

MetroRail Expansion

US Transportation Secretary speaks at UHD and visits surrounding areas.

FRONT PAGE

New Art Exhibit

The O'Kane Gallery opens its doors to showcase three-dimensional work.

CAMPUS NEWS

Kemah Back To Life

Kemah Boardwalk reopens to the public after Hurricane Ike's destruction.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Dateline: Downtown

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

NEWSPAPER FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-DOWNTOWN

Volume 42, Issue 4

MARCH 30 - APRIL 13

www.uhd.edu/dateline

Secretary Of Transportation Holds Conference At UHD

Staff Report

COMPILED FROM METRO NEWS WEBSITE

US Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood visited UHD on Friday, March 13 and held a news conference in the Shea Street Business Building, where METRO's future North Line rail corridor will run. He called for all political parties to work together to build America's infrastructure, including light-rail projects in Houston.

"If we really want to get something done, work together," he urged, "set aside party differences and work together."

LaHood was in Houston on a whirlwind, all-day tour of various Houston shovel-ready construction projects. The tour included a visit to Texas Southern University, a high school of engineering students - and a ride on a METRO train down Main Street.

He was here at the invitation of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Houston), who is chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection.

see **Secretary** on page 3



Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood credited Houston's leadership with moving light-rail expansion closer to a reality.

Obama Education Plan Might Put College Within Reach

By Tessa Atkinson-Adams

USPIRG

Today, USPIRG released a new report, "Obama's Budget: Supporting Students not Banks." President Obama's budget proposal makes a significant reinvestment in the Pell Grant program by cutting excessive lender subsidies from the student loan programs and redirecting that money to student aid.

"Getting a college degree is practically a necessity. But states are cutting public college budgets and grant aid has been stagnant for too long. As a result, students face skyrocketing

loan debt upon graduation," said Tessa Atkinson-Adams, USPIRG Higher Education Field Intern. "The president's plan changes the priorities within the student aid programs, putting struggling students and families first."

The key piece of President Obama's higher education plan includes increasing the Pell grant maximum from \$5,350 to \$5,550. It also makes the Pell grant more reliable, by ensuring that the maximum would increase each year to keep pace with

inflation. Finally, more students would become eligible to receive Pell grant aid under the plan.

To pay for these changes, the president's proposal cuts excessive bank and lender subsidies from within the student loan programs. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that this cut will result in a savings of \$47 billion dollars over 5 years, with \$5 billion being redirected toward students in the first year alone.

The report calculates the benefit if the full \$5 billion went to students

in each state. The average Pell Grant award would rise by approximately \$121 next year, from \$2,236 to \$3,357. Approximately 260,000 additional new students across the country would receive their first Pell Grant and be able to attend college.

The report comes on the heels of the introduction of budget resolutions in both chambers of Congress that also propose a significant reinvestment in the Pell grant. "I look forward to working with both the House and Senate as Congress joins the

see **Education** on page 3

STUDENT LIFE

Students Prepare To Execute Navy Marketing Campaign

Public Relations Department Report
MARKETING MANAGEMENT AND STRATEGY CLASS

A life at sea and extensive military obligation is what many people associate with the United States Navy. However, students at University of Houston-Downtown are out to create a more positive appeal of the Navy through an extensive marketing effort. Students are showing their peers that the Navy offers extensive career opportunities and the chance of a lifetime.

Students of the Core Marketing Group will host an event at Houston Community College - Central Campus in the Student Learning Hub. The event is designed to attract students' attention and educate them about the Navy. The students will have an interactive booth with games, recruiter availability for questions, and informational videos and brochures.

The event is the culmination of a semester-long program that students of the Core Marketing Group have been participating in this term. The project, known as The Navy Marketing and Recruiting

Internship Program, is designed to give students a real-world business experience creating a marketing campaign for a national client.

Alejandro Ramos, a Senior at UHD says, "It has been a great experience having the opportunity to work with the U.S. NAVY. We have had the chance to have hands-on-experience this semester developing a Marketing and Recruiting program for the first time. Having Dr. Madeline Johnson as our professor has provided us with great support and I would like to thank her for all the effort and contribution she has put into this project."

At the beginning of the semester, students were challenged to create a marketing campaign that would increase awareness and consideration of Navy career opportunities among their target market. The campaign also reaches out to show the true mission of the Navy, the extensive career opportunities available and the opportunity to make a global impact.

"When I thought about the Navy I had always been concerned about being stuck there, being bored, traveling the seas [and being] away from family and friends. [I] viewed the Navy as a last resort or a step back in my career path", said Marco Jimenez, a freshman at Houston Community College - Central Campus. These among others, are some common misconceptions that the Core Marketing Group would like to change.

However, the event is not the end of the road for the students at University of Houston-Downtown. A post-campaign evaluation is necessary to evaluate the success of the campaign and determine the effect the event had on campus. Students will present their results to representatives from the Navy at the end of the semester.

For more information regarding The Navy Marketing and Recruiting Internship Program, please contact MC 1 Kimberly Stephens (713) 953-5959 or kimberly.r.stephens@navy.mil.

"Yes We Can!" With Your Change

Opinion Piece

By Daniel Arp
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

During his run for the presidency, Senator Barack Obama ran his campaign on the ideas that our country needed "change" and a positive "can do" attitude. "Yes we can!" was the reflexive response Obama trained his audiences to chant all throughout his campaign for presidency. I am beginning to see what kind of change Obama meant. It seems to me that what Obama was speaking about was change in the sense of pocket change (money). Two days after taking his oath, Obama ran full speed ahead in repealing the rules that restricted federal money for international organizations that promote or provide abortions overseas.

What I want to know is if when Obama said change, he meant he was going to take everybody's (the taxpayers') "change" and start spending it overseas on, of all things, something as controversial as abortion. Many people I speak with regularly complain about jobs and taxpayer money leaving the country. So why isn't there an outcry over this? How would the typical democrat react if the first thing President Bush had done upon entering office was to have taken federal

see **Change** on page 4

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

Editorial Policy: The opinions and commentaries expressed within reflect the views of the contributing writers. No opinions expressed in the Dateline reflect the viewpoints of the University of Houston-Downtown or its administration or students. Dateline reserves the right to edit or modify submissions for the sake of clarity, content, grammar, or space limitations. Submissions should be sent to dateline@gator.uhd.edu in Microsoft Word format. All submissions become property of Dateline and may not be returned. If you have any questions, please call (713) 221-8569.

Secretary

Continued from page 1

LaHood said that of the \$750 billion economic stimulus package that was recently passed by Congress, about \$40 billion to \$50 billion will go to transportation.

“That helps us jumpstart the economy and signal to America that light rail is very important to the transportation system” of the nation, said LaHood. “We’re trying to get this money out the door and get it spent in a way that reflects the values of our department.”

Before the news conference started, Mayor Bill White, METRO Chairman David Wolff and LaHood chatted in the lobby of the UH-Downtown building, a warm retreat from the light rain and chilly



Jackson Lee says the projects are ready to be started and could be used within the 90-day requirement needed to get the funding.

temperatures outside where the conference was held.

White told LaHood that METRO’s light-rail projects were ready to go, urging that some of the federal dollars from the stimulus package be directed here.

“Yes, sir. Got it,” replied LaHood.

Jackson Lee called today’s tour a “visual” for LaHood so he could better understand how transit is a “vibrant energizer of this community.”

Contact Us

Managing Editor

Jennie Orellana
dateline@gator.uhd.edu
(713) 221-8569

Associate Editor

Wilbert Chinchilla

Business Manager

Jimela Coring
dateline@gator.uhd.edu
(713) 221-8192

Contributing Writers

Elizabeth Alvarez
Frank Raia
Daniel Arp
Alexander Santos

Faculty Advisor

Anthony Chiaviello
chiaviello@uhd.edu
(713) 221-8520

Gain Experience
Get Published
Get Paid

300 Words = \$25

Submission does not guarantee publication.
Suggestions/ Complaints / Rants / Ideas

dateline@gator.uhd.edu

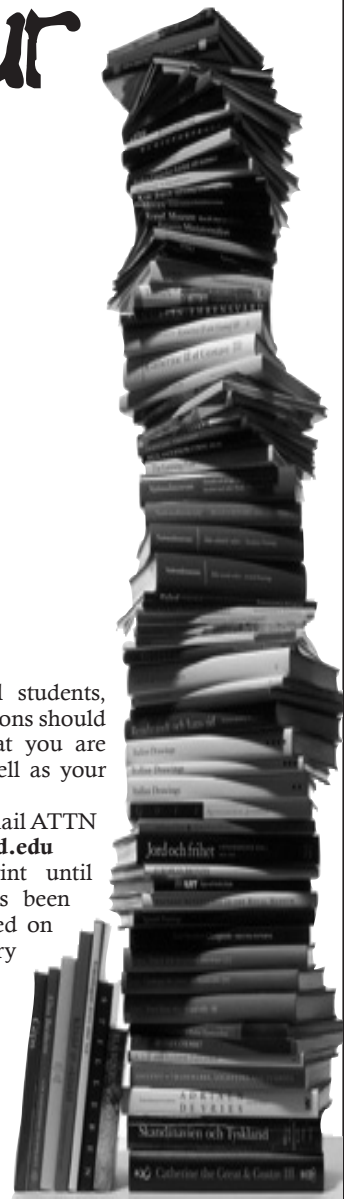
Sell Your Junk

Dateline Classifieds Section See Details Below

FREE Classified Ads for all students, faculty, and employees. All submissions should include a brief description of what you are advertising (25 words or less) as well as your contact information.

You may submit these as an e-mail ATTN to: classifieds at dateline@gator.uhd.edu

All ads will remain in print until notification is received that it has been successful. All ads will be published on a first come, first serve basis, so hurry up. **Deadline: April 16, 2009**



“New transportation and infrastructure projects in Houston will create new jobs and revitalize our distressed communities. The federal stimulus money

is not only important, but essential for the people of Houston in order to rebuild and recover from these difficult economic times that we face,” she said.

Education

Continued from page 1

President in making sure every student has access to an affordable education,” Atkinson-Adams stated. While both resolutions echo President Obama’s plan to make college affordable, the House resolution also maps out a clear path to victory.

Atkinson-Adams added, “This is a plan for students

and families. In today’s economy, students need to know that the public is behind their choice to get in to college and stay there. The president’s proposal puts students’ needs ahead of banks and lenders.”

CAMPUS NEWS

UHD Sports & Fitness

3 Point & Free Throw Contest



Men's & Women's

Registration Period
April 6th – April 17th

Location
SLC West Gym

Contest Date
Friday, April 17th at 1pm

Entry Fee
\$2.00 per person

Open to current UHD Students, Faculty, Staff and other Sports & Fitness Members.

For additional information, stop by the Student Life Center, call 713-221-8225 or visit us at www.uhd.edu/sports&fitness

New Exhibit In O'Kane Reach Out And Touch Space

By Alexander Santos
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Shades – Drawing the Space, an exhibit that explores the aesthetics of three-dimensional space, will be shown in the O'Kane Gallery March 26 thru April 23, 2009.

The exhibit is by Anila Quayyum Agha, who created the concept around October 2008. Agha was considering the nature of drawing and how "it has become a hybrid of different disciplines." Different artistic expressions used as inspiration led her to pursue an exhibit that would combine the aesthetic strengths of the various styles into one work. Agha soon found three other artists who shared the same vision.

Danielle Riede uses discarded tools and materials from other artists to create new pieces, repurposing exhausted effects for a new cause. Sara Scheckloth utilizes a method of drawing wherein she uses her bodily reactions to emotional and physical memories in expressing herself on a canvas. Jessica McCambly keeps to a minimalist style with regard to color in her paintings and paper sculptures, yet captures a powerful form.

Agha's vision does not stop at the pieces being created and mounted along the gallery. The combination of these three styles creates an obvious work of art as soon as you enter the room. The positioning and direction of the pieces have been placed in order to create an addition to the exhibit through shadowplay from the gallery's overhanging lights.

There is no right or wrong location to begin viewing the art, as the aesthetic flow holds not to one single line of observation. The exhibit's overall point is that art does not only exist in two dimensions.

Change

Continued from page 2

money and used it to support anti-abortion organizations groups? I think they would have been outraged.

Obama's supporters like to pride themselves on the fact that they are so progressive and open-minded in having elected the first black president. So please, somebody tell me how there is diversity, progress and open-mindedness in taking federal tax money from all of the United States citizens and using it to promote and provide abortions overseas. The "administration of change" is about forcing change on those who disagree with them and using everybody's "change" to pay for it.

Tens of millions of Americans believe that Roe vs. Wade was a wrong decision based upon their religious beliefs. Freedom of religion is one of the great rights Americans are supposed to have. If one thinks that religion is not supposed to be protected and involved in government, then they need to sue the Equal

Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) because religious discrimination in employment is still protected by this department of the federal government.

Yet, at the same time, millions of Americans believe abortion is wrong and it is murder. For a huge number of them, it is their firmly-held religious belief, yet they are having their change spent abroad. Again, how would pro-abortionists like their change being spent overseas on anti-abortion projects? They wouldn't. It would be deemed unfair and the outcry would be huge. Since some anti-abortion groups have ties to religious groups, there would be incessant cries of "separation of church and state;" therefore; it should work both ways. If religiously-based pro-lifers have to fund the abortion industry overseas, then that should also be labeled as a violation of church and state. That will not likely happen though because this administration is about change. The change they speak of though is force, and that force is being financed with everybody's change. "Yes We Can" and we will do it with your change.

Free Christian Concert At UHD

By Branden Kuzmick

International recording artists Jason & deMarco, recently featured in People magazine and a Showtime documentary film, will be performing in concert at the University of Houston-Downtown on Friday, April 3, at noon in the Wilhelmina Cullen Robertson auditorium. The concert is sponsored by Connections, UHD's Mentoring Program, and is free to the university community.

With the international release of their album, *Till the End of Time*, Jason & deMarco became familiar names to music fans around the world. Their first single "Trying to Get to You" climbed the Billboard Charts and their second single, "This is Love" won "Music Video of the Year 2006" on MTV's LOGO. A remix of "This is Love" along with their newest dance release, "It's Okay", both produced by DJ Scotty K, were both added to Abercrombie & Fitch's playlist and have been heard in stores worldwide. In September the duo was covered by America's pop-culture bible, PEOPLE magazine.

Their autobiographical and absorbing documentary-film, *We're All Angels*, from director Robert Nunez, currently airs on the SHOWTIME NETWORK where fans are invited to take a behind-the-scenes look at the public and private lives of these rising pop stars. Jason & deMarco have had the opportunity to perform at numerous high profile events. The duo have worked



Jason & deMarco's latest release entitled "SAFE", produced by David Eaton (Dynamite Hack's hit, "Boyz-N'Tha Hood", "Soldier Girl"), was released September 16, 2008.

with producer Alan Lett, with additional production from Grammy Award winning producer, Joe Hogue (LeAnn Rimes, Michael W. Smith, Carmen), Rhys Fulber (Sinead O'Connor, Josh Groban, Conjure

jasonanddemarco.com as well as digitally throughout Europe in France, Spain, The Netherlands, Italy, Ireland, The United Kingdom, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium and Australia.

One), and Eddie X and Luigie Gonzalez (Ricky Martin, Barbara Streisand, etc.).

While Jason & deMarco tour internationally in various venues, they also continue sharing their music and message with the community of faith around the world. The duo performs over one hundred concerts per year.

Jason & deMarco's latest release entitled "SAFE", produced by David Eaton (Dynamite Hack's hit, "Boyz-N'Tha Hood", "Soldier Girl"), was released September 16, 2008. "SAFE" is now available in Best Buy stores nationwide. Jason & deMarco were featured in PEOPLE magazine in the September 22nd issue of 2008 surrounding the release of "SAFE" and the documentary-film, "We're All Angels".

Jason & deMarco's music is also available at major retailers like Virgin Megastore, Best Buy, and select FYE stores through Centaur Entertainment in collaboration with RJN MUSIC and is available for purchase via www.

Looking For A Job? Dateline Is Hiring

Editor for UHD student newspaper needed for 2009-10. 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 2009-10 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 30 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.

Business manager for UHD student newspaper needed for 2009-10. 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 2009-10 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 30 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.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Film Review: *Observe and Report*

By **Wilbert Chinchilla**
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Seth Rogen, right, and Anna Farris attend a screening of 'Observe and Report' at the SXSW Film Festival in Austin, Texas on Monday, March 16, 2009. (Photo courtesy of the Associated Press)

Phallus objects such as balls and a small penis are used for comedic purposes in telling the story of security officer Ronnie (**Seth Rogen**) in the new movie, *Observe and Report*, which premiered on Monday at SXSW. Ronnie and his gang of security officers put the mall on high alert in an attempt to take down a flasher who has targeted makeup-counter girl Brandi (Anna Farris). The security officers cannot handle both capturing the flasher and defending the mall from a new robber on their own, so Detective Harrison (Ray Liotta) comes in; as soon as the detective crosses Ronnie, all hell breaks loose.

Some guest stars include Danny McBride, Patton Oswalt and Aziz Ansari. Ansari was acknowledged by writer/director Jody Hill as having one particularly great line that was totally improvised.

While the film contains some outstanding one-liners, the final product is still a bit off. The transition between humor, shock and repulsiveness created an awkward feeling that one may have been watching more than one movie. There are comedy, drama and action elements within the film that are well done, but are probably unnecessary. Hill stated at the panel that this was more of a melodrama, which is contrary to what is portrayed in trailers for the film. Hill also described the movie as

Taxi-Driver-esque, which is seen through the development of Ronnie's character. With Rogen leading the way there is almost a guarantee that people will go to theaters for the film, but if they are expecting Rogen to play a character similar to any of his previous movies they are in for a surprise. The punch lines are there, but not always as clear-cut as, for example, the "you know how I know you're gay?" segments from *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*.

Observe and Report is a dark and funny movie, but it struggles with the line between melodrama and gross-out comedy.



Seth Rogen tests the limits of his lovable-lug persona in "Observe and Report," playing a character who is at best wildly delusional and at worst a stalker in need of professional care. (Photo courtesy of THR.com)

Film Review: *I Love You, Man*

By **Wilbert Chinchilla**
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

"Never go to a guy-date movie or eat dinner with another man, only lunch or after work drinks." This is the advice that Robbie (Andy Samberg) gives his brother Peter Klaven (Paul Rudd) in the new comedy *I Love You, Man*. Peter realizes he needs more male friends when his fiancé's friends Hailey (Sarah Burns) and Denise (Jaime Pressley) say they think he is weird for having no friends. Peter takes this to heart and starts looking for a best man by going on a series of mandates. This is how he meets Sydney Fife (Jason Segel), the lucky winner placed in the stake of being Peter's new friend and possible best man. With a wide array of guest appearances and an amazing script penned by John Hamburg and Larry Levin, *I Love You, Man* creates a steady flow of laughter throughout the entire film.

Guest stars include *Reno 911*'s Thomas Lennon and Lou Ferigno; Jane Kurtin of *SNL* fame; J.K. Simmons from *Juno*; and *Iron Man* director Jon Favreau. Each star added extra spice to the great cast. It's hard to imagine that someone could develop some of the gibberish words on a screen for Peter to flub as he gets weak for Sydney but it's proof that the script is just amazing. The women of the film also had some great one-liners throughout the movie. Each role seemed very organic.

In the panel discussion, "I Love You, Man: Are You Man Enough to Say It", the cast talked about everything from production goodies to outtakes. The upcoming DVD release of the film will have a section called "Klavenisms" where viewers

can watch a reel of Paul Rudd improvising the awfully embarrassing gibberish words. Segel explained, "You can't write how awkward Paul Rudd can be."

The panel also included a Q and A on Pressley about her role in the film versus her character on *My Name is Earl*; Favreau explaining his "Daniel Day Lewis transformation;" and Segal exclaiming, "You're fucking stealing off Apatow!" in reference to a drum kit with a Rush poster above it similar to the one in *Freaks and Geeks*.

I Love You, Man is in theaters now and with a cast this funny, it's definitely worth checking out.



For her first major role, Rashida Jones appears alongside Paul Rudd and Jason Segel in the comedy 'I Love You, Man.' She plays the fiancée of Rudd's character, who's lacking male friends and goes on several man dates to find the perfect BFF.

Kemah Boardwalk Reopens

By Elizabeth Alvarez
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In the words of William R. Alger, “after every storm the sun will smile; for every problem there is a solution, and the soul’s indefeasible duty is to be of good cheer.” After having suffered damages due to Hurricane Ike back in September, the Kemah Boardwalk is back on its feet and ready to take on the busy spring season. Developed and owned by Houston-based Landry’s Restaurants Inc., the 40 acre amusement park has reopened nearly all of its restaurants, amusement rides, games and shops.

It was heartbreaking to see some favorites such as the Century Wheel and the Kemah train out of service. It left people to wonder whether or not the Kemah Boardwalk was ever going to recover. But with a little effort and optimism, all the Kemah favorites are once again hard at work entertaining local visitors and tourists. The thrilling Boardwalk Bullet Roller coaster is still providing its guests a breath taking sea side view and heart-pounding drop at speeds that reach about 51 miles an hour.



The Boardwalk restaurants are ready to serve customers once again, whether one is in the mood for seafood or sushi. They continue to offer a wide selection of restaurants, ranging from The Original Joe’s Crab Shack and the Aquarium which remains “an underwater dining adventure”. Sweet tooth heaven is still around the corner with the Boardwalk’s snow cones, funnel cakes and spectacular candy shop.

With the magnificent gulf coast view, free music and show, one can spend the day at Kemah without having to break the bank. It remains a serene getaway where kids can get wet in the Dancing Fountains and enjoy the Aquarium’s splendor of brilliantly colored coral and fish.



The fun is starting to return to the waterfront in Kemah. The Boardwalk complex, which sustained heavy damage from Hurricane Ike, opened its hotel, a few more restaurants and about 20 of its retail shops.

Rodeo 2009 Review

By Frank Raia
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This year the 77th annual Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo took place on March 3 thru March 22, 2009. The concerts consisted of artists such as the Jonas Brothers, country duo Brook & Dunn, and the legendary Texans ZZ Top. The action packed Super Series, the Chuck Wagon Racing and the Mutton Bustin’ was a complete success.

“The 2009 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo entertained a record 1,890,332 visitors for general attendance despite four days of cold and rainy weather. The previous general attendance record was set in 2004 with a total of 1,890,174 visitors.” This year’s Go Tejano Day with concerts by Ramon Ayala and Alacranes Musical broke the show’s all-time rodeo attendance record of 74,147.

Out of the 22 days only a handful of days were dark and gloomy. In Houston perfect weather in February and March is practically impossible. Now one may ask the question, what is there to see at Houston’s rodeo?

Shows consist of bull-riding and cowboys being saved by the fanatically crazy clowns. If you’re a drinker, the vast amount of alcohol you may consume is unpredictable. A display of fireworks for the “Stars Spangled Banner” mesmerizes its audience by the sheer spectacle of it all. Of course, you can’t forget about the different genre concerts.

The Super Series is a massive series of different cowboy events. They have everything from Bareback Bronco Riding to Steer Wrestling to tie see **Rodeo** on page 8

Hi

Want to advertise?

Contact our Business Manager
Jimela Coring
(713) 221-8192
dateline@gator.uhd.edu

COMICS



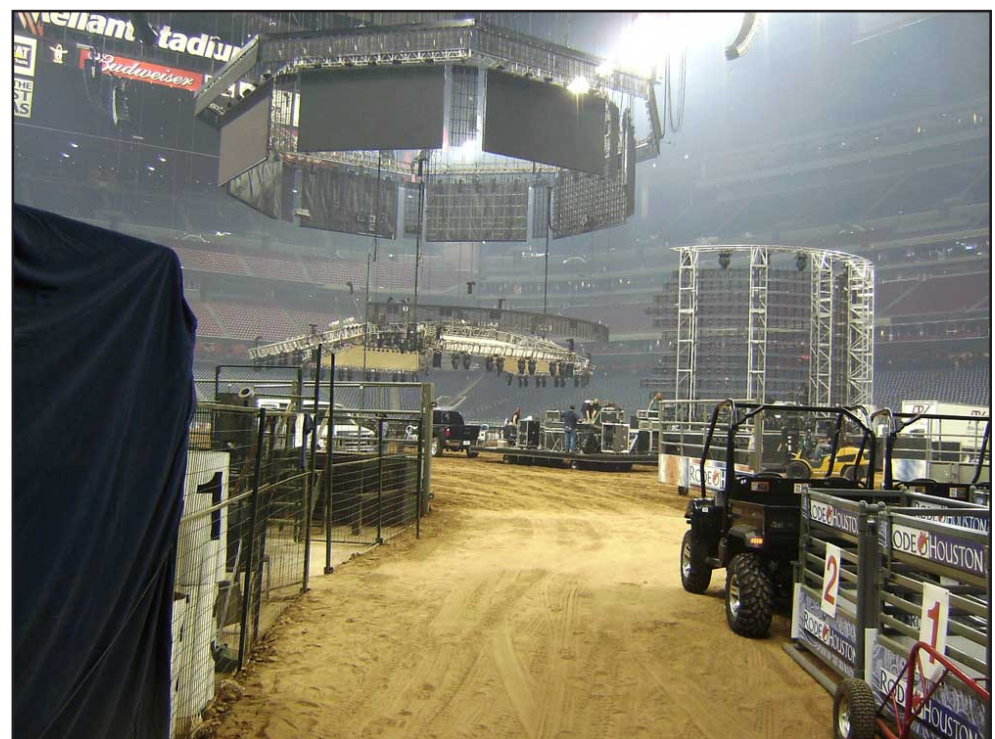
Rodeo

Continued from page 7

downs. These cowboys, clowns and everybody involved put their lives on the line every night just to make a few thousand dollars. Look at your average professional athlete playing any of the four major American sports: football, baseball, basket and hockey. How often does one get a career ending injury? Sometimes when that happens a rule is put in place to prevent that from happening again. Other times it's just a regular injury. In the Rodeo people get hurt because a bull or horse throws them off and get a few cheap shots in. Major injuries are less accruing because of the clowns and the amount of safety everybody has. When somebody goes down it's not pretty picture.

As for the food available, you may say it is expensive and you will be right; but it's worth every penny. Where else can you walk around with a huge turkey leg and a cold beer, without being looked at like a fool?

The overall adventure of the Houston Rodeo is something that every Houstonian should experience. Parking is a hassle, but you can always catch the Metro Light Rail from downtown or one of the many park and rides. This is the best way to go; otherwise, you'll be stuck in traffic for an hour and pay an egregious amount of money to park in the venue's parking lots.



The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo consisted of championship rodeo action, competitive livestock, horse shows and superstars in concert including performances by the Jonas Brothers, Brad Paisley, Rascal Flatts and Taylor Swift.