

METRO Rail expansion brings changes to UHD

JAMEE L COX

Editor in Chief

The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO) is expanding the North Line Rail Service and although it should have only a minimal impact on the University of Houston-Downtown (UHD) community, there are some changes that will affect the campus.

The North Line rail expansion adds 5.3 miles to the Main Street Red Line and will include eight new METRO-Rail stations, one of them aerial, and two bridges that will lift light rail cars over a zone used by freight rail cars.

Getting the work done safely and on-schedule is a complex job requiring coordination with the federal government, state, city, railroads, UHD, businesses and residents.

Bruce Krantz, METRO's senior program director says it's a matter of staying focused.

"You work through problems, and ultimately accomplish what you need to accomplish. But it is a give-and-take process, working with stakeholders and our contractor, to see that deadlines are met and expectations delivered on," said Krantz.

For UHD students who park in the lots north or south of the Main Street Bridge, the shuttle busses will remain available and will run with new stops to accommodate the detours and construction.

"We have taken numerous steps to prepare for the closure and ensure students are informed of the changes expected over the next several months," said David Bradley, UHD vice president for administration and finance. "Safety is always a top priority and we have been working with METRO and its contractors to ensure traffic and pedestrian detours are clearly marked, information is available and maps are accessible. Our UHD Police Department will continue patrols by foot, bicycle and squad car and our officers will add patrols as needed."

The existing Main Street Bridge, a little farther south began a major face-lift in mid-July. The modifications, under the careful management of METRO North Line project director Frederic Childs, are the second go-round for this century. The first were necessary so the Red Line could travel to UHD.

The construction, in the Naylor Street area is expected



Photo courtesy of METRO

to last about 15 months. The plans for the renovations to the existing Main Street Bridge are being reviewed by the city, the county and the Army Corps of Engineers.

The roadway work has already begun and METRO is finalizing bus routes through the area. Expect to see alerts about detours and changes soon.

All of this work requires an intense level of cooperation and planning with the University of Houston-Downtown campus. Roadway construction is already underway in the Naylor area in preparation for the closing of North Main from Naylor to UHD. The North Line rail expansion proj-

ect begins at the end of the existing Red Line UHD station.

"While the light rail expansion project is unquestionably disruptive, the infrastructure improvements that come with it will be transformative for UHD, most notably on the north end of campus," Bradley said. "The signalized intersections, along with the reconstruction of streets and sidewalks, will make UHD a much safer and more pedestrian-friendly campus, not to mention more pleasing to the eye."

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**From** 

Carlo Magana: I've had to start warning high school kids away from that school because of the parking alone.

Jimmy G. Mai: I'd say it's a nightmare, but nightmares tend to come to an end.

Jacqueline Sanders: I went there, I parked at one end of the metro line and rode it to the other end; it was the only way. Also, someone kept leaving flowers and bananas on my car all semester the one semester I parked there. I finally got a note that said "sorry, wrong car."

Alex Peraza: It needs its modifications and alignments!

Tanya Ann Garbage: Almost makes me change schools.

Tonya Goodwill-Brown: Why can't they just turn that \$4.00 area parking into "permit only" student parking?

****All comments taken from friends of the Dateline Facebook page****

Paperless paper: value or trash?**BISSAN RAFFE**
Staff Writer

There must be something magical about the logic of news reporting today. The humor lays in the concept of free news and overall reliance on advertisement for funding. The Internet monopolist movement competing in the news markets seduced the general public with a cheap, WWon demand illusion of information.

How is it logical that obtaining interactively updated news plus more should not be worth more than your typical daily newspaper prints? What started this backward ideology?

Signs of the paperless newspaper replacing print predated to the acceptance of the 1990s wide public use of the Internet. The new lure of the new medium called the Internet offered a combination of easy access and searchable database of minute by minute reporting.

At the risk of sounding old fashioned, this new found freedom poses further insecurities to the molding of new

educational minds.

In this downward turn of the century, online journalism trapped the news industry in a maze as publishers relied more and more on advertising as their primary revenue source. If the online edition customer would shrink, online advertisers would be upset and demand lower rates, thus driving the publishers to approach predatory methods in providing news. Predatory journalism targets the public's entertainment news to satisfy the curiosity of glamour.

True, the traditional newspaper is becoming less appealing, but the alternate sources became less informative.

Blurring of traditional lines between news and opinion and news and entertainment, places far more emphasis on worthless news as opposed to world or political news. Television for example, does not provide an alternative at all.

The news channels are now devote-worshippers covering celebrities, crimes and miscellaneous social trivia. The so-called political programs provide only opinions of extremist who had enough money to be heard. There are few resources

and even less commitment to covering significant news beyond floods and fires.

Let's take the recent events in the Gaza strip for example; it was virtually non-existent on the American news, but the death of Anna-Nicole Smith was forced upon the public for over two months.

It is too late to propose a solution for the news industry to change and doing so would be dicey and painful. Personally, newspapers are still the preferred way, but that is not entirely convenient in this advancing time.

The reason any of this matters has little to do with free or charged news. The real threat is to the future of reliable news of the world around us.

Quality journalism is disappearing faster than print newspapers, whose reporting staffs still produce most of the news.

As an educated scholar and college student, maybe refraining from reading yahoo's "red-carpet dress disaster," and putting forth a little effort searching for quality news can keep this generation's mind stimulated with both the domestic news, and the world abroad.

Red light cameras remains hot issue for Houston

LUCHA MORALES
 Managing Editor

Red light cameras are back on, despite last November's city election voting results against Proposition 3, which aimed to keep the cameras.

Federal Ruling

A federal judge ruled that Proposition 3 should not have been included on the November 2 ballot because it violates the city's charter regarding the repeal of a city ordinance. According to the city charter, referendums to repeal city ordinances must be filed within 30 days of the ordinance taking effect. Houston red light cameras have been up and running since 2006, with a total of 70 cameras located at various intersections within Houston.

A reported \$44 million has been collected in revenue from issued citations.

While 53 percent of Houstonians voted to turn the cameras off, Mayor Anise Parker has stated repeatedly that the city does not have the millions of dollars to pay American Traffic Solutions (ATS) to get out of their contract early. ATS was contracted by the city to install the cameras and manage the road safety program.

The Issue at Hand

Paul Kubosh, the lawyer heading the repeal of the red light cameras, is set on continuing the fight against keeping the cameras on. Kubosh is also with Citizens Against Red Light Cameras. The organization issued a call to action asking citizens who support turning off the cameras to attend a city hall meeting held August 2, and ask the city council to uphold the results from the November elections. Kubosh addressed the city council and expressed concern on the controversy.

"This is no longer a legal issue. It is a political issue," said Kubosh.

Kubosh also claims that while the cameras are back, this is an issue that "will never go away."

Other speakers called for council members to voice their standing on the issue. Council member Jolanda Jones was the only council member who stated her position on the issue.

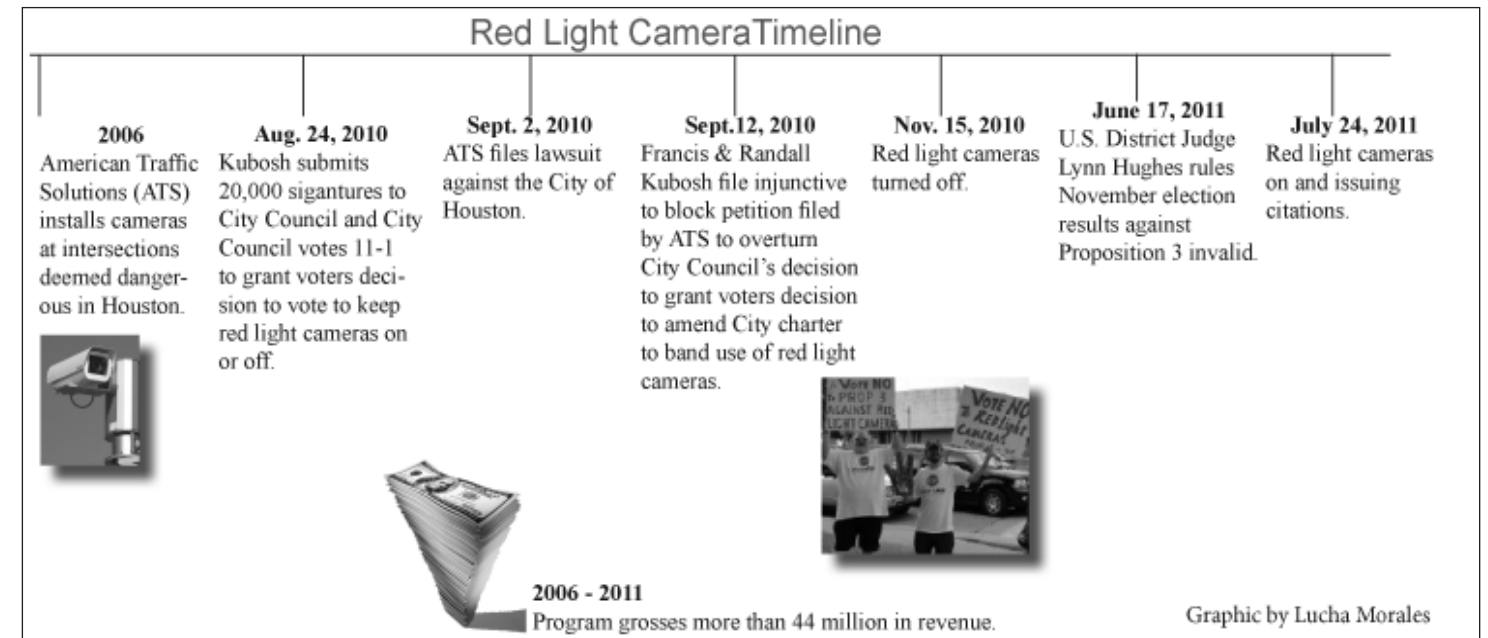
"I believe we should turn the cameras off," said Jones.

Council member Jones also clarified that U.S. District Judge Lynn Hughes, the judge presiding over the issue, did not order the city of Houston to turn the cameras off, but simply that the elections result were invalid. Jones believes the will of the people is being overlooked.

Red Light Cameras Statistics

Many supporters of the red light cameras claim the cameras save lives. Since the cameras have been used a reduction in accidents have been reported to the Texas Department of Transportation.

A statewide study done in 2008 analyzed crash data for interections in Houston equipped with red light cameras. Overall, there were significant reductions reported using pre-installation and post-



installation crash data. The three most accident prone intersections included 290 at Fairbanks-North Houston, I-45 at Greens Road and FM 1960 West at Tomball Parkway. These intersections had a 209 percent total reduction in analyzed crashes after the installation of red light cameras.

Opponents of red light cameras claim to have data that states red light cameras actually increase accidents. A review of five studies done by Barbara Langland Orban, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of Health Policy and Management, USF Col-

lege of Public Health, Tampa, found that only three of the five studies used correct scientific methods. These studies concluded that cameras alter driver behavior leading to abrupt stops, thus increasing rear end collisions.

What's Next?

The controversy over the cameras continues as opponents vow that the battle is not over. Randy Kubosh, Treasurer for Citizens Against Red Lights, believes the only way to address the issue now is to decrease the power of the mayor. Ku-

bosh plans to introduce an amendment to the City Charter in 2012 reducing the power of the mayor. Kubosh also wants to amend the City Charter regarding the 30 day limitation for referendums to repeal city ordinances. Kubosh feels this does not allow for adequate time for the collection of 20,000 signatures to introduce such referendums on the ballot.

Mayor Parker has not released any official statement regarding the red light controversy since the cameras resumed officially issuing citations on July 24.

METRO Rail

During construction through traffic will detour around the UHD campus. Traffic on campus will follow alternate routes, and pedestrian routes will change frequently. UHD parking lots/garages and public pay lots will remain accessible, and METRO buses and UHD shuttle buses will continue to operate.

"We will need to be flexible over the coming months as we operate within this construction zone, but METRO is very committed to working with us to minimize the impact on our operations. Our faculty and staff members are dedicated, resourceful and ready to handle any challenges that this situation presents," Bradley said.

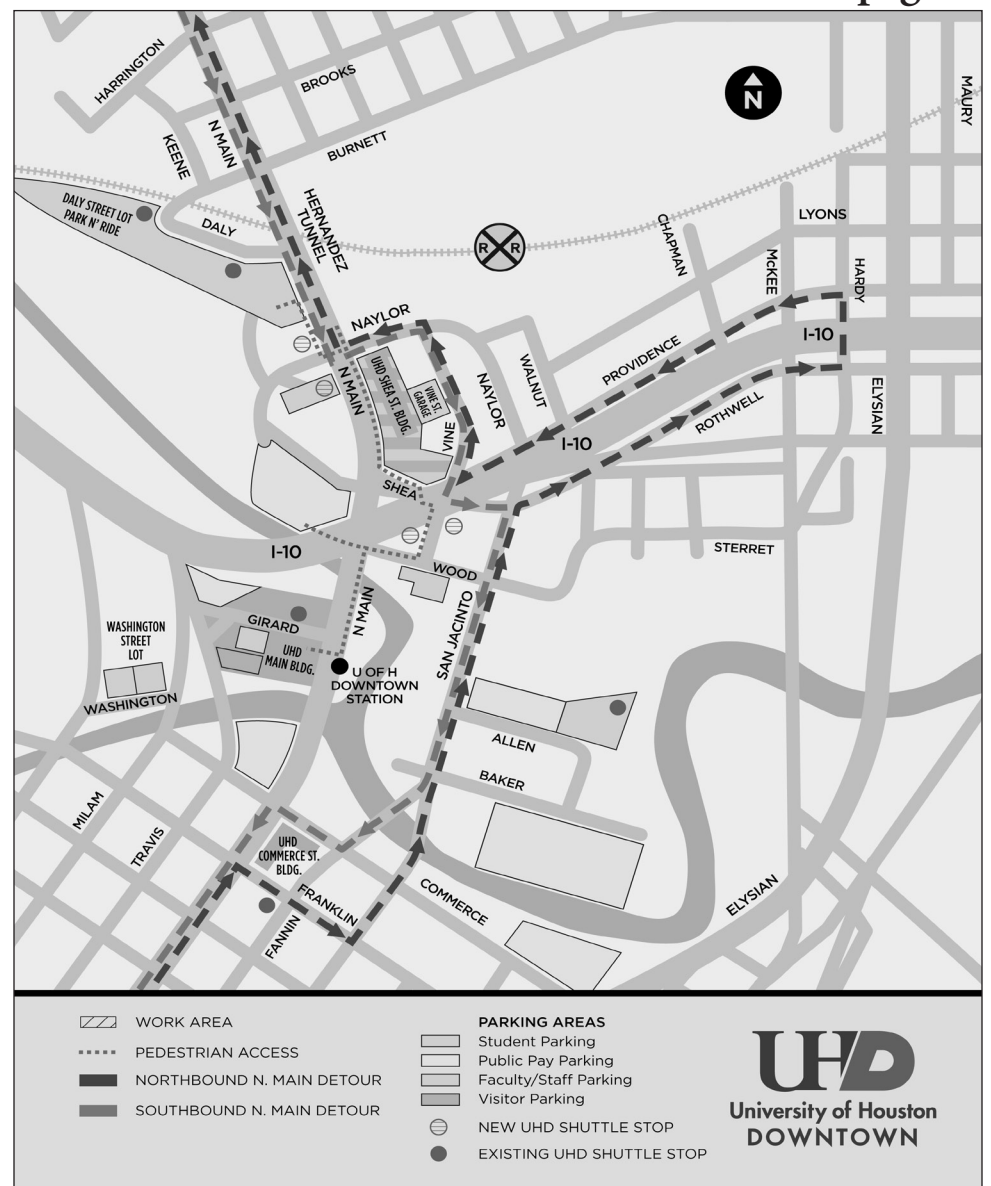
- Northbound through traffic on Main will be detoured right on Franklin, then a left on San Jacinto. Traffic will then be diverted right on Rothwell, left on Hardy, right on Lyons, and left on Maury. At Lorraine, traffic will take a left to connect back to North Main via Hogan.

- Southbound through traffic on North Main will take a left on Hogan which turns into Lorraine, then right on Maury. At Lyons, traffic will take a right and then a left onto McKee. At Providence, traffic will take right and then a left on North San Jacinto and connect back to Main via Commerce.

Pedestrians will be detoured to the sidewalk on the east side of Main. Pedestrian access will be available to UHD via the South Deck and the METRO Rail station on the Main Street Bridge.

METRO will have general information at <http://www.gometrorail.org>.

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UHD student tells his story of two Iraqi tours

LUCHA MORALES

Managing Editor

In August of 2006, overseas in Iraq near Baghdad, just outside of Baghdad International Airport, temperatures reached over 110 degrees. Sergeant Kevin Farren, a combat engineer in the US Army, spent his days completing route clearance missions with fellow combat engineers in his unit. The search for improvised explosive devices (IED's, or roadside bombs) helped eliminate the threat of roadside bombings against U.S. troops stationed in the area. Far away from family and friends, Farren built strong bonds, gained new perspectives and escaped death by chance in the midst of a war that had already claimed the life of over 2,000 U.S. soldiers since March of 2003.

A veteran of war, Farren, has seen and experienced things most of us will never be able to, or simply do not want to. The uncertainty of war can mean the difference between life and death. For Farren, it meant losing friends, and in his case, his squad leader.

"A couple of people I built strong bonds with didn't come home. I find myself thinking about that a lot," said Farren.

Unsure about his life and future, Farren joined the Army in 2004 at the age of 22.

Although he did not agree with the full scope of issues surrounding the war, Farren wanted to make a change for himself. He was well aware of the possibility of being deployed when he enlisted.

Farren's family had mixed feelings regarding his decision to join the army

during peak war time.

"They were proud, but upset and concerned. They really didn't know what would happen to me. I didn't know what would happen to me," said Farren.

As the war raged in Iraq, Farren was sent to basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri in 2004. After completing basic he went on to complete training for his Military Occupational Specialty, or MOS. As a combat engineer Farren underwent intense training to learn how to locate and identify IED's, as well as how to diffuse mines.

Just six months after signing up, Farren was deployed on his first tour to Iraq. Farren would go on to complete two tours

A couple of people I built strong bonds with didn't come home. I think about that a lot.

*-Sgt. Kevin Farren
 US Army*

totaling 25 months.

Born in Scotland, Farren traveled to the US with his family at the age of seven. They made a life for themselves in Houston. Farren never really planned on joining the army. He remembers wanting to do something in science. But, despite his youthful ambitions, Farren joined the army.

Farren recalls the trip to Iraq after being deployed on his first tour. He remembers thinking, "Well this is real." Farren wondered if he would make friends. He



US Army Sergeant Kevin Farren is currently a senior studying Psychology after serving 25 months in the Iraqi desert. Courtesy photo

did. Among them was his unit squad leader.

In July of 2006, Farren's sergeant sent him to what was known as, "Soldier of the Month Board." Soldiers would be tested on their knowledge of mission procedures and protocol. Although Farren did not win that day, he did so well his sergeant recommended him to go before the board again on August 6 of that same year. A mission scheduled for that day meant someone would have to take Farren's place. His friend and squad leader replaced Farren on the mission.

A roadside bomb killed three members of his unit on that day. His squad leader and two other soldiers. Farren thinks about his friends who were killed in action every day and believes his tours in Iraq gave him new insights.

"I got a lot of good experiences out of it. It forced me to look at things in a different way. For the positive," said Farren.

While Farren did not speak at length about how he feels about not being there with his unit the day their convoy was attacked, he did express gratitude toward his sergeant for believing in him enough to recommend him to the board, and Farren respects for his squad leader taking his place on the mission.

Farren is a senior at the University of Houston-Downtown (UHD) majoring in Psychology. He wants to pursue work in the research field of Psychology when he graduates. Farren is also a student worker for Veteran Services located in S244.

Want to share your story with Dateline? Contact Lucha Morales, Managing Editor for Dateline at moraleslu@uhd.edu.

Google + newest social networking

AARON STOMMEL

Staff Writer

Google, the popular search engine giant, released a trial version of Google+ (Plus) Project, Google's take on social networking sites like Facebook, which focuses on a more inclusive user experience with lots of features.

To some, Google+ may seem like just another social site, but to others it could be more.

The social networking service offers such features as Circles, Huddle, Hangouts, Stream, Instant Upload, Sparks and a feature deemed "+1".

The major difference between Google+ and other social networking services is the users ability to create Circles on their homepage. These Circles allow users to share information with only certain groups of individuals; a message can be shared with just friends, just coworkers or with everyone. This feature also allows messages posted from the user's friends that they may have spent Saturday night at the bar with to be unseen by their family or

coworkers. A user is automatically set up in the system with four Circles: Friends, Family, Acquaintances, and Following (people the user finds interesting, though they are not friends). Users will also have the ability to create and name new circles.

The Huddle feature allows all Google+ users to participate in what is essentially a group chat. It can make it much easier to decide what restaurant to eat at, what to do after dinner or where to go on the weekend without having to text multiple people individually.

The Hangouts feature is similar to Facebook's Check-in. It allows other users to know if a user is online, which makes it easier for friends to say hello, or avoid that person completely if need be.

A feature Google is calling Stream is available as well and is most like Facebook's Wall feature. Stream allows a user to choose with which circle they want to share their post.

In order to make life a bit easier Google+ also offers Instant Upload for photos. When a member of Google+ takes a picture using their phone that picture is instantly uploaded to their Google+ ac-

count, yet that picture stays hidden until the user decides to share it.

The Sparks feature gives a user the option of adding interests and then, based on those interests, will suggest things to watch, read, or do.

The "+1" button of Google+ is perhaps the most interesting. It acts as a recommendation to other Google+ users and can be found next to a web search, an ad, a stream comment or a photo. This feature can be especially useful for those writing papers and wanting to know which site is a good resource. Whenever the +1 is clicked the number beside the button increase by one, so if the number is 20, then 20 people recommended that site or photo or comment.

Google+ is only in its field trial stage. As of now, there is only a beta version available to a limited number of users, and usually only through an invite. For now, the public can only wait and see if it becomes the next Facebook, or goes the way of other, less storied, social networks.

To take an interactive tour of Google+, and get a look at the five "key" features visit <http://www.google.com/+demo/>

MOMENTS IN TIME

The History Channel

- On Sept. 7, 1813, the United States gets its nickname when a New York newspaper refers to "Uncle Sam." The name is linked to meat packer Samuel Wilson, who supplied barrels of beef to the United States Army during the War of 1812. Wilson stamped the barrels with "U.S." for United States, but soldiers began referring to the grub as "Uncle Sam's."

- On Sept. 10, 1919, almost a year after the end of the First World War, New York City holds a parade to welcome home Gen. John J. Pershing, commander in chief of the American Expeditionary Force, and some 25,000 soldiers who had served on the Western Front.

- On Sept. 8, 1974, President Gerald Ford pardons his disgraced predecessor Richard Nixon for any crimes he may have committed or participated in while in office. The Watergate scandal erupted after it was revealed that Nixon and his aides had engaged in illegal activities. With impeachment proceedings under way, Nixon became the first American president to resign.

UHD students go to prison with UHD professors

TAYLOR LUCE
Staff Writer

This past spring, two University of Houston–Downtown (UHD) students from Professor Barbara Canetti’s Advanced Desktop Publishing class went to prison, but for a good reason.

The students, along with the rest of Professor Canetti’s class, had been helping inmates develop business materials in a collaboration effort with the Prisoner Entrepreneurial Program, also known as PEP. They were visiting the prison, along with other members of the community, to meet the men in the program.

PEP chooses inmates from across the Texas prison system and relocates them to the Cleveland Correctional Facility, an hour northeast of Houston in Cleveland, Texas. It is there that the prisoners receive a rigorous five-month business education, which includes mentoring from MBA professionals and executives, to taking “40 plus business exams and pitch[ing] their business concept 200 plus times.”

But why does PEP do this? According to their Website, PEP’s mission is to change the way private institutions and state governments view correctional facilities, and to reduce the high recidivism rate by redirecting the energy normally put towards illegal endeavors to positive, legitimate businesses. These men go from managing drug dealers and frequent jail and prison sentences, to managing legal employees and living happy productive lives. And the statistics for PEP proves



Graduates of the Prisoner Entrepreneurial Program in Cleveland, TX. Photo courtesy of PEP

their program is succeeding; recidivism among PEP graduates is only 10 percent, compared to the national recidivism rate of approximately 43 percent.

So how is it that UHD students became involved with such an organization? It started six years ago, when UHD Professor Jean DeWitt read an article covering PEP in the New York Times. DeWitt volunteered as a business plan advisor and has stayed with the program ever since.

“When I became the Director of Community Engagement [for UHD] and initiated service learning collaborations, I immediately connected with PEP,” said DeWitt.

Canetti, volunteering her class for service was a no-brainer. She feels the collaboration serves as an “excellent example

of high-impact learning,” where students strive to do their best because they are working for a real-world client and not just their professor.

Each student in the class had seven or eight PEP clients, and each client had a different idea for their business and how they wanted it to be presented. The businesses ranged from landscaping and fencing services to barber shops and car detailing services. The project for the class was to design brochures representative of each client’s business.

The class as a whole could not meet their clients face to face up in Cleveland, so Canetti sent PEP a basic tri-fold brochure template for the men to illustrate or write on so her students could get an idea of what each client wanted. What PEP

sent back floored Canetti.

“The designs on the [templates] were so intricate. [The men] had even designed their own logos,” she said.

The men of PEP had definitely communicated strongly with the templates, and her students understood.

“They were scouring the internet for images to fit as closely as possible to what the men wanted,” Canetti said. “It generated the most enthusiasm I have ever seen in a class.”

Jamee Cox, a student in Canetti’s class agrees, saying “We received...hand-drawn sketches of what they would like to see in their brochure, and we created the brochures as closely to what they wanted as we could,” said Jamee Cox, one of the students that went to the prison.

The students created a disk for each client, including images, a pdf and an editable version of the brochure. According to Canetti, the men in PEP loved them. And the students, especially those who had a chance to go to prison, thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

“I was blown away by the program,” said. “But, I don’t know if I would have felt as strongly about it had I not taken the time to go to the prison. These guys in this program are so passionate about what they are doing and they give so much energy - it’s just amazing that they can be so positive, yet they are still in prison.”

When asked if she would be continuing the PEP collaboration with her fall Advanced Desktop Publishing class, Canetti said “Yes, and I will definitely encourage more of my students to go to prison.”

Tap that App! The top five back-to-school apps

ALI FAZAL
Staff Writer

Heading back to school is never as smooth of a transition as students want it to be, but recent advances in technology have at least guaranteed that students have one ally in their corner at all times: smartphones.

There are always unexpected syllabi surprises, demanding professors and the ever-present financial aid woes that students worry about, but for those in possession of an iPhone, Android or Blackberry, there’s an app for other woes.

After much research, these are the top 5 back to school apps to keep students organized this fall.

iStudiez Pro (iPhone- \$2.99) - Have you ever wondered how we were able to balance 8 hours of school, 5 days a week back in high school? For college students, a mere 12 hours can trip up the most learning-obsessive students. For students with iPhones, the handy iStudiez Pro will provide a richly detailed class schedule (color-coded to help the brain rest), and provides exact room numbers and times for all classes. This will help eliminate time spent wan-

dering around the labyrinth that is the University of Houston–Downtown (UHD) Main Building. Additionally, it will hold all your professors’ contact information, and provide you with an assignment schedule and reminders to complete all your work on time. Nothing beats a nagging parent in this regard, but iStudiez Pro comes pretty darn close!

Evernote (iPhone, Android, Blackberry-Free) - Taking notes with pen and paper is SO last decade. Sure, we still have to rely on the ridiculously overpriced school supplies from the bookstore from time to time, but if you’re shelling out for a smartphone data plan, you might as well make the most of it! Evernote is a handy little app that allows you to jot down notes in a variety of ways. You can type them in using your phone’s keyboard, utilize handwriting recognition on touch-screen devices, and even hook your device up to a bluetooth keyboard. You never have to worry about emailing notes or papers to yourself so that you can keep track of them. The Cloud-based Evernote service allows all your notes and documents to be backed up instantly and accessed from any device with an internet connection, including laptops and tablets. You get all this for the very low price of

FREE, a price that certainly fits the college student budget!

Gcalc (Blackberry- Free) - Calling all math nerds! The days of scrounging eBay and Craigslist to try and find a reasonably priced graphic calculator are over. Instead, save your Benjamin Franklins and download Gcalc. It performs all the tasks of a high-end graphing calculator, and can even email complex formulas to your email address so that you can retrieve them later. There’s even a handy Tweeting function, but do us a favor and don’t clog up our newsfeeds with complex equations.

Wikipedia (iPhone, Android, Blackberry- Free) - Now I know professors might send us angry letters for even acknowledging the existence of Wikipedia in this student publication, but let’s face facts: we all use it. Whether to jumpstart our research, or simply quickly figure out exactly who your professor is talking about, Wikipedia is essential in any student’s life. The free mobile app allows you to view and edit articles, and send them to yourself in PDF format so you are never a step behind!

UHD Mobile (iPhone, Android- Free) - Last, but certainly not least, Not to be a brown-noser or anything, but UHD does have a truly spectacular mobile app.



Whoever spent months perfecting this app truly deserves the student body’s eternal gratitude. It has never been easier to access grades, pay tuition or register for classes, right from the palm of your hand. Heck, this writer has even uploaded assignments to Blackboard Vista last minute from within the app. If slacking is your middle name, or you simply value the convenience of computer-free access to your essential UHD data, this app is a must for all students!

A Magical Discovery

ALI FAZAL
 Staff Writer

As college students, the stress in our lives is essentially never ending. Between papers, presentations, and exams, it's hard to get a moment to really sit down, relax, and unwind.

Luckily, for those who can find the time, a little haven of beauty sits mere blocks from the University of Houston-Downtown (UHD) campus. If you haven't heard of Dis-

variety of disciplines from Yoga to Hoop Dancing.

Those looking for a mini-Euro vacation can try out the Salsa class, or a French Fusion art course.

Families are not to be excluded and those looking for some good old fashioned family time can indulge in some Family Time on the Green, complete with refreshments and live entertainment.

Despite being fairly low-key, it's clear that Discovery Green takes its proximity to the UHD campus seriously and considers students in its plans. A park worker mentioned that they are showing the film 'Enchanted' this week

on-site, The Grove and The Lake House Cafe, will satisfy pretty much any appetite. On a side note, sweet potato fries at The Lake House – they are nothing short of heavenly!

At the end of the day, UHD is located in a culturally rich area, with close proximity to museums, restaurants and other Houston hotspots. So, Discovery Green, with its lushly beautiful landscaping and quirky variety of activities, is sure to find a place in students' hearts.

If you haven't made a trip out yet, it's high time you make this discovery.

Discovery Green is located at 1500 McKinney Houston, TX 77010

Photos courtesy of Discovery Green



covery Green yet, it's time to 'discover' this oasis of beauty and tranquility that is safely nestled within the concrete jungle of downtown Houston.

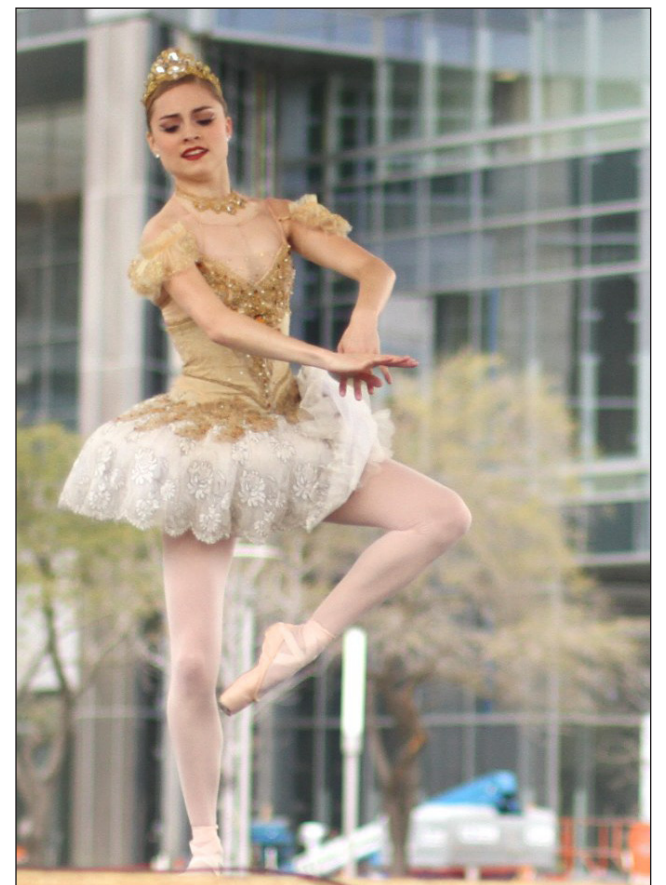
The first thing noticeable upon entering Discovery Green is the sheer amount of things that are happening all at once. For college students with short attention spans, this is perfect.

For fitness buffs, there are daily classes that tackle a

on the main lawn because many students requested it.

And along with everything else, Discovery Green's biggest attraction is one that will have UHD students running over by mass capacities: It's absolutely free. For certain activities that require supplies (like an art class), you may have to pay a small premium, but for 90% of the activities at Discovery Green, the outdoor fun will cost you nothing.

In case you're longing for provisions, the two eateries



Houston fun on a budget

ALI FAZAL
Staff Writer

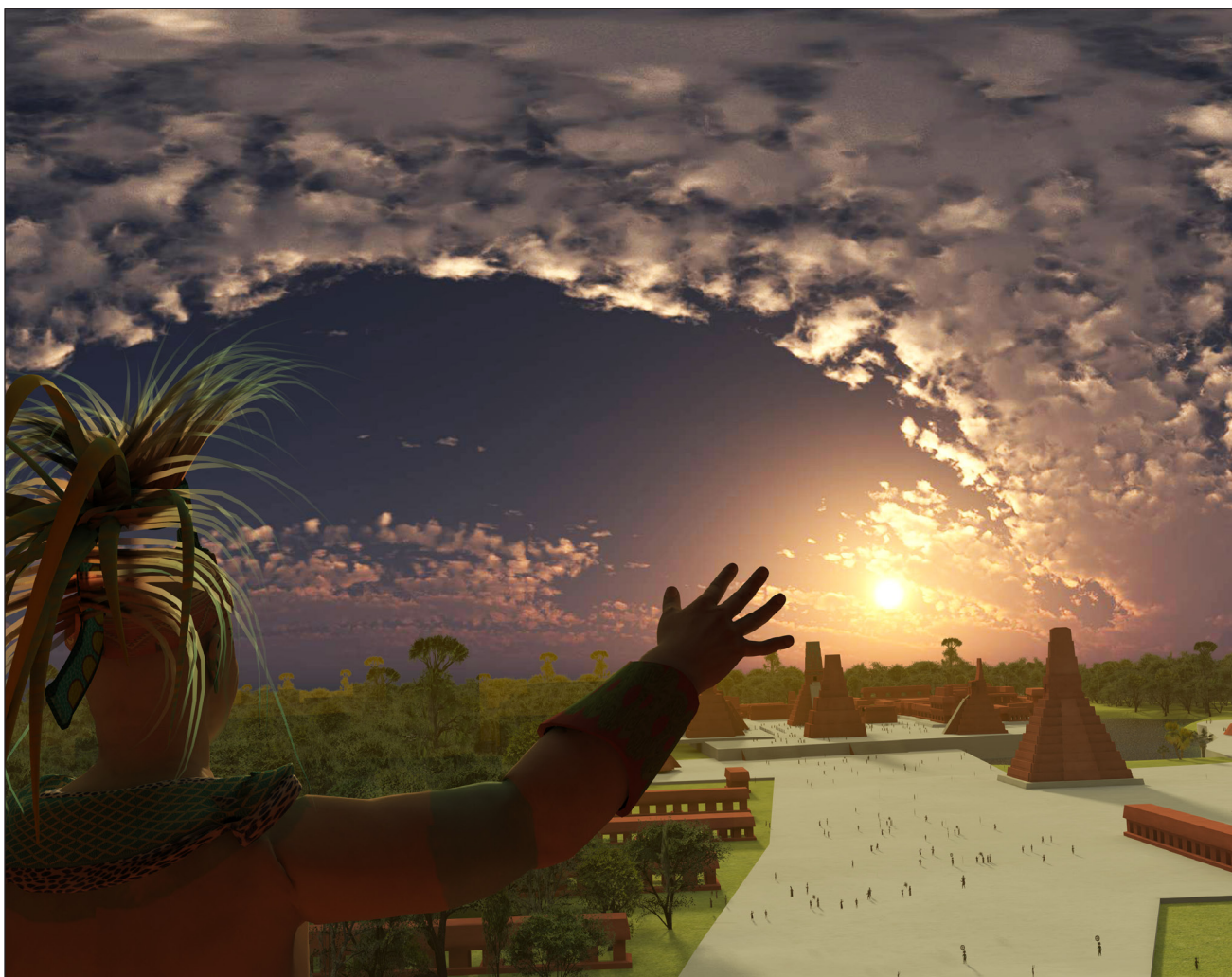
Between textbooks, tuition and our constant caffeine fixes, the life of a student is definitely not cheap. Houston is a pretty expensive city and nights out and restaurant bills can add up quickly. Have no fear! Here are a few choice locales in Houston that allow students to enjoy their downtime, without breaking the bank.

1. Houston Arboretum and Nature Center (4501 Woodway Dr, Houston, TX) - Now I know that the Chick-Fil-A on campus seems to have some sort of mystical addictive properties that we can't avoid, but every once in a while, a little exercise can't hurt. If you're sick of the UHD Gym, this 155-acre nature sanctuary certainly fits the bill. With over 5 miles of nature trails, forests, and meadows to explore, an hour-long hike will pass in no time. Plus, free admission for students is bound to make all those endorphins feel extra amazing!

2. Houston Greeters (www.houstongreeters.org) - I'm sure many students are native Houstonians, but even then, in an ever-changing metropolis like this one, there are new things to discover every day. Luckily, there's a group of citizens who love the city so much that they're willing to show anyone the sights - for free. That's right, the Houston Greeters will broaden your horizons by introducing you to new attractions, nightlife and landmarks in the Houston area and it won't cost you a thing.



Arboretum- Answer nature's call by taking a relaxing walk or hike at the Houston Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. This popular walking path is deliciously tranquil.



Houston Museum of Natural Science- Make sure to stop by the Houston Museum of Natural Science's planetarium. Whether you're looking up at a picturesque sunset or a calming night sky, the view is breathtaking

3. Houston Museum of Natural Science (One Hermann Circle Drive Houston, TX 77030) - After a long day of classes and homework, sometimes the last thing we feel like doing is nurturing our intellectual sides. But with so many cool exhibits, the Houston Museum of Natural Science feels more like a fun field trip than the snoozefest you might expect. With exhibits covering topics from Mayan Prophecies to Underwater fighting dinosaurs, there's plenty for everyone. Best of all, on Tuesdays after 2pm, all this fun is free. Just bring a student ID.



4. Pinot's Palette (2406 Taft Street Houston, TX 77006) - Have you ever seen a really abstract painting, and thought, 'I could do that!'. Well, time to put your money where your mouth is at Pinot's Palette. Located just a few minutes from downtown, weeknight classes at Pinot's Palette provide you with canvasses, paints, brushes and all other materials to make your artistic aspirations a reality. At only \$35 per class, your artwork can be ready for viewing in no time. If you're wondering about the 'Pinot' in the establishment's name, your instincts are correct: all classes are BYOB, but Pinot's Palette will provide ice buckets and stemware. Who knows... that little splash of 'grandma's grape juice' might just turn your next masterpiece into a regular Monet.



At Pinot's Palette, amateur artists can unleash their creativity without stretching their purse strings.

UHD Powerlifting Successfully Defends WABDL Southwest Regional Title in Dallas

Members of University of Houston–Downtown (UHD) Powerlifting team won an extremely hard-fought and close battle in defending their WABDL Southwest Regional Title (formerly the Southern Region) in Dallas.

The WABDL Regional Championships are not collegiate competitions, but are contested across the various age divisions. Ninety-five lifters were entered in the contest, but the four teams represented were all collegiate: UHD, two very powerful Palo Alto College squads, and a dangerous North Texas team.

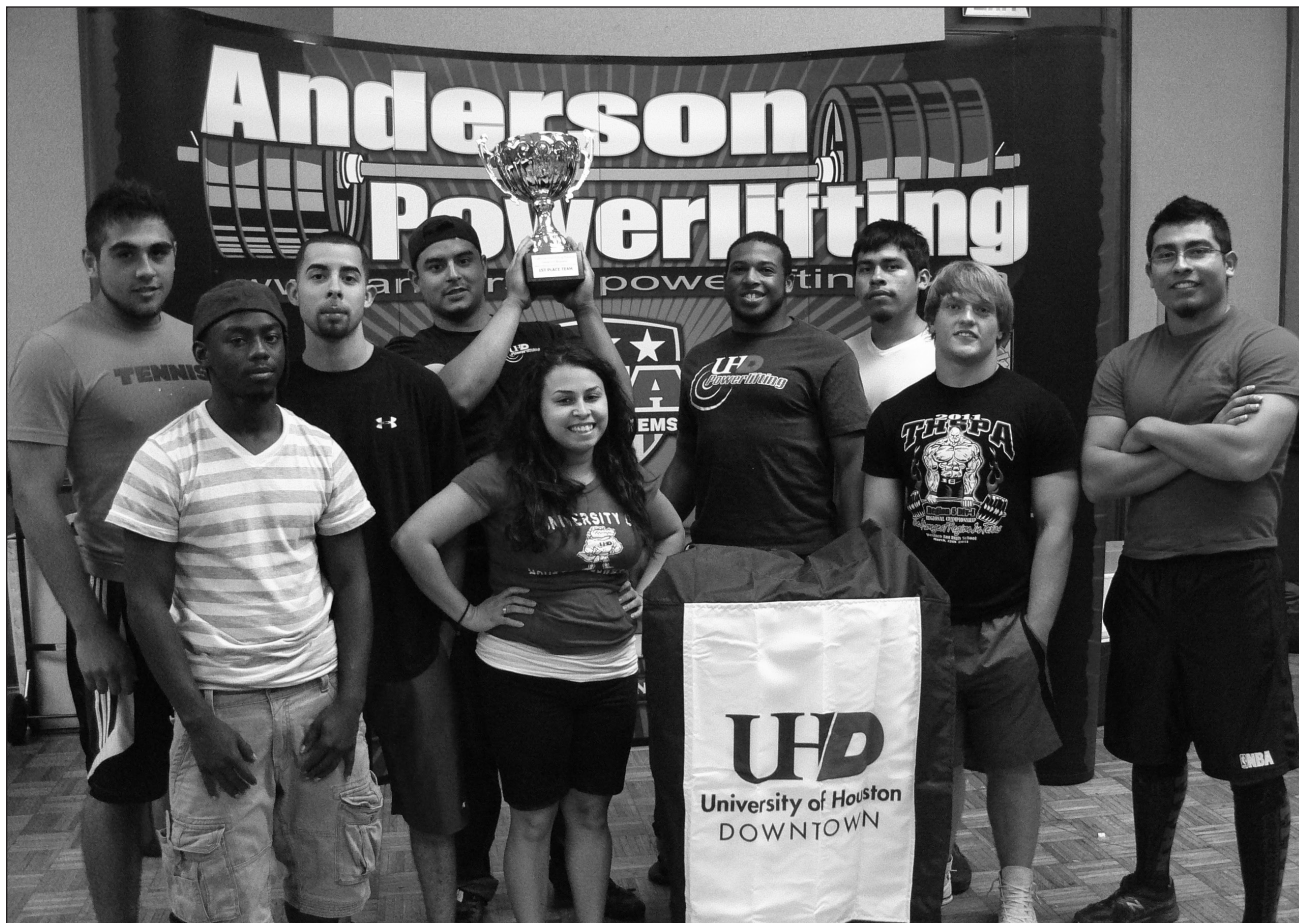
UHD team Coach John Hudson, who has coached the team since he founded it in 2007, knew this would be a close fight, particularly since UHD Powerlifting was short-handed this summer, with a number of first-string lifters out of town for work or internships. Since the regional championships are contested by age divisions, Coach Hudson enlisted the help of some “future Gators”—high school lifters that he has been recruiting—to fill some holes on the UHD roster.

UHD lifters won some key head-to-head battles with

Palo Alto and North Texas lifters to place first as a team with 252 points, four points ahead of the number one squad, Palo Alto. Had just one UHD lifter failed to win one of these head-to-head battles, UHD would have lost the title.

UHD Powerlifting won't be in action again until the WABDL World Championships, which will be held in Reno, Nevada in November.

—Coach John Hudson



Individual Results

Bench Press

Petra Villegas – 123 weight class, Junior Division – 1st place, 77.0 lbs.

Jesus Sanchez – 123 weight class, Junior Division – 1st place, 270.0 lbs., National Collegiate Record

Lonnie Overturf – 165 weight class, Teen 16-17 Division – 1st place, 380.2 lbs., National High School Record, Best Lifter Teen Bench Press

Ilian Rojas – 181 weight class, Junior Division – 1st place, 363.7 lbs.

Imaray Rojas – 181 weight class, Teen 18-19 Division – 1st place, 270.0 lbs.

Jordan Glenn – 198 weight class, Teen 16-17 Division – 1st place, 374.0 lbs.

Carlos Mata – 198 weight class, Junior Division – 1st place, 424.2 lbs., National Collegiate Record, Best Lifter Junior Bench Press

Waldo Villarreal – 220 weight class, Junior Division – 1st place, 396.2 lbs.

Deadlift

Petra Villegas – 123 weight class, Junior Division – 1st place, 220.2 lbs., National Collegiate Record

Jesus Sanchez – 123 weight class, Junior Division – 1st place, 364.8 lbs., Junior National Record

Lonnie Overturf – 165 weight class, Teen 16-17 Division – 1st place, 519.1 lbs., National High School Record

Ilian Rojas – 181 weight class, Junior Division – 3rd place, 512.5 lbs.

Imaray Rojas – 181 weight class, Teen 18-19 Division – 1st place, 314.0 lbs.

Luis Morales – 198 weight class, Junior Division – 2nd place, 462.7 lbs.

Jordan Glenn – 198 weight class, Teen 16-17 Division – 1st place, 606.2 lbs., Best Lifter Teen Deadlift

SPORTS QUIZ

By Chris Richcreek

1. Entering 2011, how many times had Jim Thome tallied at least 20 home runs in a season?
2. Name the last international team before Japan in 2010 to win the Little League World Series.
3. In 1976-77 and 1986-87, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers had the No. 1 overall draft pick each year. Name three of the four players selected.
4. Tom Izzo is the longest-serving Big Ten men's basketball head coach, having led Michigan State since 1995. Who is second in Big Ten tenure?
5. Who was the oldest NHL player to get his first hat trick before 40-year-old Nicklas Lidstrom of Detroit did it in 2010?
6. When swimmer Michael Phelps won his 16th career Olympic medal during the 2008 Summer Games, whose record did he break for men's total medals?
7. In 2011, Rory McIlroy became the youngest golfer (21) to hold at least a share of the lead after the first day of the Masters. Who had held the mark?

Answers

1. Sixteen of 20 seasons entering 2011.
2. Curacao, in 2004.
3. Lee Roy Selmon (1976), Ricky Bell ('77), Bo Jackson ('86) and Vinny Testaverde ('87).
4. Bill Carmody has been the head coach at Northwestern since 2000.
5. St. Louis' Scott Mellanby was 36 when he got his first hat trick in 2003.
6. Russian gymnast Nikolai Andrianov.
7. Seve Ballesteros was 23 when he did it in 1980.

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Conan: epic summer ending

WHITNEY BARRETT

Staff Writer

Summer has come to an end with an epic action movie, *Conan the Barbarian*, a new interpretation of the Conan mythology.

Directed by Marcus Nispel, the film stars Jason Momoa (*Stargate: Atlantis*) in the titular role alongside Rachel Nichols (*Star Trek*), Stephen Lang (*Avatar*) and Rose McGowan (*Charmed*).

Conan, born in the midst of battle, was raised to be a warrior. After his father is murdered and his village destroyed, he ventures into an unforgiving world where he survives as a thief, pirate and warrior.

His one and only loyal friend Artus (Nonso Anozie), has looked out for Conan since he has been on his own, and the pair have traveled a path of wanton adventures and women.

During one evening of drinking, Conan chances upon an affiliate to the warlord responsible for his tribe's destruction. He wastes no time going after Khalar Zym (Stephen Lang), the warlord, and Marique (Rose McGowan) a powerful witch and Khalar's daughter.

Along the journey to defeat Khalar, Conan makes himself responsible for the protection of Tamara (Rachel Nichols), a novitiate of a monastery who seems to a person of interest to Khalar Zym.

The film is full of fighting, blood, gore and a steamy love scene between Conan and Tamara. All in all the recipe for a good end-of-summer action movie.

The 3D effect further enhances the movie, but without making it over the top. Sure, the story itself is a bit cliché,



but at the same time, it works.

Conan the Barbarian may even excite some of the fans of the previous Conan epics, which starred Arnold Schwarzenegger.

This new take on Conan is sure to excite and keep your eyes glued on the screen for lovers of action, sorcery and mythology.



Research guides

There is nothing more convenient than having well-organized and easy access research help available on a particular topic.

The W.I. Dykes Library on the University of Houston-Downtown campus has a number of research guides, also known as LibGuides.

The LibGuides are helpful aids that students can use to research certain topics. These guides usually contain listings of recommended resources for finding information, such as databases, books, websites and other useful resources. Each librarian is assigned to a particular major or department. Thus, we make great efforts to create guides for every discipline on campus so as to provide you with as much information as possible.

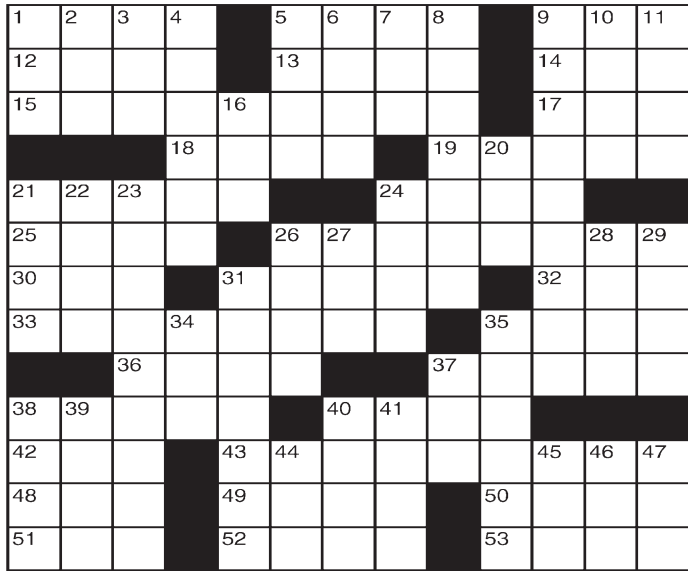
To learn more about the library's LibGuides, please visit the library's homepage at <http://www.uhd.edu/library> and click on the Research Guides tab in the big blue search box. This will provide you with a list of all the LibGuides available.

Happy researching, and remember, if you need additional research assistance you can always Ask-A-Librarian!

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Loony
- 5 Actress Sorvino
- 9 "That's a laugh!"
- 12 Reed instrument
- 13 Black, in poetry
- 14 Hearty brew
- 15 Mouth organ
- 17 Tier
- 18 Asset
- 19 Physician of ancient Greece
- 21 Was sore
- 24 Great Lake
- 25 Carson predecessor
- 26 "All Quiet on the Western Front" author
- 30 Blunder
- 31 Automaton
- 32 "Born in the --"
- 33 Suave
- 35 Hastened
- 36 Terrible guy?
- 37 Gives temporarily
- 38 Dr. Salk
- 40 Entrance
- 42 Early bird?
- 43 Teen sibs of whodunit



- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 48 Before fame | 9 Pantomime phrase? | 31 Grinds one's teeth |
| 49 Did surveillance on | 10 Lotion additive | 34 Eggs |
| 50 Touch | 11 Chopped | 35 Kind of tea |
| 51 Apiece | 16 Antiquated | 37 Myrna of Hollywood |
| 52 Stitches | 20 Melody | 38 Military vehicle |
| 53 Viscous | 21 Mimicked | 39 Shrek is one |
| | 22 Give a darn | 40 Sketched |
| | 23 Omen | 41 Probability |
| | 24 Like certain profs. | 44 Sailor's assent |
| | 26 Equine coloration | 45 Japanese sash |
| | 27 Inventor Whitney | 46 "Tasty!" |
| | 28 Second-hand | 47 Messy place |
| | 29 George of | |

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

- It was way back in the 17th century when noted Scottish scholar Patrick Young made the following sage observation: "The trouble with weather forecasting is that it's right too often for us to ignore it and wrong too often for us to rely on it."
- About once a week, a frog will shed its skin. Then eat it.
- If you've watched many old Westerns, you've doubtless seen Native Americans scalping their enemies. You probably don't realize, though, that the brutal practice didn't originate with the Indians. When the Dutch and English settlers were trying to clear out the natives, they were paid a bounty for each scalp they brought back. The Native Americans adopted the practice only after the Europeans' arrival on the continent.
- The country's first pizzeria opened in 1895 in, unsurprisingly, New York City.
- Those who study such things say that 70 percent of Americans have visited either Disneyland, in California, or Disney World, in Florida.
- If you want to have an especially memorable -- and chilly -- vacation, consider heading to Finnish Lapland. There, more than 150 miles north of the Arctic Circle, you can stay at the Kakslauttanen Hotel. The quarters aren't luxurious, but the sights are amazing. All the accommodations are geodesic glass igloos, offering amazing views of the aurora borealis.
- Are you a snollygoster? If so, you're shrewd, which isn't a bad thing, but you're also rather lacking in principles.

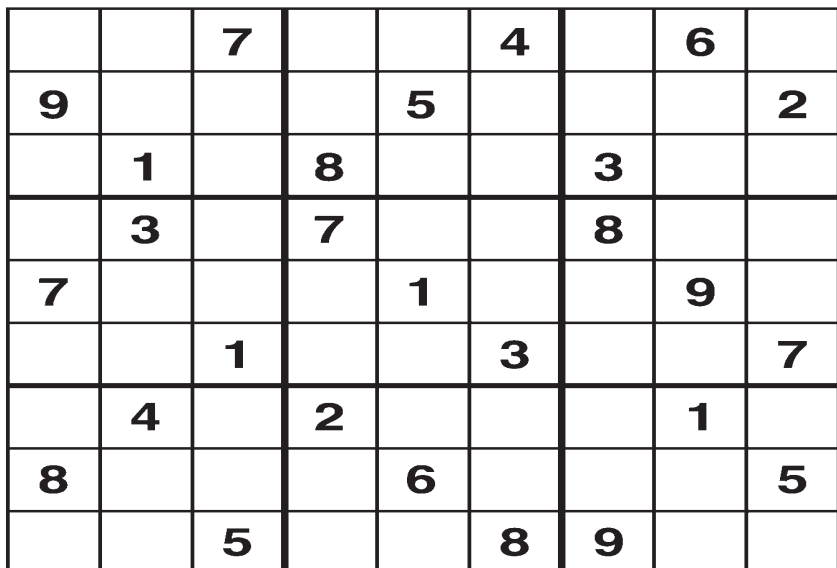
• When Andrew Jackson was running for president in 1828, his opponents called him a stubborn jackass. Jackson was proud that he was known for obstinately sticking to his guns, so he started using the image of a donkey on his campaign materials. The Democrats have been using that symbol ever since.

Thought for the Day: "Everyone, in some small sacred sanctuary of the self, is nuts." -- Leo Rosten

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

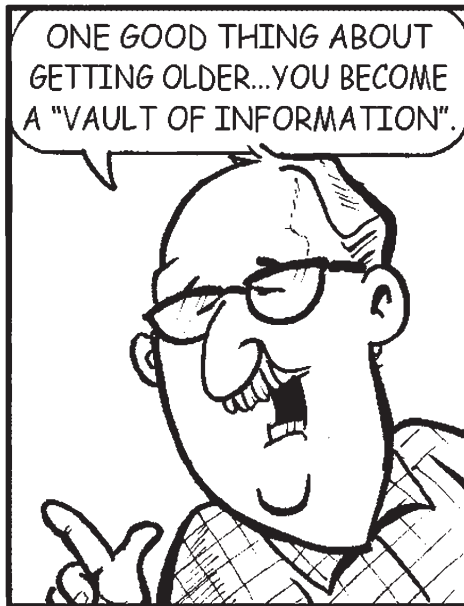
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
 ★★★ HOO BOY!

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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LAFF - A - DAY



"Couldn't you just let HER go home? She's on overtime, you know."

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

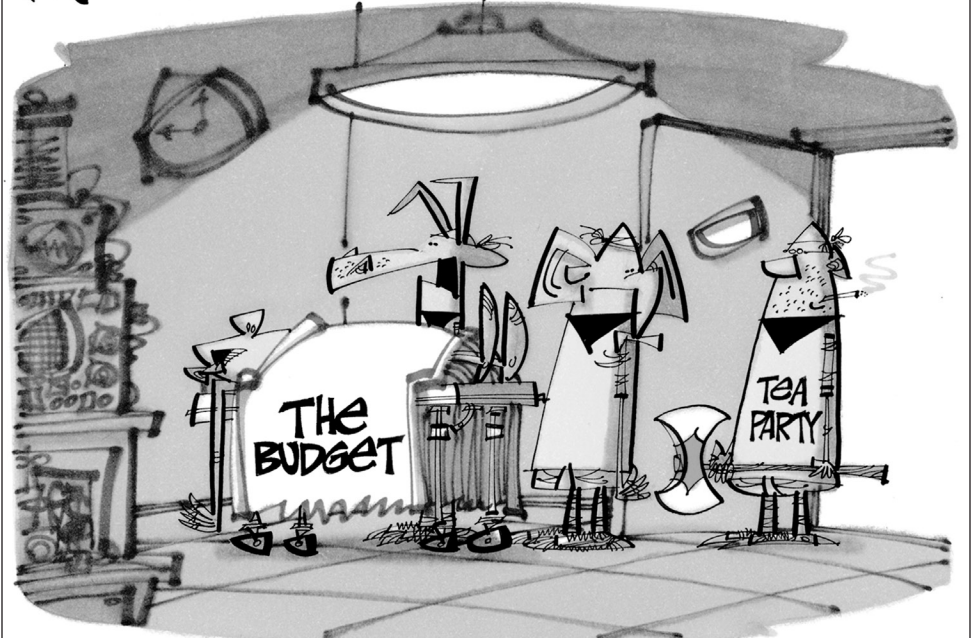
DAFT	MIRA	HAH						
OBOE	EBON	ALE						
HARMONICA	ROW							
PLUS	GALEN							
ACHED	ERIE							
PAAR	REMARQUE							
ERR	GOLEM	USA						
DEBONAIR	HIED							
IVAN	LEND							
JONAS	DOOR							
EGG	HARDY	BOYS						
ERE	EYED	ABOUT						
PER	SEWS	LIMY						

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

3	8	7	1	2	4	5	6	9
9	6	4	3	5	7	1	8	2
5	1	2	8	9	6	3	7	4
2	3	6	7	4	9	8	5	1
7	5	8	6	1	2	4	9	3
4	9	1	5	8	3	6	2	7
6	4	9	2	3	5	7	1	8
8	7	3	9	6	1	2	4	5
1	2	5	4	7	8	9	3	6

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"looks like a DELICATE OPERATION."

Classifieds

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To place an ad,
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NORTHLINE

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

August 3, 2011



MAJOR DETOUR TO AFFECT ACCESS TO UHD

Construction for the new North light rail line will require the closure of portions of Main Street between Naylor and Commerce and will affect access to University of Houston-Downtown. This closure is required to rebuild the northern section of the Main Street Bridge and to construct a new light rail bridge over the UPRR (Union Pacific Railroad) tracks. The detour is scheduled to begin the week of Monday, August 8, 2011 and will continue for approximately eighteen (18) months.

TRAFFIC DETOUR

- Northbound traffic on Main (see map) will be detoured right on Franklin, then left on San Jacinto. Traffic will then be diverted right on Rothwell, left on Hardy, right on Lyons, and left on Maury. At Lorraine, traffic will take a left to connect back to North Main via Hogan.
- Southbound traffic on North Main will take a left on Hogan which turns into Lorraine, then right on Maury. At Lyons, traffic will take a right and then a left onto McKee. At Providence, traffic will take right and then a left on North San Jacinto and connect back to Main via Commerce.

LOCAL ACCESS

- Shea Street Building and Garage: From eastbound Providence take a right on Vine and then a left on Naylor.
- Vine Street Garage: From eastbound Providence take a right on Vine to access the student entrance.
- Daly Street and Naylor Street Parking Lots: From eastbound Providence take a right on Vine and then a left on Naylor. Cross North Main to access the parking lot.

PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

- Pedestrians traveling from UHD's Main Street Building or the METRO Rail station to the Shea Street Building will be detoured to the sidewalk on the east side of North Main.
- Pedestrians are advised to use South Deck entrance from the Main Street Bridge to access the Main Street Building. The north entrance facing Buffalo Bayou will be limited to access to the outdoor area only.
- There will be no change in pedestrian access to the Commerce Street Building from the Main Street Building and the METRO Rail station.

Please note that the dates relating to construction in your area are approximate and subject to change. For the latest information on the construction activities in your area, please visit us at gometrarail.org.



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