JANA PARTNERS LLC Form SC 13D/A April 28, 2006

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13D
Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
(Amendment No. 3)*

THE HOUSTON EXPLORATION COMPANY

(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock, \$0.01 Par Value

(Title of Class of Securities)

442120101

(CUSIP Number)

Marc Weingarten, Esq. Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP 919 Third Avenue New York, New York 10022 (212) 756-2000

(Name, Address and Telephone Number of Person Authorized to Receive Notices and Communications)

April 27, 2006

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(Date of Event which Requires Filing of This Statement)

If the filing person has previously filed a statement on Schedule 13G to report the acquisition that is the subject of this Schedule 13D, and is filing this schedule because of Rule 13d-1(e), 13d-1(f) or 13d-1(g), check the following box. []

NOTE: Schedules filed in paper format shall include a signed original and five copies of the schedule, including all exhibits. See Rule 13d-7 for other parties to whom copies are to be sent.

(Continued on following pages)

(Page 1 of 4 Pages)

The information required on the remainder of this cover page shall not be

^{*} The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

CUSIP NO.	442120101	SCHEDULE 13D PAG	GE 2 OF 4 PAGES			
1	NAME OF REPORTING PERSON I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON (ENTITIES ONLY)					
	JANA PARTNERS LLC					
2	CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP* (a) [] (b) []					
3	SEC USE ONLY					
4	SOURCE OF FUNDS*					
	AF					
5	CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDING IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO ITEM 2(d) or 2(e)					
6	CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION					
	Delaware					
	7	SOLE VOTING POWER				
		2,617,700				
NUMBER OF	8	SHARED VOTING POWER				
SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH	·	-0-				
	9	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER				
		2,617,700				
	10	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER				
		-0-				
11	AGGREGATE AMOUNT E	BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH PERSON	И			
	2,617,700					
12	CHECK BOX IF THE A	AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (11) EXC	LUDES			
13	PERCENT OF CLASS F	REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11)			

	9.0%				
14	TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON*				
	IA				
	* SEE INSTR	UCTIONS BEFORE FILLING	OUT!		
	442120101	SCHEDULE 13D	PAGE 3 OF 4 PAGES		
Delaware l shares ("S Company (t 13D filed April 24,	imited liability compa Shares") of common stoc the "Issuer"), as previ on April 17, 2006 and	ously amended by Amendr Amendment No. 2 to the	son"), relating to the The Houston Exploration ment No. 1 to the Schedule		
Item 4. Pu	rpose of Transaction.				
Item following:		is hereby amended by th	ne addition of the		
other shar		, a copy of which is at	tter via email to certain ttached hereto as Exhibit		
Item 7. MA	ATERIAL TO BE FILED AS	EXHIBITS			

Item 7 of the Schedule 13D is hereby amended by the addition of the following:

3. Exhibit D - Letter to the shareholders dated April 27, 2006.

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SIGNATURES

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, ${\tt I}$ certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Dated: April 28, 2006

JANA PARTNERS LLC

BY: /s/ Barry Rosenstein

Name: Barry Rosenstein

Title: Managing Partner

BY: /s/ Gary Claar

Name: Gary Claar

Title: Managing Director