



# DATELINE DOWNTOWN

"STUDENT RUN SINCE VOLUME ONE"

## Students and Admin Travel to Austin for "Houston Day"

Jacqueline Reyes  
Staff Writer

The 83rd Texas Legislative Session has begun, but not without the influx of students at the Texas capitol advocating for their schools.

"Houston Day" at the capitol is February 13, which is when UHD, in collaboration with the University of Houston system, travelled to Austin to advocate funding for the universities.

Students visited the Senate and House Chambers, and watched as numerous bills were read and legislators worked.

After lunch the students, as well as administrators, briefly prepared to speak to Texas Senators and Representatives about their school's request.

Teams were then formed, and a team leader was assigned. Each team was assigned to visit 6 or 7 representatives or senators, given a map and the room numbers of the Texas Capitol Building, and asked to meet back at

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UHD students and administration in Austin  
(photo by Jose Marcos)



## Metro Line Reopens Ahead of Schedule

Tianna Thomas  
Copy Editor

On Monday, January 25, 2013, MetroRail and UHD students celebrated the reopening of the One Main Street Bridge a month ahead of schedule. The reopening of the bridge boasts a significant milestone in MetroRail's rail expansion program.

After a year of construction, MetroRail has finally reopened access to the One Main Street Bridge. The bridge was originally closed in order to facilitate the Rail Expansion program, one of Metro's most recent construction projects, to readjust the bridge in a way that would accommodate both regular traffic as well as the new rail line.

At the opening ceremony, Metro Chairman Gilbert Garcia described the expansion as a "huge undertaking", citing the financial risks involved with such a monumental decision. He also expressed his elation at being able to successfully reopen the bridge.

UHD President William Flores was also present at the ceremony

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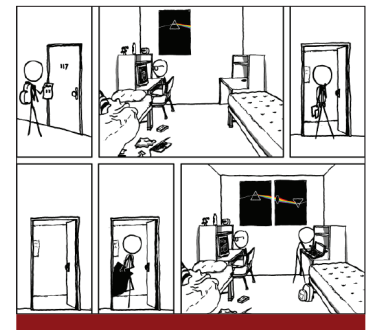
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## UHD's Model United Nations Participates in Model Arab League



Students participating in Model Arab League (photo by Jacqueline Reyes)

Jacqueline Reyes  
Staff Writer

The UHD's National Model United Nations recently participated in the Bilateral Model Arab League hosted at University of Houston's Honors College.

The Bilateral Model Arab League is an annual conference in which schools from Texas and the surrounding states represent a nation in Arab World. The students act as delegates of that country and must propose resolutions matching their country's interest and status to issues in their assigned council within a two day session. UHDMUN doesn't usually participate in Model Arab League, as the organization's focus is mostly on Model United Nations debates. However, the President of UHD

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editor.dateline@gmail.com



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## Make College More Affordable Through Changes in Paperwork

Iowa State Daily via UWire

Out of all the complicated forms a student can expect to fill out, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, surely ranks among the most arduous of paper journeys upon which a student will have to embark. With the recent arrival in our AccessPlus personal messages, we have been reminded that the deadline to file a FAFSA looms dead ahead.

Within the next few weeks, we will all have to sit down with our parents (if dependent) or our lonely selves (if independent) and spend perhaps hours poring over financial documents. Although you may very well have suppressed the memory of such an event, try to recall its crux: that magic number called an Estimated Family Contribution (EFC). The linchpin of the FAFSA experience, colleges use the EFC “to calculate the amount of federal student aid you are eligible to receive.”

Although it allegedly measures “your family’s financial strength,” the EFC seems like an arbitrary number. If you have the courage to use a worksheet provided by the federal government to see how your EFC is calculated, prepare to be baffled with what looks like more arbitrary numbers and a set of forms even less comprehensible than an insurance policy, a credit card policy, a mortgage, or basically any bill that has gone through Congress in living memory.

The website of President Barack Obama’s White House states that Obama has “set a new goal for the country: that by 2020, America would once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world.” That site offers four general ideas to improve access to higher education: Help middle class fami-

lies afford college, keep costs down, strengthen community colleges, and improve transparency and accountability.

Simplifying the paperwork associated with getting financial aid would probably help. The current forms are daunting to say the least, which, as we have learned from Democrats criticizing the idea that an ID to vote, limits access on its own.

And if you do manage to pass the great barrier form, you may find that your parents make “too much” money and that your EFC is too high to make you eligible for grants. In that regard, the FAFSA — and, therefore, the federal government — presume a familial relationship in which parents substantially contribute to their children’s college education. With high debts of their own in a slow economy, however, that presumption threatens the creation of a cyclical problem.

Expecting the current college age cohort’s parents to pay for much of their costs of attendance at college, when those parents cannot, means that students are only eligible for more loans. In a few decades, then, today’s college students will be parents who are unable to pay for their children’s education because they still have loans of their own.

At the end of the day, students must overturn every possible rock for potential scholarships. If the federal government is going to do anything to make college more affordable and accessible, perhaps the FAFSA should be simplified, the EFC made less arbitrary, and a nationwide index of scholarships put together. Uncle Sam taxes everyone, provides health insurance to millions of Americans, and takes a census every 10 years. Making a list of all the college scholarships offered in the United States can’t be that hard.

## Too Much Wine: An Exercise in Civility



Heidi Hlavinka  
Staff Writer

Last Thursday evening, encouraged by red wine and good Italian, I did something only a glass of wine and the mental aftermath of completing a philosophy paper could make me do. I asked my dining companions to examine their views on same-sex marriages.

In public.

During the 7 o’clock dinner hour.

Liquid courage.

And I’m sure you’re waiting for me to tell you how disastrous and awful it was. How

we offended half the dining room. How the waiter overheard us, and brought our food cold in protest.

Well, sorry, but I just don’t attract that kind of excitement. And as a matter of fact, the conversation was almost civilized. That isn’t to say there wasn’t a collective increase in blood pressure. Maybe I got a little red in the face. Or was that from the wine?

But isn’t it great when you know you started a conversation that teeters on the edge of ignition? When the words you say, carefully chosen and timed correctly, can balance the wobble, stifle the glow, or push the conversation right over that edge. And even better, in the end, you see everyone around you reach an understanding, satisfied that they were heard. This is how good conversation goes.

Unfortunately, this is not how some have shared their opinions with their fellow students at UHD. I have heard anecdotes of students acting in such senseless ways towards other students just because of how they look or who they are. I won’t re-

peat any specifics. No need.

And before you roll your eyes and ask why I’m using a newspaper column to fulfill some self-righteous need to admonish poor judgment and bad behavior, know that is not my intention. I am not qualified to say who is guilty and who needs admonishment, because I didn’t see or take part in these incidences. I simply want to say that I believe UHD students are better than the stories I have heard. We are intelligent adults attempting to make our way in this world. We are opinionated, and rightly so. Using this opinion wisely means you have a chance to be heard and understood, instead of shut down. The best part is you can learn something new when that happens. Whatever your views or personal preferences, know when to balance the wobble and when to push the conversation to ignition. There is no need to cram your opinion down someone else’s throat, as long as you agree that they can have an opinion also, and it doesn’t have to be the same as yours.

(Metro Rail continued from page 1)

along with several UHD students, including multiple SGA representatives and officers.

In his speech, President Flores was quoted as saying, “The bridge is a metaphor. It connects communities that have not had access to Downtown. The bridge reconnects and transforms, and UHD transforms. UHD builds futures and changes

lives.”

Interim CEO and President of Metro Tom Lambert mentioned safety as a priority when working with schools and also expressed his satisfaction with the project, saying that “the Metro Line expansion is becoming a reality.”

The new line is set to stretch from UHD Station, to Northline Transit Center HCC. Other branches of the line will travel to areas such as Hilcroft, Magnolia Park, and Robertson Stadium.

### Editorial Staff

Angelica Leicht

Editor

713-221-8192

editor.dateline@gmail.com

Tianna Thomas

Copy Editor

713-221-8275

assistanteditor.dateline@gmail.com

Curran Kelly

News Editor

newseditor.dateline@gmail.com

### Business Office

Daniel Almanza

Business Manager

almanza@uhd.edu

713-221-8569

### Advisor

Anthony Chiaviello

chiavielloa@uhd.edu

713.221.8520

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# Pell Grant Changes Affecting Poorest States

Tianna Thomas  
Copy Editor

Changes in Pell Grant over the years have been found to affect southern college students, according to a study by the University of Alabama. The study, which was conducted by the University of Alabama's Education Policy Center in conjunction with professors from Mississippi State University and Iowa State University, found that after the grant reduction in 2011, which was a result of the congressional tug-of-war over funding, enrollment has dropped in the states of Alabama, Arkansas, and Mississippi. The grant changes lowered the eligibility time from

18 semesters to 12, and also eliminated grants that funded studying in the summer. The maximum amount of the Pell Grant, which once covered 92% of the cost of attending a 2-year public university and 77% of a 4 year university, now only covers 62% of the cost of a 2 year school and 36% of the cost of a 4 year school, according to the NY Post. Southern Colleges have begun to see the effects of the cuts. There has been a significant enrollment decline in universities based in Alabama, Mississippi, and Arkansas. The research also revealed that 5,000 students lost grant eligibility in the fall of 2012, and more are expected to lose eligibility within the new year. Alabama is the 5th poorest state in the nation, while

Arkansas holds the third position, and Mississippi takes the title as the poorest, according to 24/7 Wall Street. Alabama, Mississippi, and Arkansas are also the least educated states, holding the 6th, 2nd and third positions respectively, according to 24/7 Wall Street. The cuts have affected the nation's poorest and most at-risk students. A study by the National Center for Educational Statistics has found that high percentages of aid recipients had at least one undergraduate risk characteristic, and a significant amount were non-white females. Risk characteristics include "delaying postsecondary enrollment or failing to graduate from high school," among other factors.

## Signatures Collected for Petition Against Aramark Managing Services at UH System



Jacqueline Reyes  
Staff Writer

"These are the people that serve us, and we want to make

sure they are being treated fairly," said John Locke, Senator for University College at the February 1st Student Government general assembly meeting.

Senator Locke was informing his peers about the employees in the food services at the University of Houston system, and a plan to potentially form a union.

The senate passed a motion to show their support for fair treatment of the employees who work in food services at UHD through providing a petition of 500 signatures.

The managing food services at the University of Houston system is Aramark, a company highly regarded in the managing services industry which also has business overseas. Here at UHD, Aramark has been managing the food services since 2006, and currently has about 30 employees.

Last year, Aramark implemented policies that have had some employees complain especially at University of Houston's main campus.

The Service Employees International Union (SEIU), a union in North America, reached out to UHD's SGA to inform them about the issue. The SEIU's ultimate goal is to seek that workers, especially those of minimum wage jobs, are being treated fairly and are given the benefits the employees are entitled to have. After various meetings, UHD SGA agreed to provide the SEIU with 500 signatures of students.

Lucy Deleon, a representative of SGA and leading volunteer for the collection of the signatures, said they collected 538 signatures in about a week. "The students were very willing to participate in the petition," she said. "SGA wants to remind everyone that we are not only here for the students, but also to improve the quality of the university as a whole," continued Deleon

The SEIU has been trying to organize the union since last year, but as of now has not received enough support. Even though the SGA and students were in support of the forming of a union, the SEIU said they lacked support from the employees in the food services at the UH system.

"There are about 100 workers at UH main campus, and we only had about half of their support. At UHD, only about 8 out of 30 workers showed their support. Even though it is against the law to fire someone for starting a union, many still fear losing their job," said Steven Stokes, the person of contact from the SEIU.

Stokes then referred back to the amount of support received last year at the Janitors Strike, which began here in Houston and culminated into other cities, and said if the employees showed more support in the future SEIU is willing to do something similar if they wished.

Aramark also gave a statement on their behalf; "Aramark has a great deal of respect for our employees, and while we prefer that our employees deal directly with us on issues concerning their employment, we fully support their democratic right to understand all of the issues and choose for themselves on the matter of union representation."

## Mississippi is Finally Abolishing Slavery in the 21st Century



Curran Kelly  
News Editor

On February 7, 2013 Mississippi ratified the 13th Amendment to the Constitution 148 years after it was adopted, officially abolishing slavery for the first time.

In December of 1865 the Amendment was ratified by three-fourths of the 36 states, though Mississippi's lawmakers remained hesitant, feeling they needed to be compensated for their freed slaves.

In 1995 Mississippi attempted to rectify themselves by putting in the paperwork for the 13th Amendment to make it official, though they failed to notify the US archivist, rendering it unrecorded and invalid.

The mistake was caught by Dr. Ranjan Batra, a professor at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, after seeing the movie "Lincoln", and discussing it with his colleague. "At the end of the story there was an open question about how the ratification process proceeded," said Batra. "Living in the South as I do, I found that a pretty big open question."

Batra's colleague, Ken Sullivan, contacted Mississippi Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann, who on February 3, 2013 sent the Office of the Federal Register a copy of the resolution, which was finally ratified on February 7, 2013.

Director of the film "Lincoln", Steven Spielberg, contacted Ken Sullivan thanking he and his colleague for correcting the mistake, stating that he was proud his film had been apart of this discovery.



# Are Dorms Finally Headed to UHD?

Jacqueline Reyes  
Staff Writer

The university's number one goal for 2012 through 2020 is to "attract more students, retain more students, [and] graduate more students" according to the "Strategic Plan 2012" handbook. As administrators have their own tactics to actualize this goal, Student Government Association (SGA) also has their own approach in mind: the establishment of residential housing.

Ivan Sanchez, the Student Body President, said he likes to see Student Government as Congress of the United States, UHD and the students as the United States, and the buying of the dormitory halls as the Louisiana Purchase.

Sanchez compares this idea to such historical events, as he feels residential housing is crucial to the development and improvement of UHD.

"This is what will move the University forward into a very positive direction. This is what will eventually make UHD as great as the United States," said the Political Science major graduating this year, who is looking to pursue a career in politics.

SGA feels that this will definitely attract more students to the university, but more specifically first year and international students, and help retain and graduate more students from UHD.

In a campaign launch last semester by SGA, called "What's the Frustration", or (WTF), where students wrote down their concern about the University, they re-

ported that about 33 percent of the feedback received were students asking about dorms.

Not only do some students feel strongly about dorms, but so do active SGA members, including the president, who usually work late hours in the office wishing there were dorms.

"With work and school, I seriously am up to the point of thinking of bringing in weeks' worth of clothes so I can close my eyes here, and open them here...the only problem in bringing clothes would be a shower. If only we had dorms," read a Facebook post Sanchez published on his timeline at 1:18 a.m.

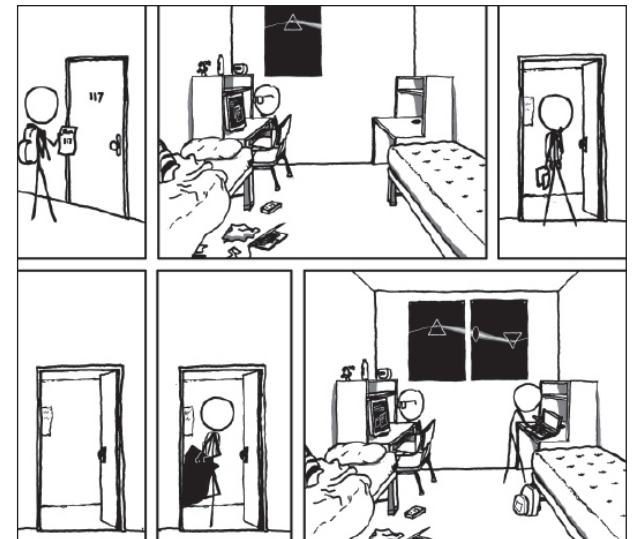
However, since the idea of purchasing land for dorms, the building of the dorms, and the binding contract between the university and the residential halls is still very premature, it faces many obstacles.

Some groundwork has been done by SGA, such as finding the availability of land in proximity to campus, and staying in continuous contact with the landowner.

According to SGA, the owner of the available land located north of the Shea Building, on the corner of N. Main St. and Naylor St., is willing to work with the university. A group of student leaders met with the land owner, an investor, an architect and the small business developer at UHD to introduce and discuss the idea.

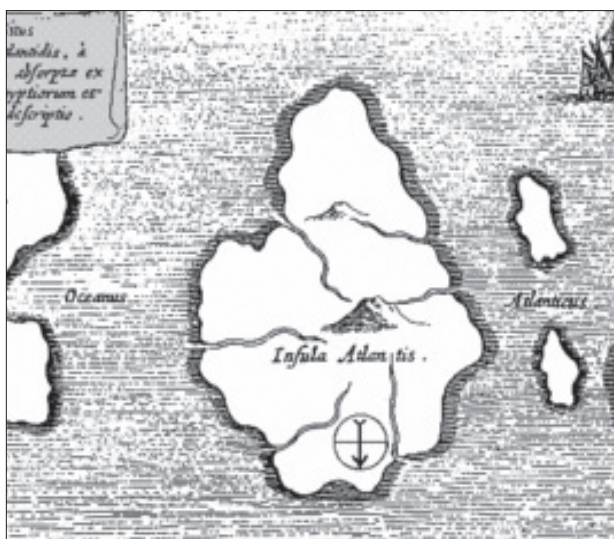
Sarah Syed, a Biology major, whose main thought was how exactly this would benefit the university and affect the community. Syed was skeptical about who they were contacting to make the dorms idea possible.

"A concern of mine was, are they committed to this school and this idea as much as the students are com-



mitted to this idea," she said. After the meeting, Syed said she felt convinced that these individuals were very willing to cooperate with students and want to see the university improve. "The developer firmly stated he would financially invest in the project and provide the available resources. It was very reassuring knowing someone wanted to help our school succeed," she said. This meeting where student leaders and SGA sought clarification found that this project is definitely feasible, and will continue to push toward this goal.

# Scientists Discover the Not-So-Lost City of Atlantis



Curran Kelly  
News Editor

A discovery was reported in the Journal of Nature Geoscience stating that a continent was found deep below the Indian Ocean which may have sunk millions of years ago, part of it surviving to be the Seychelles, an island in the Indian Ocean.

A new analysis of island sands shows that the micro-continent of Mauritia may be hidden beneath ancient lava in a volcanic chain unusually situated in the middle of its tectonic plate, much like the Hawaiian Islands. Investigators suspect Mauritia separated from Madagascar and became fragmented as the Indian Ocean grew, dispersing, sinking, and becoming covered in lava due to volcanic activity over millions of years.

Within the sands, scientists discovered close to 20 an-

cient mineral grains, estimated to be 660 million and 1,970 million years old. By looking at the Earth's gravitational field, investigators are able to see where on the earth the gravitational field is strongest, in hopes of discovering just where these grains came from. The minerals are made up of heavy metals such as uranium and lead, so scientists believe they cannot be far from the source, after becoming part of the beaches. Scientists must continue their research in hopes of finding out more about this micro-continent, revealing a lot more information about the world millions of years ago.

(Austin Trip continued from page 1)

the bus at the close.

UHD's legislative appropriation requests were communicated to the Senators and Representatives by students. UHD students asked the Senators to support tuition revenue bonds to fund a Science and Technology Building. The bonds were in the amount of 7.53 million in biennium. The science and technology classes are housed in the 80 year old building alongside humanities classes and administrative offices. Other four year institutions, unlike UHD, have one or multiple science

buildings for stem majors.

The second request UHD students were advocating for is 5 million, which is a one-time request, to enhance advising and services to better support students. As of now, the ratio of students to advisors is 700 to 1.

Mayra Izaguire, a communications major, who was a leader on her team said that "it was a great experience speaking to representatives and senators of the Texas legislature in advocating for our school and knowing that it is for the good of all students."

This legislative session there were a lot more students who attended in comparison to the previous session.

Emanuel Castillo, a Political Science major who is currently a junior said that in the 82nd Legislative session in 2011, only a few students went to Austin to advocate for their school. He recalls having to provide for their own stay and transportation, and were not in collaboration with the UH system.

For this session, he said he was very impressed with amount of students that went and the organization of the trip on behalf of administration.

# May the Farce Be With You, Star Wars Legacy

Mark Steven Caffey  
Staff Writer

I was eight years old when the original 'Star Wars' entered my world. I went to see the film with my family and was hooked!

My first 'Star Wars' figure was C-3PO and he went everywhere with me. 'Star Wars - A New Hope' had a major impact on me at such an early age. It stoked my creative engine and broadened my imagination. I became a dreamer.

The effect Star Wars had on me deepened with the release of 'The Empire Strikes Back'; the film is by far the best Star Wars film released to date.

After the successful acquisition of Marvel, Disney dared to repeat the task by purchasing Lucasfilm Ltd for 4 billion dollars. The 'Star Wars' franchise has had a successful 35 year run and Disney is looking to keep it rolling. The franchise has created over 4.5 billion dollars in box office sales.

"It's now time for me to pass 'Star Wars' on to a new generation of filmmakers", says Lucas. "Having a new home within the Disney organization, 'Star Wars' will certainly live on and flourish for many generations to come. Disney's reach and experience give Lucasfilm the opportunity to blaze new trails in film, television, interactive media, theme parks, live entertainment, and consumer products."



(photo courtesy of Google Creative Commons)

Lucas goes on to say that Star Wars could last 100 years with Disney. The problem is, should it? Disney has the capability of expanding the 'Star Wars' universe to new heights on many levels. It is important to remember that the driving force behind 'Star Wars' was creativity and the story.

Lucas was true to his vision of Star Wars, although I am still baffled about the incorporation of Jar Jar Binks and Ewoks into his world.

Through the greed and influence of the Disney shareholders, there may be a possible morphing of the Star Wars franchise into what the purists hate: movies with excessive effects, weak story lines and poor character development. This is a common trend in movie making today.

Sure, Star Wars is a business but to the movie fan, it is much more.

Star Wars Episode 7 is scheduled for release in 2015. Star Trek director J.J. Abrams is set to direct this film. "It was "incredibly surreal" to be asked to direct 'Star Wars'", says Abrams.

He claims 'Star Wars' will not affect his work on the 'Star Trek' franchise. "They're very distinct and separate entities."

Although Abrams did an outstanding job on the Star Trek revamp, many purists of Star Wars and Star Trek alike believe cataclysmic ends to the both universes are inevitable.

I'm sure both will survive. I wouldn't worry about the director's influence on the upcoming Star Wars films. What I do worry about is the influence from the writers of Disney.

## Join with Other Young Texans in Supporting Access to Birth Control



Rachel MacDonald  
Contributing Writer

How important is it to you that Texas women have access to family planning and birth control, regardless of their income -- is it extremely important, very important, just a little important or not important at all?

This is a question that was asked in a recent statewide poll conducted by a pair of Democratic- and Republican-leaning pollsters for the Texas Freedom Network Education Fund. The TFN Education Fund is an Austin-based grassroots organization that does research and civic engagement in support of religious freedom, civil liberties and strong public schools. You can read the poll at [www.tfn.org/birthcontroltx](http://www.tfn.org/birthcontroltx).

According to the poll, 68 percent of registered voters in Texas support access to family planning and birth control for all women, regardless of their income. Support is especially strong among young people under the age of 30 -- a whopping 84

percent say they support full access.

But too many Texas lawmakers have taken to playing cupid when it comes to matters of love, birth control and family planning -- which is downright stupid. They think they know what is best for Texas women and families, while most Texans, and especially young people, disagree. Politically, this is a dicey position for politicians to take because the Millennial generation, our generation, is becoming increasingly civically engaged. Lawmakers are way out of step with our views.

When asked whether or not they support "teaching about contraception, such as condoms, birth control, along with abstinence, in high school education classes," 93 percent of young people also said yes. And 85 percent of young people said they support state funding for family planning services, including birth control, for low-income women. Support for both among all registered voters in Texas was also strong -- 84 percent for comprehensive sex education and 73 percent for state funding for birth control.

During the last legislative session the Governor and the state Legislature slashed state funding for family planning and birth control programs by two-thirds, threatening access to those services for thousands of women in Texas. According to the TFN Education Fund poll, young people support reversing the budget cuts to those services by 64 percent.

A large majority of young people also told pollsters for the Texas survey that they oppose allowing any employer or boss to deny their employees health care coverage for certain services, including birth control and Plan B, because it violates the employer's religious or moral beliefs. Like most Texans, they clearly think government and employers have no business interfering with the freedom of women to make decisions about their own health care and when or if to have children.

We know that a strong majority of Texans and the vast majority of young people support access to birth control and family planning. We're fed up with far-right politicians' war and women and now their "war of birth control". Later this semester we'll be taking petitions we have collected to the Texas Legislature to let our lawmakers know what young people think. Will you add your voice? Consider joining the Texas Freedom Network Student Chapter at UHD today. Find us on Facebook and get involved.

- Texas Freedom Network Student Chapter President  
Rachel MacDonald Junior - ISS

# Houston's Hidden Treasures

## Exploring Houston's Treasure Troves with Mark Caffey

Mark Steven Caffey  
Staff Columnist

Nestled near a corner of San Jacinto College Central in Pasadena, TX, Mama Mia's Pizza & Pasta provides a popular hangout for students and locals alike.

Mama Mia's is a wonderful treasure; it's a cozy space with a friendly environment and home-like atmosphere that just happens to be serving fresh homemade pizza and pasta.

Mama Mia's is owned by Alex Medi and his brother Ozzy. I met with Alex to discuss his journey to Mama Mia's.

**His story:**

Alex was born in Macedonia in 1977, and is proud of his Albanian and Sicilian heritage. He moved to Paterson, NJ at the age of two, before moving back to Albania at the age of six.

When he was nine years old, he moved back to New Jersey. The constant movement made it hard for him to adjust in school, especially with having to learn two languages.

After finally landing in the Houston area, Alex decided to invest in Mama Mia's, a cozy spot where the towns of Pasadena,



(photos courtesy of Mark Caffey)

Deer Park and La Porte converge. He has owned and operated Mama Mia's for the last 5 years; the first 2 years with his Uncle Nick and the last 3 years with his brother Ozzy.

Alex's cousin Ish has been a part of Mama Mia's since day one. Ish has been an integral part of the restaurant's success.

Customers love Alex; he's part of their family.

Alex cares deeply about his customers, the quality of his food and the service he provides. His wife works at the restaurant and he plans to have his children work there when they are old enough. He has two daughters and one son.

"Texas is the best place to raise a family", says Alex. "The people are kind and we have a relaxed atmosphere here - unlike New Jersey where everyone is rushing around and distant. In Jersey, you may never meet your next door neighbor of 20 years. I love my customers and love having this restaurant."

Alex worked hard for what he has today. He works 12 hours a day and 6 to 7 days a week. He and his brother Ozzy cook for

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# UHD Confessions Page: We're Writing About You...



Alma Garcia  
Staff Writer

With 473 Likes and counting, many UHD students have opted for posting their confessions on a Face-Book page titled "UHD Confessions", created on February 7, 2013 by an anonymous administrator.

It is the latest trend for universities to let out what they think without feeling embarrassed. UH,

Rice, St. Thomas and other universities have also joined in this trend.

The confessions are spicy enough to make the students call themselves thirsty!

Students post what they think about their teachers, ask for relationship advice, how they feel about their classmates, and even about those private parking lot activities.

Want to say that you think? Get on FaceBook and search "UHD Confessions". Like the page and click on the link to survey monkey to enter your anonymous post.

Once it is posted, the administrators will choose which get posted and which do not. If you post your confession under the regular posting box, then be prepared to be publicly recognized for your post.

The downfall of uniting under the UHD confessions is that the comments aimed at the confessions reveal your identity.

This means that although the confession is anonymous, the replies of those who agree and praise the comment are public, so you might want to be careful about what you say.



## GREAT DAY HOUSTON

### VISITING THE SET OF HOUSTON'S OWN MORNING TALK SHOW



Wendy Williams  
Staff Writer

If you are new to the Houston area, or just want to keep up with what is current, there is a talk show you might want to check out.

Great Day Houston, which airs on KHOU at 9:00 am on weekday mornings, will help you keep up with everything that's going on around Houston. During the hour long show, Hostess Deborah Duncan talks with guests or features an event in Houston. The show is recorded live in seven segments.

On the Friday, February 22 show, Amy Sablatura and members of the Rodeo Commission were guests. They were on the show to promote the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo going on at Reliant Park, and members of the audience were

asked to wear their western gear or Texans team apparel in celebration of Go Texans Day.

Other guests on the show included country singer Cory Morrow, Janet Dewitt from Weight Watchers, Bill Meeks from Baskins Western Apparel and Culture Maps' Shelby Hodge.

Baskins sponsored a children's fashion show during taping that day and encouraged anyone in need of western wear for the rodeo to stop by. Janet Dewitt from Weight Watchers showed the audience how to prepare items at home that keep you healthy and give you energy while tasting great.

Shelby Hodge was there also to discuss her participation with the Houston Rodeo, inform everyone about the rodeo attractions, and to promote attendance.

Cory Morrow performed his very popular song "21

Days."

The Chick-Fil-A cows appeared on the show, attempting to give cows a break! Every time someone mentioned beef or livestock they would make a mooing sound.

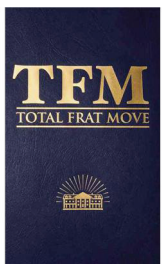
Deborah Duncan was a great host. She was able to maintain focus on the audience and guests simultaneously.

At the end of taping, audience members were allowed to meet her and take pictures.

To obtain tickets to Great Day Houston, call 713-533-5294 to reserve your seat or send an email to [greatdayhouston@khou.com](mailto:greatdayhouston@khou.com).

Tickets are free. Be sure to include what day you would like to visit, the number of seats need, and return contact information.

## Book Review: Total Frat Move delves into the literary realm



Leah Jacobson, Daily Trojan via UWire

Frat bros everywhere, rejoice: The much anticipated book version of the wildly popular website Total Frat Move,

affectionately referred to as TFM by its fans, has been released Tuesday.

The book sets out to provide the public with a national update on college fraternities, claiming that Greek life today "makes Animal House look like a Pixar movie." It promises a hilarious and enjoyable reading experience, tracking the journey of college freshman Townes Prescott as he encounters the college party scene for the first time.

Current and former college students alike might find themselves smiling at the familiarity of the classic college experiences he de-

scribes, such as Prescott's first college party, first college hookup and initiation into his fraternity.

Other familiar issues are introduced to the reader as well, most notably the freedom that ensues following the separation from one's parents and a failed attempt to make that classic long-distance high-school relationship work.

The book seemingly intends to be every teenage boy's dream and every mother's nightmare. TFM flaunts a barrage of alcohol, drugs and debauchery from page one, said W.R. Bolen, the book's author.

"The point of me writing it was to create the most entertaining and hilarious book possible, focused on capturing the unique insanity that comes with this incomparable lifestyle," Bolen said. "I want people to have the [best] time they've ever had reading a book. Personally, I can't get through a chapter without

wanting to go out and rage."

The website that inspired the book rose to notoriety over the past few years for its postings about fraternity life in college, amassing comments and stories from Greek communities across the United States.

The site was so successful that it garnered the attention of literary agent Byrd Leavell, who submitted an inquiry to the TFM website.

"I came across the message, we got in contact with him and the next thing I knew I was writing this thing," Bolen said. "A few months of writing later, Byrd sold the book to Ben Greenberg at Grand Central Publishing, and the rest is history."

Bolen started his career writing for TFM in college. The original founders of TFM, Madison Wickham and Ryan Young, were two of Bolen's older fraternity brothers. They reached

(continued on page 12)

# UHD College of Business Hosts "Meet the Industry" Event

Jacqueline Reyes  
Staff Writer

If there is one thing students at the Shea Building learn, it is the importance of networking, which is one of the reasons why Dr. L. Karkoviata, a professor in economics, puts so much effort into the "Meet the Industry" event each year.

Joheb Jivani, a double major in Accounting and Finance, graduating this May, said he learned that networking is very important. "It is one thing going in and out of class, but another thing actually going out there and meeting people," he said.

The event's purpose, which was held February 15, 2013, is to expose students to the industry and give them a unique opportunity to seek advice from individuals working for huge companies. Companies

like the Federal Reserve Bank, Wal-Mart Stores, Saalex Inc., BP, Regions Bank, Schlumberger, and Firestone were present.

The event was composed of panels where industry leaders and young professionals shared their experiences, and after each session students were allowed to ask questions. They gave valuable information that will resonate with students long time after graduating.

Nick Scribner, Market Manager for Wal-Mart Stores, shared that new graduates think they have no experience but they in fact do, but don't know that it's ap-



plicable.

Jesse Thompson, Business Economics at Federal Reserve Bank, said that evidence of work ethic is just as important as experience, and Charlie Wilson CEO of Salvex, Inc. said companies are seeking to hire graduates who are multilingual.

Jivani, being his first time attending and soon graduating, said he regrets not attending the ones from years before. "It was very informative and I got more than I expected from this event."

Jivani also learned that technology is becoming more and more relevant in any field, and that it is important

to stay updated in order to better communicate with others.

During the lunch session, students had the opportunity to mingle and network with the guest and speakers. Some companies also set up a booth and accepted students' resumes.

Dr. Karkoviata said this event helps brand the university and promote the quality of the students. For this reason companies seek to target UHD graduates. "[Companies] leave the event very impressed with our students because they market themselves very well," she said.

George Ranieri, District Manager of Firestone, shared what he looks for when interviewing an individual. "I look for behavioral manners while in-

terviewing. We can teach you everything else, but we can't teach you manners," he said.

One of the keynote speakers at the event was Ronald Green, Houston's City Controller. This was the fourth year the College of Business hosted the Meet the Industry with each year "becoming bigger and better," according to Dr. Karkoviata. She continued saying that this event helps students make better choices and change career paths if it is necessary, defines career goals and answering questions.

## SGA Providing Free Scan Trons to Broke Students at UHD

Alma Garcia  
Staff Writer

On February 22, 2013 SGA approved a \$100 budget that allowed them to purchase scantrons and blue books for UH-D students. "We appreciate the support the student body gives SGA and free scantrons is our way to thank them. We want them to know that we are here to help them," said SGA Treasurer, Kristopher Sharp.

The UH-D bookstore sells a pack of six scantrons for \$1.98, which is about 33 cents per scantron. Scantrons can also be purchased separately at 40 cents per piece. That marks a seven cent difference considering the price per scantron in a pack versus a single bought scantron. A blue book is about 97 cents without tax. It may not sound like a lot of money is being wasted buying scantrons, but pocket money is better than no money at all.

If you would like a free scantron, go down to the SGA office located on the second floor room N210. There is no limit to the number of scantrons a student can have. "We know that students sometimes have more than one test or quiz on the same day, and we want to make sure that they have what they need" said SGA Vice President Mayra Izaguirre. Every single dollar counts when it comes to Spring Break! So don't waste that one dollar on Scantrons or blue books.

Save money by taking advantage of SGA's generous contribution to the student body. Classification doesn't matter as long as you are a UH-D student and are in need of a scantron. This is also a great opportunity for you to meet your SGA representatives and voice your concerns if you have any.

## FREE SCANTRONS!





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# UHD Handbook to Reflect Discrimination Changes Made to Policy

Heidi Hlavinka  
Staff Writer

The Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy for UH-D students is under review, following changes in the University of Houston system-wide Discrimination and Harassment Policy, and Sexual Misconduct Policy. In order to reflect the changes made to the system policies, the university began reviewing the Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy in order to change it.

Douglas teDuits, Assistant Vice President of Employment Training and Campus Relations and Affirmative Action Officer, and Tommy Thomason, Campus Relations and Student Conduct Officer and Title IX Coordinator, added that the intended changes reflect UH-D's goal to provide a welcoming environment for all LGBTQ students.

"UH-D does not tolerate discrimination of protected classes, including discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. Any issues related to sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression can be addressed through Tommy or I, or the UH System Office of Equal Opportunity Services," teDuits said.

The changes to the system policies have added protection for the LGBTQ community, by making it a punishable violation of the Discrimination and Harassment Policy to discriminate against students, faculty or staff based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. The Sexual Misconduct policy reinforces the Discrimination and Harassment Policy's wording change by defining sexual misconduct as, among other behaviors, harassment based on gender stereotypes or a person's sex. It emphasizes that the policy applies to cases of harassment no matter the involved persons' sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

After revision and approval, the revised Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy will also contain added protection for the LGBTQ community. The revised policy will make discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression a punishable violation.

"We hope that we provide an environment where these things don't happen," teDuits said about the discrimination policy changes. "If issues come up, we hope people know we can respond in a timely manner."

Around the time the university began reviewing the Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy, Kristopher Sharp, Student Government Association Senator and Public Relations Representative for Safe Zone, and Student Government Association President Ivan Sanchez also took a look at the Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy applying to UH-D students.

"President Sanchez and I wanted to look at how the University looks from the outside and in. How a university looks from the outside dictates how people choose to attend a university. We noticed we did not have protection for LGBTQ students,

and it's important they have protection on campus in case some sort of incident were to arise," Sharp said.

Sharp then authored an SGA bill to amend the wording of the Freedom from Discrimination clause in the Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy to include "sexual orientation or gender identity and expression." Aside from wanting the Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy to reflect the changes in the system policies, Sharp noted an incident where a transgender student was physically assaulted while using the restroom as evidence for the need for the changes.

"I know Transgender students who will leave the University just to go to the restroom. I also know of people who decided not to attend UH-D because we didn't have that protection in the clause," Sharp said.

While the Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy is still being revised, Thomason emphasized the discrimination issues covered in Sharp's amendment are also covered by the system-wide policies.

"We're getting the revision completed, but the language of the SGA resolution is in the system policy now," Thomason said.



(Model Arab League continued from page 1)

NMUN, Edwin Narvaez, saw potential and ability in the team this year.

"Last year, one of our alumni debated at Model Arab League and won an award there, so we decided to attend as a delegation at this conference," he said.

Although Model Arab League is different from their usual UN debates, "we as an organization encourage all models of debate and look forward to attending any debate," he continued.

This year UHDNMUN represented the nation of Libya. Delegates were to be present at each of the councils established by the Bilateral Model Arab League, which were Joint Defense, Palestinian Affairs, Social Affairs, Political Affairs, and Economic Affairs.

The team had a limited amount of time to prepare for this conference, however thanks to their experience in past debates; the team was able to excel nonetheless. The team did so well in fact, that one of the members of UH-D's NMUN was awarded "Honorable Mention" in the social affairs council at the end of the conference.

Dr. M. Cunningham, advisor for UHDNMUN and Professor in the English Department, said she was "very proud" of the students. "We are so fortunate to have the students learn debate, live in the mega city where we can participate in Model Arab League, and have an administration that supports our efforts. It is a very great intense learning experience for the students."

The conference concluded with keynote speaker Texas State Senator Rodney Ellis, encouraging students to travel the world, and pursue what it is they love to do.

Narvaez said the organization is currently proposing to attend a conference in New York this April and will be preparing for that and other conferences for the future.

"We want it to continue to grow, and offer more training," said Dr. Cunningham.

A few interested faculties alongside Dr. Cunningham are also organizing a training program so as to expand and gain more members.



## The Dateline is Hiring!

### Dateline Seeks Editor

Editor for UHD student newspaper needed for 2013-2014. The Student Publications Advisory Committee is seeking applicants for the position of editor for Dateline: Downtown, the student-run bi-weekly newspaper at UHD. Flexible beginning date, but candidates must commit for the entire 2013-14 academic year.

Duties include working cooperatively with student business manager and student adviser, developing and managing a stable of student freelance writers to cover news and events on campus, and assertively managing staff and producing newspaper approximately every two weeks. Must know page-making software program Adobe InDesign. The paper needs stories on events of interest to students, including student life, academics, university administration, and student government, as well as cultural coverage of theatre, film, music, and the arts. Typical commitment is 20 hours/week.

Qualifications include at least sophomore standing; at least one semester at UHD; successful completion of basic writing and/or communications courses; and the maintenance of at least a 3.0 GPA. Applications are sought immediately and will be accepted until April 17 or until the position is filled. To apply, contact Dr. Anthony Chiaviello, at Chiaviello@uhd.edu, then download and complete electronic application from UHD web site, and forward it as an attachment to an email.

### Dateline Seeks Business Manager

Business manager for UHD student newspaper needed for 2013-14. The Student Publications Advisory Committee is seeking applicants for the position of business manager for Dateline: Downtown, the student-run bi-weekly newspaper at UHD. Successful candidate will begin on-the-job, paid training ASAP. Candidates must commit for the entire 2013-14 academic year.

Duties include managing business and financial matters for the paper, in cooperation with the student editor and adviser, and selling advertising space in the paper, including businesses in the campus neighborhood of NoDo. Will train on PeopleSoft accounting system for payroll and accounts. Typical commitment is 20 hours/week, monthly salary plus 15% commission on ad sales. Qualifications include at least sophomore standing; at least one semester at

UHD; successful completion of basic business courses; and the maintenance of at least a 2.5 GPA.

Applications are sought immediately and will be accepted until April 17 or until the position is filled. To apply, contact Dr. Anthony Chiaviello, at Chiaviello@uhd.edu, then download and complete application from UHD web site, and forward as an email attachment.

## Healthy Meal Choices on a College Budget



Jessica Zamora  
Contributing Writer

College students and healthy food are two things you don't often hear together, because life on a budget doesn't always allow for healthy eating.

What if I told you, from one college student to another, you can spend wisely on good and healthy meals without breaking the bank?

No, I don't mean picking up a salad from Chick-Fil-A or McDonalds. Let's face it, the nutritious menu at any fast food restaurant does tend to have a higher price.

The way I see it is that you only need three things to be able to cook; you need to be able to read directions, you need a crock pot (you can purchase one from Wal-Mart or Target for a reasonable price if you don't have one handy), and you need to have confidence that you can survive without mom's meals.

We love to shop at HEB and tend to stick to their name brand due to their cheaper prices and the fact that they taste the same as other top brands, which really help us out for weekly dinners. One of the many meals that is favorite in my house is ground turkey spaghetti.

Now, I know what some of you may be thinking, why ground turkey? Not only is it healthier for you but easy to prepare and taste the same as regular ground beef. This meal is prepared fast and easy.

The ingredients you'll need are wheat spaghetti noodles and one package of ground turkey meat. Next you'll need one jar of spaghetti sauce, the veggie kind or the original, each taste equally the same.

Cook the spaghetti noodles like the package says, as well as the turkey meat, and then add the spaghetti sauce. Put all those together and you have a tasteful easy prepared Italian meal. I can tell you this from experience, when you invite your friends over for a nice dinner, they will be asking for seconds. Ever wonder what to make when the big game is on or you just have a huge

get together for everyone to hang out or have a study party? If you want to wow your friends and be the hit of game day, make a hearty homemade ground turkey chili.

Yes, once again turkey is good for you and it still tastes the same as regular ground meat no matter what you prepare it with. You'll first need the turkey meat, prepare as it says on the package and McCormick chili mix.

You'll need about 2 tomato cans and two cans of red kidney beans. Once your meat is prepared in a separate pan, add the tomato sauce, turkey meat, and kidney beans to a giant pot to mix well together.

Next add the chili packet and any other hot sauce if you think your friends can handle it. Top it off with shredded cheese, sour cream or corn chips, and you have a healthy, hearty meal.

No more leftover paper boxes of half eaten wings and giant pizza boxes that never fit in your trash can.

Don't you hate when you get that urge for some good tasting Mexican food, but when you decide on a place, it's overcrowded or too expensive? I'm sure we can fix that bind with this crock pot chicken taco recipe that'll keep things healthy too.

What you'll need for this tasty Mexican dish is one package of chicken breast, and the taco seasoning by McCormick. A jar of salsa to add to the chicken would give a flavorful kick.

Place all these ingredients in the crock pot for about 4-6 hrs on high power and just wait. This works well by cooking with a crock pot if you have class or work to go to.

By the time you get home, your dinner will be done and waiting for you. We prepare dishes like this in the morning, and then set it to low to keep from overcooking while you're away.

Top it off with corn tortillas you can heat over the stove if you'd like, or enjoy it right out of the crock pot. We won't judge!



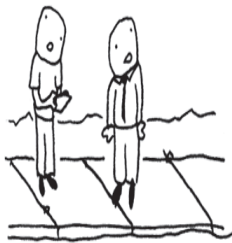
# The Tech Files

## Fill Out Those NSSE Surveys!

Rocio Ortiz  
Staff Writer

Every year the NSSE (National Survey of Student Engagement) asks students at hundreds of colleges and universities to reflect on the time they devote to various learning activities. And guess what school is next on these surveys?

excuse me, sir,  
i have a quick  
survey, do you  
have a minute



yes, as soon as  
you answer my  
survey. first  
question: survey  
boxes, survey  
briefs, or sur-  
vey freeball

Yes, that's right!  
The University of Houston Down-  
town!  
The survey will be going on this  
week all the way through June, so  
if you are a freshmen or a senior  
expect to receive this survey.  
This online survey asks about  
students' level of participation  
in all kinds of activities, both  
academically and socially.  
The NSSE has made several other  
surveys in the past years that  
have showed interesting results  
about college students and their  
performance in school.  
Some of the results from the past  
conducted surveys were that fi-  
nancial challenges affect college  
students.  
Many students worry about how the  
are going to pay for their col-  
lege, and as many as one in three  
frequently opt not to purchase  
required academic materials due  
to the cost.  
This is important especially for  
students who are about to enter  
college, because it helps them  
see that it is important to start  
applying for scholarships or save  
up their money for school.  
Full-time students working more

than 20 hours per week face the  
greatest financial stress; three  
in five said that their job in-  
terfered with their academic per-  
formance, yet just as many had  
considered working more hours.  
This helps students be mindful of  
the time they work and the time  
they put into their schoolwork.  
Another important survey question  
asked, "are faculty members ac-  
cessible and supportive?"  
49% of students said their facul-  
ties were available, helpful and  
sympathetic.  
These few questions that were  
asked in surveys at colleges show  
the importance of knowing what is  
going on in your school.  
Who knows; you might find out  
about a cool club or group that  
you didn't even know existed.  
All of these surveys are for the  
benefit of the students and fac-  
ulty at our school.  
Through these surveys you can  
also find out areas where you can  
receive help in.  
For example, if you need tutoring  
or study groups you can see that  
there are many more students who  
are looking into the same things  
you are. You can easily go to  
student resources or check around  
campus to see where you can take  
advantage of these opportunities.  
Some of the few questions you  
will probably get asked around  
UHD campus are "During the school  
year, about how often have you  
done the following:"  
a. Asked questions or contributed  
to course discussions in other  
ways  
b. Prepared two or more drafts  
of a paper or assignment before  
turning it in  
c. Come to class without complet-  
ing readings or assignments  
d. Attended an art exhibit, play  
or other arts performance (dance,  
music, etc.)  
These questions that may seem un-  
important to you will also help  
you reflect and ask yourself,  
what have you done or how have  
you contributed to your school?  
So if you get this survey make  
sure to fill it out, because it  
can really come to benefit to  
you.

(Houston Treasure continued  
from page 6)  
the restaurant.

This strong family work ethic  
started years ago when Alex's  
grandfather came to America  
and started their family res-  
taurant tradition.

"It all started with my grandfa-  
ther in 1952", says Alex. "This  
provided an opportunity for me  
and my family to succeed."

### The food

Mama Mia's offers a full menu  
of pizza and pasta. Everything  
is homemade!

I decided to try the 'Pasta Trio'  
and a slice a New York Style  
pepperoni pizza.

The 'Pasta Trio' includes Las-  
agna, Chicken Parmigiana and  
Fettuccine Alfredo. I started  
with bread and olive oil. The  
bread was soft with light garlic  
seasoning.

Next was the pizza. I was im-  
pressed with the moist, rich  
cheese, zesty sauce and firm  
crust. I can honestly say it was  
one of the best slices of pizza  
I have ever had.

The 'Pasta Trio' blew me  
away. The Fettuccine Alfredo  
was creamy with wide ten-  
der pasta that melted in my  
mouth. The Chicken Parmigiana  
had a nice portion of tender  
breaded chicken, layered with  
rich tomato sauce and melted  
cheese. The Lasagna (my fa-  
vorite) was memorable with its  
tender pasta, ricotta cheese,  
rich tomatoes and unbelievable  
meat sauce!

### A treasure

I was pleased with my visit to  
Mama Mia's and my discus-  
sion with Alex Medi. The excel-  
lent food is only part of Mama  
Mia's allure.

The cozy, hole-in-the-wall feel  
gave me a sense of belonging.  
Ish treated me like family and  
showed friendly professional-  
ism. Alex represents the Ameri-  
can Dream at its best; hard  
work, sacrifice, tradition and  
loyalty.

Mama Mia's is a true Houston  
hidden treasure.

Mamma Mia's Pizza and Pasta  
8200 Spencer Hwy, La Porte, TX 77571  
281-479-4477

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(Total Frat Move continued from page 6)

out to Bolen during his last semester of college and he began writing for TFM, launching the "Columns" section. A few weeks before graduation, they offered him a job as a staff writer, and Bolen was brought on as TFM's first employee. "Writing was always something I wanted to do and I was already working as the staff writer for TFM, but I never would've imagined the opportunity to write a book would come just weeks after I graduated," Bolen said.

As far as inspiration for the actual material inside the book goes, everything was either ripped from events in Bolen's life, friends of his or stories he had heard.

"It was obviously very important to me that the book be as real as possible," Bolen said. "I made sure there was inspiration behind everything, instead of just [making stuff up] and slapping it down on paper."

Bolen is new to publishing, but he said the creative process ran pretty smoothly, even if it did go by in a blur.

"The writing part was a nice little crash course for me as a first-time author. It turns out that writing a book isn't like writing an essay for class, or writing a column to post on your comedy website," Bolen said. "Fortunately, I got the hang of it pretty quickly."

And it's a good thing he did, as Bolen has crafted a tome of over-the-top collegiate hijinks that will likely trigger a bit of nostalgia in many who peruse it.

"[The book will] make you wish you were still in college, wish you'd done more when you were there or want to go out right now," Bolen said.

