

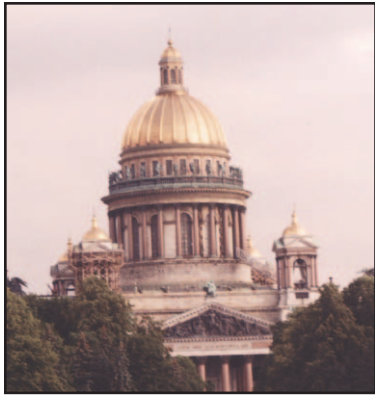
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The City of Tsars

St. Petersburg is the second largest city in Russia and one of the most beautiful places in the world. St. Petersburg offers visitors extravagant accommodations and international travel services.

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PHOTO BY JAYO WASHINGTON: UHCLIDIAN

ORIENTATION: David Ortiz, former dean of students, meets with students during New Student Orientation last year.

Dean of Students resigns under suspicious circumstances

By MATT FOURCADE, ROGER ROBERTS
THE UHCLIDIAN

Last month, Dean of Students David Ortiz resigned, effective immediately. The resignation came after a UH-Clear Lake police investigation into the discovery of a semen-stained shirt found in a fellow employee's office.

The following is an account of those events as recorded in the official documents obtained from the Office of the General Council for the University of Houston System.

On Wednesday, Dec. 7, a UH-Clear Lake employee noticed that someone had been in her office after hours the previous evening. A chair in her office had been repositioned, and a family member's picture was moved from a shelf to the middle of her desk. On this date, the employee contacted a police officer and reported "strange things happening."

Prior to this occurrence, TV dinners and other food items had gone missing numerous times from the office kitchen area, with no explanation. The employees in the office reported these events to the police Dec. 6, the day before the picture and chair were moved.

On Jan. 5, the affected employee made an additional discovery while attending a meeting with her colleagues. During the meeting, she displayed a shirt she had received from a vendor as a design sample for an upcoming purchase order. The shirt had been stored on a shelf in her office, and had not been moved since the events that took place Dec 7.

When she unfolded it, the other employees at the meeting noticed that there was an unusual stain on its surface. At this point, she took the shirt back to her office, placed it in a plastic bag, and spoke to UHCL police.

On Jan. 11, six days later, the police collected the shirt and sent it to the Department of Public Safety Crime Lab for processing. In a deposition given by a police officer, the shirt was examined under a black light prior to being delivered to the crime lab. "After close inspection of this shirt, it appeared that someone had used it to wipe his or her hands, or to clean up a spill of some sort," the officer stated.

On Feb. 28, the results of the lab analysis confirmed that the stain was semen.

On March 3, Michael Herbst, chief of UHCL police took the lead in recording depositions for the parties involved in the case. In collecting evidence, the police pulled the records for the key code entry to the affected office suite. At this time, the police discovered that David Ortiz, former dean of students, had entered the suite Dec. 6 at 11:39 p.m. and departed at 4 a.m.

On March 9, Herbst interviewed Ortiz. After explaining the case to Ortiz, Herbst informed him that he was the only male person who had entered through the security doors on the night in question. Ortiz replied that he was in the office working on his dissertation and had entered the office in question to leave some papers.

Herbst wrote in his deposition that, "I finally

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Last call for alcohol?

By J.T. GARRET
THE UHCLIDIAN

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission has temporarily suspended the public intoxication sting program known as Operation Last Call.

The purpose of the program is to stop the sale of alcoholic beverages to people who are drunk, resulting in a lower number of drunken drivers. The arrests or citations are made despite the fact the patrons have not left the bar premises.

The sting operation consists of undercover officers attending bars to ticket or arrest bar patrons who are considered to be exceedingly drunk. These patrons may be approached if an officer sees them behaving erratically, such as loud behavior or problems standing or walking. The officer may perform a field sobriety test similar to the test given to drunk drivers.

The decision for the sting moratorium stems from numer-

ous accusations of unjust arrests and harassment.

A recent investigation conducted by the Houston Chronicle found that more than two-thirds of the 1,740 public intoxication citations issued between Sept. 1 and March 27, occurred in towns with populations of 150,000 or less. The Houston Chronicle also reported that the city of Victoria, a population of 61,454, had the most citations with 156. This amount is significantly more than that of Houston, which only had 37 TABC citations.

Texas law defines public intoxication as not having the normal use of mental or physical faculties due to alcohol or drug use. Public intoxication is a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$500. An offender can be arrested in addition to receiving a citation. Many Texas jails require that anyone arrested on alcohol-related charges must be detained for at least four to 12 hours. In Texas, the blood alco-

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Clothesline helps victims break silence

By MERCEDES McCORRY
THE UHCLIDIAN

The Clothesline Project is presented in October and April at the University of Houston-Clear Lake to raise awareness against domestic violence and sexual assault awareness.

The project began in Hyannis, Mass. where a group of women developed a program that would educate, break the silence, and serve as a vehicle to raise awareness about violence against women.

"It's like airing our dirty laundry; not hiding it, not ignoring that violence against women occurs," said Betty Brown, UH-Clear Lake counselor and testing coordinator. "It's here at this campus; it's everywhere."

Each woman tells her story on a T-shirt using words and artwork to create a message. There are different colors of shirts that represent a particular kind of abuse. For example, white represents women who have died because of violence; yellow or beige represents battered or assaulted women; red, pink and orange are for survivors of rape and sexual assault; blue and green represent survivors of incest and childhood sexual abuse; purple or lavender repre-

sents women attacked because of their sexual orientation; and black is for women attacked for a political reason.

"It's just a shirt, a 100-percent-cotton shirt, but putting my voice on a shirt was a powerful emotional piece to healing," an anonymous participant said.

Each year, the T-shirts are kept at UH-Clear Lake to be added to the next year's clothesline collection. This year, there were 30 to 40 T-shirts displayed.

"There was one particular shirt that stood out to me," Brown said. "The participant was a survivor of incest and took a green shirt and shredded it, and it said 'this is what abuse did to me.' Then she took another green shirt, shredded it and wove it back together using different colors of ribbon because she felt like she pieced herself back together."

The Clothesline Project also serves as a healing tool for women who have suffered from domestic violence.

"I feel better now that I have taken this step," the participant said. "It's anonymous, but it's good because I've been able to stand up to what has overpowered me for so long. The voices of my past have controlled me all

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