

# Occupy-Houston protestors arrested at downtown Hilton-Americas

**Taylor Luce** 

Copyeditor

The Occupy Houston protestors made an appearance dressed as pigs at the Hilton Americas in downtown Houston during a talk headed by a GE bigwig. They held signs with "I pay more taxes than GE," and "Taxes Dodge ball" while chanting and throwing small red balls at the protestors dressed as pigs. The protestors came in to the lobby of the hotel shortly after 6 p.m. A man with the protestors pulled a bull horn from underneath a shirt and began shouting at the crowd drinking in the bar while other protestors--young women with babies on their hips--passed out flyers outlining their grievances against GE. But the crowd seemed more confused by the protestor's antics than sympathetic with them. "They were throwing dodge balls at the pigs" said a by-stander.

The protestors, who had been demonstrating outside the hotel all week, had been warned against trespassing during the CERA (Cambridge Energy Research Associates) conference. After five minutes or so of "taxes dodge ball," Houston Police Department (HPD) officers rushed in to the lobby to break up the protest and arrest the trespassers. Many resisted arrest and continued to shout their protests, even with two or more officers subduing them. More protestors came in from outside the hotel to aid their compatriots, resulting in an even bigger flood of HPD officers running after them. One of the protestors was reportedly tased after five HPD officers were unable to subdue him.

At least nine protestors were arrested, while the rest of the protestors were able to make it out on the sidewalk before the police could get to them. The arrested protestors were taken to a back hallway in the hotel and held for over an hour while HPD officers took mugshots of them. The bull horn and some dodge balls were confiscated and taken as evidence.

The protest, while entertaining for the crowd, was probably less successful than the occupiers would like to think. When asked what he thought of the cause, a bystander said he thought they [the protestors] were stupid. "Don't get arrested for something you can't control."



Confiscated bull horn (with the shirt used to conceal it) and dodge balls from the Occupy protest at the downtown Hilton March 8. Photos by Taylor Luce

# Shady past of UHD main building

## Victoria Chadwick

Staff Writer

Rumor has it that One Main Street is haunted, but that is not surprising since seven famous haunted buildings stand within a one-mile radius of the UHD campus.

No deaths occurred during One Main Street's construction, which was completed in just one year. But, blood may cry out from these grounds for other reasons.

For starters, the Allen Brothers' Warehouse, that once stood on the exact site of campus, housed a Civil War prison.

Then there was the Augusta, a confederate supply ship, that was sunk at the foot of Travis Street in 1863. The Augusta is no ghost ship, though. The entire crew survived. Still, two Confederate soldiers were later blown to bits while disarming one of her bombs. If there are any apparitions here, it could be this confused and disoriented Rebel duo. After their sudden, unexpected death, they were first buried in one place, then dug up and moved to another. That is enough to upset even the friendliest ghost! If you see them, point them toward the Glenwood Cemetery. But if they insist, take them to the Donnellan Crypt, under the Franklin Street Bridge, one block west of the Spaghetti Factory.

Of course, angry specters from a more modern era would have ample reason to roam the halls seeking vengeance. Where the campus bookstore stands was at one time the flamboyant office of a shady lawyer and boxing promoter. This upstanding citizen defended thugs of all kinds and proudly proclaimed that he served the largest number of drunk drivers in the county.





#### Editors

Editor-in-Chief Business Manager Jamee L Cox CoxJa@uhd.edu 713.221.8192

Aaron Stommel Managing Editor 713-221-8569

> Taylor Luce Copyeditor

Advisor

Anthony Chiaviello chiavielloa@uhd.edu 713.221.8520



Ali Fazal Elfego Chavez Bissan Rafe David Melendez Taylor Luce Whitney Barrett

#### Information

#### Letter Policy

Dateline: Downtown 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, email them to dateline@gator.uhd. edu, or fax them to (713) 221-8119. Letters to the editor may be edited for space. They will be edited for spelling, grammar and malicious or libelous statements. Letters must be the work of the writer and must be signed. All submissions become property of Dateline:Downtown and may not be returned.

Dateline:Downtown is the official student-produced newspaper of The University of Houston Downtown. Editorials, cartoons, columns and letters are the opinions of individual students and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of other individual student writers, editors, advisors the University of Houston-Downtown, its administration or students.

### Follow Us



@ The Dateline Downtown





## Help Wanted

#### Student Newspaper & Web Editor 2012-13 academic year.

The Student Publications Advisory Committee at the University of Houston-Downtown is seeking applicants for the position of editor for Dateline:Downtown, the student-run, bi-weekly newspaper at UHD. This position begins after the spring, 2012, semester, to prepare an edition for the beginning of the Fall 2012 semester. Eligible candidates are expected to commit to the job for the entire 2012-13 academic year. Duties include working cooperatively with student business manager and faculty adviser, developing and managing a stable of day and evening student freelance writers to cover news and events on campus and in the campus neighborhood. Successful candidate will be versed in the use of Adobe InDesign page-making software and have the skills to post the newspaper and articles online and to maintain the Dateline:Downtown web site. The paper needs stories written both in advance of -- and as follow-up to -- events of interest to students, including student activities and organizations, academics, athletics and lifestyle, university administration, and student government, as well as cultural coverage of activities in the theatre, film, music, sports, and arts communities, insofar as these are of interest to UHD students. The job requires a commitment to 20 hours per week, more if necessary; pay is \$450 per issue for a scheduled 14 issues over the course of the academic year. Qualifications include at least sophomore standing; at least one semester in residence at UHD; successful completion of basic writing and/or communications courses; and a current 3.0 GPA. Applications are sought immediately and will be accepted until the position is filled; interviews start in April, 2012. To apply, download an application at www.uhd.edu/ dateline and forward with writing samples via email to Dateline adviser, Dr. Anthony Chiaviello, at Chiavielloa@uhd.edu.

#### Help Wanted Business and Sales Manager for Student Newspaper & Website 2012-13 academic year.

The Student Publications Advisory Committee at the University of Houston-Downtown is seeking applicants for the position of business and sales manager for Dateline:Downtown, the student-run bi-weekly newspaper at UHD. Flexible beginning date, but candidates are expected to commit for the entire 2012-13 academic year. Job emphasis is on budget accounting and advertising sales; successful candidate will have a strong orientation toward personal selling and developing advertising revenue to permit the growth of the paper as well as effective budgeting and management skills. Duties include managing business and financial matters for the paper, in cooperation with the student editor and adviser, and expanding the sales of advertising space in the paper, including to businesses in the campus neighborhoods of NoDo and Washington St. Successful candidate will train on PeopleSoft accounting system for payroll and accounts. Typical commitment is 20 hours per week; salary is \$750 per month, 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 until the position is filled; interviews start in April 2012. To apply, download application at www.uhd.edu/dateline and forward with letter detailing qualifications and resume via email to Dateline adviser, Dr. Anthony Chiaviello, at Chiavielloa@uhd.edu.

# Dateline: Downtown www.datelinedowntown.com Viewpoints 3 Study suggests highly effective teachers have

# long-term impacts on students

Uwire-An education study co-authored by two Harvard professors found that top teachers increase students' lifetime income and standard of living, confirming the commonlyheld belief that a single teacher can transform a student's life.

According to the study, high value-added teachers—or those in the top 5 percent as measured by test scores-produce students who are more likely to attend college, earn higher salaries, live in better neighborhoods, and save for retirement. The students are also less likely to get pregnant as teenagers.

The study, titled "The Long-Term Impacts of Teachers: Teacher Value-Added and Student Outcomes in Adulthood," was published in December by Economics professor Raj Chetty and Kennedy School assistant professor John N. Friedman and Jonah E. Rockoff of Columbia.

The research examined 18 million 3rd through 8th grade test scores in English and math drawn from 1989 to 2009 and compared the data with tax records to determine outcomes. A teacher's "value-added" was determined by averaging his or her test score gains during the academic year, and the scores were adjusted for differences such as students' previous scores

The data was obtained from a large, diverse public school district that encompasses neighborhoods of differing socioeconomic statuses, Friedman said.

The research suggests that value-added assessments of teachers effectively predict longterm outcomes.

According to the study, "Replacing a teacher whose VA is in the bottom 5 percent with an average teacher would increase the present value of students' lifetime income by more

than \$250,000" on average.

"If you're concerned about growth, especially in a global economy, you're concerned about making U.S. workers competitive," said Chetty. "Investing in education, especially at the elementary level, makes a lot of sense."

- The study's findings add to the debate over education spending and reform.
- Friedman said that teachers should be evaluated like other high-earning professionals.

"If we want to pay teachers \$100,000, we should treat them like people in other professions that are getting paid six figures," he said. "We should evaluate performance, we should give feedback, we should improve them as much as possible, we should richly reward those who are successful, and we should improve performance among those who are not doing so well."

Yet Friedman noted that test scores not the only means of evaluation.

He suggested combining tests scores "with other things like principal evaluation, classroom observation, peer evaluation, and student evaluation" in order "to put together as rich and as accurate a picture of each teacher as you can."

The study's findings have attracted significant attention, and was the subject of a column in the New York Times by Nicholas D. Kristof.

Allison R. Kimme, Director of Advocacy at Harvard Students for Education Reform, said the study shed light on the importance of effective teachers.

"People don't realize that teachers have these long-term effects on students," Kimmel said. "We think that teachers matter for one year to make sure students master content, but great teachers are able to affect people's lives long after they leave the classroom."

## contact lenses may be available as soon as 2014

Uwire - For the 20 percent of 18 to 34-year-olds who wear contact lenses, hightech applications will soon be available in a very small form. The Washington-based company Innovega focuses on connecting eyewear with digital media and is currently developing full-color megapixel displays that can be viewed using contact lenses.



The goal of Innovega is to find a way to project complex displays, such as virtual reality and augmented reality, to someone's eyes without the need to wear bulky headgear such as helmets. This would provide greater convenience and functionality for consumers of many different products, such as cell phones and games. Researchers claim that the displays projected on the lenses have a screen size equal to that of a 240-inch television when viewed from 10 feet away. Also, the contact lenses project a slightly different picture to each eye, which creates the illusion of 3D.

These displays would have a variety of different purposes. Mainly, they could be used in conjunction with mobile devices to give users a better look at the screen. Other applications include watching videos, playing games and creating augmented reality displays, which allow users to view computer-generated images overlaid over the real world.

Innovega researchers also hope that their device will be able to be used by the military. A few specific uses for the contact lenses in a military environment are to assist soldiers who pilot the drones looking for bombs, to help medics who need to get information about injured soldiers quickly and to aid soldiers on the ground that need unobstructed vision but also data and maps of the area.

Medically, these contact lenses could assist people with vision problems such as macular degeneration, which is a disease that compromises the retina's ability to pick up on details. This disease affects about 10 million people in the United States.

Other researchers have also looked into contact lenses with displays. Scientists at U. Washington conducted research about putting virtual displays into contact lenses back in 2008, but could only manage to project one or two pixels and only for a short amount of time. However, they took a different approach, encapsulating LEDs inside the lens.

Innovega's main target audience is the 100 million people who already wear contact lenses, particularly those between the ages of 18 and 34. Eventually, the designers hope that users can simply change prescriptions to Innovega's contact lenses.

However, for those who don't want to worry about inserting and removing contact lenses every day, researchers also plan to develop lenses that could be directly implanted into customers' eyes. This would be performed similarly to a cataract operation, where part of the patient's own lens is replaced with the contact lens. In addition to providing customers with all the displays that would be available on the contact lens, it would also improve the patient's vision. This process would be useful for the visionimpaired and also for soldiers, who don't want to have to worry about contact lenses.

The company exhibited the lenses in January at the International Consumer Electronics Show in Los Vegas. Innovega plans to put out the first prototypes of their devices throughout 2012 and 2013. This year, they are also planning to get FDA approval to manufacture the lenses commercially. The first release of the lenses will most likely be in 2014 to the defense community and those with vision problems. Eventually, in 2014 and 2015 Innovega wants to release the lenses to the general public, hopefully after reaching deals with other companies, such as gaming companies.



#### March 19-April 5, 2012

**Dateline**: Downtown www.datelinedowntown.com



## Lorax teaches lessons on greed, capitalism

#### **Aaron Stommel** Managing Editor

Dr. Seuss may not be rolling in his grave, but he could be a little restless knowing his tale against greed has become a major motion picture and earned \$39.1 million (according to CBS News) in one weekend.

Dr. Seuss' The Lorax, a feature length film, was released on March 2, 2012 to coincide with the birthday of Dr. Seuss and, ironically, National Read Across America Day.

For those unfamiliar with the children's book, The Lorax is about a mystical guardian of the Truffula trees. According to the book and the movie The Lorax, "speaks for the trees.'

While the movie is, in essence, a call to protect the environment, it is also a wonderful story for the whole family.

The movie starts out following a young boy named Ted (named after Dr. Seuss' given name, Theodore Giesl) who wants to find a tree for his crush, Audrey (a character named in honor of Seuss' second wife).

Both characters live in Thneedville, a town that has no trees. The person who knows exactly what happened to the trees is The Once-ler, who lives outside of town "where the grickle-grass grows." It is when Ted finds The Once-ler when the original Seussian story begins and becomes mingled with the new plot.

The story itself is about the advancement of industry/capitalism and the consequences it can have on the environment when left unchecked. In the movie, the audience follows Ted as he searches for the answers to why the Truffula trees are completely gone. If Ted can find out what happened to the trees (and find one) he will win the heart of his crush.

The movie has a few musical numbers that both entertain and inspire. While the movie can stray pretty far from its roots it is able to eventually come back around to the original story and does so nicely.

Dr. Seuss' Lorax is a good family escape with an important message that will entertain the audience.



The Lorax may speak for the trees, but the movie teaches lessons on greed. Google image.

## Act of Valor still thrills despite its flaws



Uwire - Judging by face value, Act of Valor, the new war film that stars active-duty Navy SEALs, is not a particularly good movie. The involvement of those SEALs certainly upped the cool factor, but similar to many B-grade action flicks, it is still more about blowing things up than actually telling an interesting story.

Act of Valor follows a group of SEALs as they rescue a captured CIA agent from some bad guys in the Philippines. Once they get the agent back, the plot snowballs into a mission to find a jihadist and his supplier before they launch an attack on U.S. soil via sleeper cells on the Mexican border.

ness. Since they are the real deal, their too confusing. The film does a fairly good actions and fighting prowess on screen have an authenticity that a standard actor couldn't possibly achieve in his or her wildest dreams.

Conversely, they are also not actors, and understandably, when it comes to expressing emotion and other acting duties, they fall short. Being an actor, like being a Navy SEAL, is not something that just anyone can do.

Act of Valor also delivers some noteworthy action scenes. Despite its handheld cam-

Oddly enough, the "actors" who play the era techniques, first-person perspective and SEALs are both a huge strength and weak- night vision, the movie manages to not be job at building suspense, as the run-up to a big battle scene can be just as satisfying as the fight itself (see the big preparation before the final battle of Saving Private Ryan for a perfect example of this). To maintain authenticity, the filmmakers even use live ammunition for some scenes.

> But this is by no means a great movie. The lack of professional actors dampens character development, and it is difficult to actually care about the people you see. The bad guys aren't particularly interesting and have

little to no motivation behind their actions.

That some view Act of Valor as being little more than a live-action Call of Duty is kind of understandable, due to the first-person shots and the globe-trotting nature of the plot, which boils down only to stopping some terrorists before they do abhorrent things. Others would call this movie a glorified recruitment film, which is kind of ridiculous when you consider that the average young American male has a higher chance of being drafted by the NFL than becoming a SEAL.

So why would you see Act of Valor? Why not wait for it to be available on Netflix? Here is the reason: At the very end, out of absolutely nowhere, the film becomes oddly poignant, and actually moving. You may even want to reach for a tissue.

In a truly impressive feat, this movie, which up until this point has completely failed to establish any kind of emotional connection to its audience, gets you to care.

You care because you realize that the tragic event that happens in the last reel has happened in real life, and has occurred many times throughout the War on Terror. You may even know someone that has lost a life or limb to that conflict. This scene alone is the film's greatest accomplishment.

On the basis of that, I came to the conclu sion that Act of Valor is not a thinly veiled recruitment film; it's not some lame attempt at an action movie by lazy screenwriters who play way too much Battlefield 3. It is a tribute to those very few, select handful of men who wear the trident of the Navy SEALs. Sure, it is ham-fisted, clumsy, poorly executed and not particularly good, but it is much appreciated nonetheless.

4

#### Dateline : Downtown www.datelinedowntown.com

## UHD shady past, con't from page 1

The UHD main building was conceived as the Merchants and Manufacturer's (M&M) building; a novel wonderland of wholesale and retail integration, accessible by truck, train or boat. The design was brilliant: the first floor commanded distribution functions and there was even a tunnel from the warehouse to the barge dock. Over 400 cars could park on the second floor. Almost 40 arcade stores and businesses served the public on the 3rd floor.

According to UHD history professor Garna L. Christian, "the 4th through 9th floors featured single offices and suites....the tenth floor consisted of local and industrial displays; the 11th floor contained administrative offices."

In fact, the M&M enterprise was so extravagant that the initial monetary outlay could only be recouped if the building maintained full occupancy. But, this was in 1929 and many occupants squeezed by the Great Depression found an excuse to cancel their M&M leases when the first two floors of the building were damaged by a flood from the bayou. In that same year, one of the principle investors died as well.

While World War II pumped vitality into some strategic industries in Houston, M & M tenants couldn't get their hands on needed supplies for their mostly printing and merchandising businesses. Overlooking the shantytowns that had been fashioned along the bayou, the M&M owners filed for bankruptcy just four years after their doors first opened.

Over a decade later, Pete Coffield, the somewhat misguided son of local tycoon H.H. Coffield, bought the magnificent structure and toyed with it for a while. But the post war boom that was resurrecting the nation held a sucker punch for many formerly bustling downtown city areas.

Freeways paved the way for urban sprawl, building out instead of up. In a mass exodus, baby boomers spread into the new planned communities of subdivisions. The major department stores, as well as other businesses, followed the amply populating suburbanites into increasingly outlying areas, leaving the once thriving hearts of the cities to waste.

The M&M building sat abandoned for almost two decades; host to only the homeless and winos.

But, the post war boom also brought many veterans in search of education to Houston, and colleges were overflowing. The privately owned South Texas Junior College bought the M&M building to accommodate their growth, but could not compete with the publicly funded Houston Community College, which offered lower tuition and was better equipped to handle changes in the selective service deferments at the close of the Vietnam War.

In 1974, all assets were seamlessly trans-

ferred to the University of Houston, which sought a campus downtown.

With so many failures, one might well wonder if the UHD land or the building is cursed. But there's another way to look at it. All that came before were just the birth

pains of fate.

Arts & Leisure

The University of Houston Downtown was destined to come into being and to thrive according to what people choose to make it. Nothing else stood a ghost of a chance.



Main Street, circa 1890 Photo courtesy Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston Public Library



## Ghost writing offers great opportunities

### VICTORIA CHADWIC

Staff Writer

Dr. Karina Stokes not only believes in ghosts, she works hard to cultivate them; ghost writers, that is.

"There is high demand for such writing," says Stokes "and potentially high pay, particularly in Houston, home to the Texas Medical Center."

As a seasoned medical writer, Dr. Stokes encourages her students to keep their options open and to consider bypassing the by-line sometimes for what "can be quite lucrative and personally rewarding work."

Medical experts have a lot to say, and like anyone else, they want to look good saying it. That is why they turn to language experts like professional writers.

Ghostwriting can be a valuable addition to authoring medical content for Websites, newsletters and the like, although to be published in a scholarly medical journal, usually a PhD or an M.D.is normally required.

Many types of writing can afford longlasting satisfaction for a writer. When Stokes was the ghost-writer/editor for the eminent David N. Herndon, M.D., she facilitated the creation of Total Burn Care, which is still considered the essential textbook for multidisciplinary burn care teams, even in its third edition.

One book review for a prominent medical journal stated "it remains the leading com-

prehensive reference for management of burn injury." That's enough to make many writers feel good.

Interestingly, Dr. Stokes' degree is not in English or Communication, as might be expected, but rather in rhetoric, the study of writing or speaking effectively and persuasively.

Persuasiveness is a useful tool for another area of medical writing; composing grants and proposals. Professor Stokes teaches a course in each of these specialties at UHD.

"The study of rhetoric trained me to think logically, which is essential for a medical writer," said Dr. Stokes.

Medical writing offers numerous opportunities for crafting or reviewing articles ghost-writing or otherwise—because of the many special interest groups with needs to communicate with the public. It is entirely possible for a savvy writer to land a job which contributes to a cause that is personally meaningful.

Dr. Stokes recommends cultivating two basic skills for medical writing. First, become an expert on the scientific method; know it inside and out, upside and down. It is the foundation of science and medicine. Second, learn how to converse fluently with statisticians and all manner of biotech types. From such a springboard, a good writer could dive into an ocean of good money and good causes.



# Arts & Leisure



# The Back Page

# 

## joinsaboard@gmail.com Brought to you by Student Activities Board SAB

## Who is Joseph Kony and what is Invisible Children?

#### Who is Joseph Kony?

Joseph Kony is the world's worst war criminal. In 1987 he took over leadership of an existing rebel group and renamed it the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

The LRA has earned a reputation for its cruel and brutal tactics. When Joseph Kony found himself running out of fighters, he started abducting children to be soldiers in his army or "wives" for his officers. The LRA is encouraged to rape, mutilate, and kill civilians–often with blunt weapons.

The LRA is no longer active in northern Uganda (where it originated) but it continues its campaign of violence in Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, and South Sudan. In its 26-year history, the LRA has abducted more than 30,000 children and displaced at least 2.1 million people.

#### What is the goal of KONY 2012?

Invisible Children has been working for 9 years to end Africa's longest-running armed conflict. U.S. military advisers are currently deployed in Central Africa on a "time-limited" mission to stop Kony and disarm the LRA. If Kony isn't captured this year, the window will be gone.

We are taking action to ensure these 2 things:

 That Joseph Kony is known as the World's Worst War Criminal.
 That U.S. and international efforts to stop Kony are bolstered with a more comprehensive strategy for disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR).

#### Why are we making Joseph Kony "famous"?

Invisible Children's KONY 2012 campaign aims to make Joseph Kony famous, not to celebrate him, but to raise support for his arrest and set a precedent for international justice. In this case, notoriety translates to public support. If people know about the crimes that Kony has been committing for 26 years, they will unite to stop him. Secondly, we want Kony to be famous so that when he is stopped, he will be a visible, concrete example of international justice. Then other war criminals will know that their mass atrocities will not go unnoticed or unpunished.

For more information visit: <a href="http://kony2012.com">http://kony2012.com</a>

## Mark the calendar for events in March-April

March 27, 2012: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Texas Job Fair Location: University of St. Thomas, 3800 Montrose Blvd. Houston Open to UHD students.

March 31, 2012 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM MBA Information Session Location: Willow Street Pump Station, 811 N. San Jacinto Street, Houston Cost: Free Open to prospective MBA students. March 29, 2012: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Film Screening: Invisible Children Location: One Main St, Academic Building, A405 Cost: Free Open to the UHD community.

April 11, 2012 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Culture on the Bayou Location: One Main Street, South Deck Cost: Free Open to the UHD Community. March 28, 2012: 6:30-9:00 PM Discussion and Film Screening:"The Turtle People" Location: Academic Building, Third Floor, Auditorium Cost: Free Open to the public.

April 21, 2012: 12:00-5:00 PM 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM UHD Chili Cook Off Location: UHD South Deck Cost: Tickets are \$5 (pre-sell) or \$7 (at the door). Open to the public.