advocate for sending handwritten notes to employers, mentors, and the like as a better means of saying thank you than an e-mail that's likely to get buried in an inbox. Additionally, these days most people have e-mails forwarded to their smartphones (myself included), which - like texting - gives us an opportunity to rudely distract ourselves from a meeting or a friendly hang-out.

Lest I sound too much like an elderly curmudgeon, I should state that I do certainly think there are upsides to social media, texting, and e-mail, not the least of which is globalization benefiting both personal and professional advancement. But the downsides should not be ignored - like our diminishing lack of communication skills and lack of respect for the English language.

We should take

a break once in awhile from the swarming influx of non-stop information. Leave the phone at home and step out into nature once in awhile, or grab a coffee with a friend without stopping every few minutes to check a new text or an e-mail. In a YouTube video, psychotherapist David Leifeste warns against an overcrowding of ideas and information spurred on by technology. He says we must practice "strategic avoidance" - an occasional hiatus from technology - in order to be "true and present to our souls." As a culture, we are always reacting to media - the news, our phones, TV ads, social media updates. We must sometimes be proactive in engaging with our world, actively pursuing our own ideas and creating our own routines.

When was the last time you unplugged?

Environmental Club helps Hermann Park with weed problem

Members of the Environmental Club, EVC, spent their weekend weeding the plant beds at Hermann Park.

Weeding is term used to describe the removal of invasive plants that harm the growth of native plants. Throughout the year, and as part of the Conservancy program, Hermann Park invites the community to help preserve the park's natural environment beautiful.

Hermann Park allows native wildflowers to grow in designated areas. Unfortunately, unwanted plants find their way into these areas,

which in turn, threatens the flourishing of native wildflowers.

Passionate about the environment, EVC made the decision to contribute to the continuous beautification of the park. Students were taught how to properly remove weeds. "We had to shake the soil off to make sure the nutrients weren't being removed," explained EVC president, Reyna Valdez.

EVC's agenda contains more volunteer opportunities, such as this one, and invites all interested students to attend their events.



(courtesy of EVC)



(courtesy of EVC)



(courtesy of EVC)

Food Truck Schedule



The food trucks are located at the corner of Main Street and Naylor Street from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Mon. & Tues., Sept. 23 and 24 – Happy Endings

Wedn. & Thurs., Sept. 25 and 26 - Coreanos

Mon., Sept. 30 – The Rice Box

LIST OF EVENTS

Center for Public Deliberation - Tuesday, Sept. 24 at 6:30 p.m. | C-100

The Syrian Refugee Crisis: A Turkish Perspective
Metin Cetine, head of a large Turkish relief organization, will speak about the crisis.

4th Annual Family Strengths Symposium - Wednesday, Thursday Sept. 25 and 26 at 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This year's theme will be "Equity: Partnering for Family Empowerment." Workshops include:

- I did not ask for this: A Candid Discussion on Sexual Assault
- When a Family Brings an Abused Child to the Hospital: Forensic Nursing
- Engaging Fathers in the Child Welfare System: Where is his voice and who hears it?

Poetry Reading: Sarah Cortez – Thursday, Sept. 26 at 5:30 p.m. | Willow Street Pump Station

A member of the Texas Institute of Letters, Cortez is author of the poetry collection Cold Blue Steel (Texas Review Press) about her police work, the memoir, Walking Home: Growing Up Hispanic in Houston (Texas Review Press), and co-editor with Sergio Troncoso of Our Lost Border: Essays on Life amid the Narco-Violence (Arte Público Press), among many other publication

Presentation: Muslim and Christian Interfaith Dialogue - Tuesday, Oct. 1 at 6:30 p.m. | C-100

Muslim and Christian Interfaith Dialogue
Ameer Abuhlimeh, Islamic Da'wah Center
Paul Fortunato, UHD co-director, Center for Public Deliberation

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