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on teaching ability alone. Consequently, this puts adjuncts in a position where their jobs depend upon consistently high student evaluations.

"Since adjuncts are temporary, their evaluations are not a measure of their job," said one professor who preferred to remain anonymous. "They are not competing for tenure or merit pay just staying power. Given the low pay scale, teaching evaluations have an impact on grades; how can they not?"

The multiple-choice sections of evaluations provide the university a tool for assigning a numerical value to an instructor's relative teaching ability. The university utilizes a scale ranked from zero to five in averaging the results, with five being perfect.

The anonymous teacher expressed additional concerns about UH-Clear Lake's high standards when using evaluation averages to make faculty decisions.

"The scale is a bit difficult in that in order to receive merit pay or tenure, a professor must make a 4.7 or higher," said the teacher. "In comparison, larger Texas universities consider a 3.7 a very good score. I have heard the biggest problem is when an instructor has a small class; one disgruntled student or bad evaluation can lower scores drastically."

Edward Hayes, senior vice president and provost, said he was unfamiliar with the average evaluation scores of other state universities, but had an explanation as to why the UH-Clear Lake's standards would remain high.

"Our teachers teach so well that the average scores at UH-Clear Lake are typically higher than the expected scores at the state level," Hayes said. "For example, in the school of Human Sciences and Humanities the average score is typically 4.0 or better. If we have faculty members who are afraid of losing their jobs because of poor student evaluations then they are most likely among the weakest faculty we have and probably shouldn't be working here."

However, some faculty remain concerned that the pressure to meet student evaluation requirements may be lowering classroom expecta-

tations.

"The university is really eager to recruit more students and that puts more pressure on faculty not to give failing grades," said Craig Oettinger, professor of sociology. "We have graduate courses where everyone gets an A, or close to it. At some point, you wonder if students are being cheated."

While some teachers argue that easier classes equal better evaluations, Spuck disagrees. Spuck argues that students may rank more difficult classes higher as long as the class is well taught and considered worthwhile.

"A student wants, deserves and expects to have a class that's substantive and is worth the money he or she is paying," Spuck said. "If a faculty member starts to lower the expectations for a course, I would expect at some point the students would say, 'This isn't a good deal. I'm

not getting any experiences I think are worthwhile from this course.'"

Though this may be true of some alumni, some students disagree with Spuck's optimistic appraisal of student motivation and believe students often follow the path of least resistance.

"Many students probably would not give teachers who grade too easily a bad

evaluation," said Logan Kelly, humanities graduate student. "Instead of being angry, they would probably be grateful that the teacher did not give them extra work to deal with on top of their other commitments, such as work and their personal lives."

Kelly understands the difficulties concerning teacher evaluations, but believes an instructors' curriculum should exist beyond the boundaries of student sentiment.

"At the university level, I think it's unfair to make teachers overly concerned with student evaluations," Kelly said. "Teachers need some sort of barrier against administrative interference and student opinion."

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Senior Vice President and
Provost

PARKING FEES: continued from page 1



"Uhhmm . . . I need to get a parking permit."

Parking Committee, a sub-committee under the FRC, approved the increase in parking fees Feb. 1.

"We have been using temporary measures to keep the parking lots from getting worse than they are...the only way to resurface the lots correctly is to raise the parking fees," said E. Dan Berry, assistant vice president of facilities management and construction.

"[Herbst] and I have been trying for three years to get the parking sub-committee to agree to fee increases," Berry said.

"We are not authorized to use state funds for parking lots and roadways, and it's been a long time since the university has increased parking [fees]," Herbst said.

He noted that students and employees at UH-Clear Lake have not had an increase in parking fees since 1991.

"The parking lots have been maintained using a temporary stop-gap, which involves putting a seal coat on the surface of the parking lots to prevent water from seeping under the asphalt," Berry said.

Berry further explained that potholes are formed if water gets underneath the pavement.

"The parking fee increases are not great, but when multiplied by the projected number of students attending UH-Clear Lake over the next ten years, it will generate enough funds to fix the parking lots and roadways," Herbst said.

"My budget has been cut in the past three years, and I have been using deferred maintenance dollars to help maintain the parking lots...I can't do it anymore because of other priorities... the parking lot needs to stand on its own," Berry said.

Herbst noted that he thought a pretty good job had been done in order to maintain functioning parking lots with the existing revenues on hand.

With the revenues generated by the 10-year roadway and parking lot maintenance plan, parking lots can now be resurfaced, instead of using temporary stopgaps.

Take a buddy to the fair enriches children's lives

By JOAQUIN SOLIS:
THE UHCLIDIAN

The Student Council for Exceptional Children will be holding the yearly event, Take a Buddy to the Fair Day, Feb. 24, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in Atrium I and II of the Bayou Building.

On this day, special education children from local schools are invited to bring a buddy to the university, accompanied by parents and teachers, and participate in the activities offered.

Ashley Guyton, president of the SCEC, is proud to be coordinating the event. This year's event will have a theme of rainbows. The theme last year was a Hawaiian luau.

"This event is used to promote motor skills and social development," said Guyton. "The fair is accessible for all children, even those in wheelchairs."

Guyton pointed out that both volunteers and the university also benefit from these extra curricular events.

"The children aren't the only ones benefiting from the event," said Guyton. Guyton explained that the University gets recognized for facilitating these events, and the people and clubs that contribute are also recognized.

Ryan Lemmon, an undergraduate education major, will be participating in the event for the first time.

"I will get to interact with special needs [students] and understand the opposite end of the spectrum," Lemmon said. "I'll get to make lots of friends, both kids and fellow students."

Marlene Morgan, president of Omicron Delta Kappa, participated in last year's Take a Buddy to

the Fair Day. Morgan noted that the campus leaders of today will be the community leaders of tomorrow, because before anyone can lead a large group, they must first be able to lead a small one.

"Take a Buddy to the Fair Day also provides professional growth opportunities for the countless volunteers as they interact with children with disabilities, their families and teachers," said Randy SeEVERS, professor of school of education.

Take a Buddy to the Fair Day fills this role by providing many activities for everyone. From puppet shows to face painting, a movie room, and a silent room for a little nap, the fair will have many things to choose from.

There are plenty of events and there is no limit to the amount of people who can volunteer. The activities provided are designed to help special education and general education students work and play together.

Guyton noted that special needs students are typically separated from the other students in school, but thanks to events like Take a Buddy to the Fair Day, everyone has a chance to work together.

Setup for the event will be Feb. 23. The event takes place Feb. 24. With an open heart and helping hands, volunteers can make the event a joyous occasion for the children attending.

For more information, or to volunteer, contact Guyton at dynamite1820@yahoo.com; SeEVERS at seEVERS@cl.uh.edu; or by leaving contact information in mailbox #59 in the student lounge of the Student Services and Classroom Building, Room 1.202.



TAKE A BUDDY: Clayton (left) and Charity (right) enjoy the ancient basic art of finger painting at last year's Take a Buddy to The Fair event.