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THE PAN AMERICAN

The Student Newspaper of The University of Texas-Pan American

October 27, 2005

CNN news anchor on campus

By SANDRA GONZALEZ
The Pan American

CNN American Morning host Soledad O'Brien sat smiling at a round table in the middle of the University Ballroom, chatting with a small group of nervous students about the weather, a conversation she would repeat several times that evening at dinner.

When one of the students was asked a question by the 39-year-old Emmy award-winning journalist – who spoke at UTPA Tuesday as part of the Distinguished Speakers Series – she gave a small, tense stutter, followed by a reply.

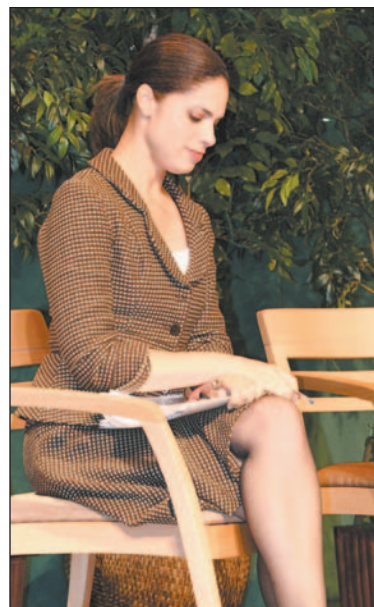
Little did the students know that she had been in their shoes before. The only difference was, when it happened to her, she was on live TV.

"I was literally the definition of the deer in the headlights," O'Brien said.

For her first live shot as a reporter in San Francisco, she was covering the San Francisco Giants in the playoffs. After only a week of experience at the station, she was sent off to a local sports bar.

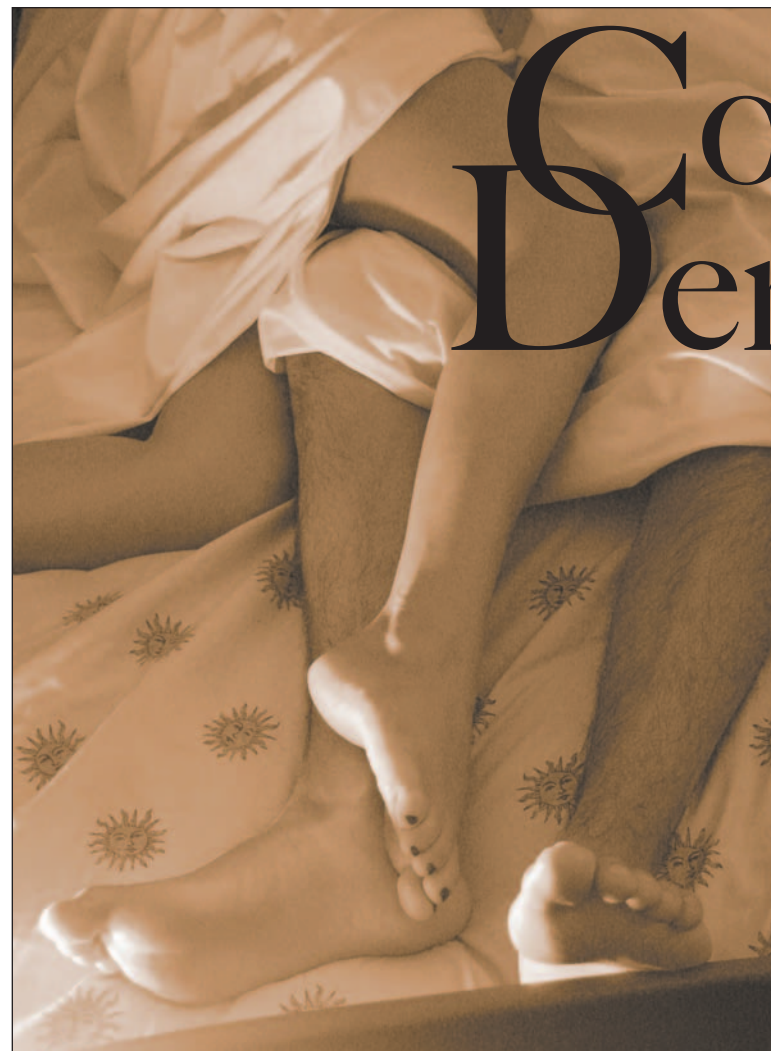
"It was 4 o'clock in the afternoon and

See **O'BRIEN** page 11



Melissa Martinez/*The Pan American*

VIP - Soledad O'Brien, CNN American Morning anchor, waits to give an address in the Student Union Theatre Tuesday evening.



Lylony Cazares/*The Pan American*

SKIN - The humanpapillomavirus (HPV) is contracted through skin-to-skin contact during sex. The virus is the main cause of cervical cancer.

Consequence Derailed? *STD vaccine brings relief*

By LYLONY CAZARES
The Pan American

Things are OK right now for Rita, 28, until the next time she gets a postcard in the mail letting her know it is time for her yearly Pap test.

"I get sick to my stomach when I see that postcard," Rita said. "But I know I have to go."

Two years ago, Rita learned that she had cervical cancer and had surgery to remove it.

"It was just a scary time for me. First they told me it might be genital warts or cancer. It turned out to be cancer," she said.

Earlier this month, pharmaceutical giant Merck and Co. released the results of a study indicating that there is hope for women like Rita.

In clinical trials, the company's new vaccine, Gardasil, prevented 100 percent of cervical cancers associated with the sexually transmitted human papillomavirus (HPV) types 16 and 18.

The six-month study followed

12,000 women in 13 countries and is part of a larger study of 25,000 people in 33 countries. The vaccine will be up for approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) later this year.

"The vaccine is made of up a small bit of HPV, similar to the way the polio vaccine has a bit of non-active polio in it," said Kathryn Hearn, community services director for Planned Parenthood centers in Hidalgo County. "But what we have to be cautious about is that this is a recent study and it has not been reviewed. It is still extremely promising though."

Cervical cancer is the second-most common cancer in women and the number two cause of cancer deaths. However, it's highly treatable and easy to detect, according to Hearn.

"In almost every case, HPV is a cause of cervical cancer," Hearn said. "There are over a hundred strains of HPV. Most strains people get and don't even know they have them."

She explained that while there are over 100 strains of HPV, only a few of

See **VACCINE** page 11

TAMUK Faculty Senate dissolution raises concern

By LUKE KOONG
The Pan American

Shared governance in Texas universities has taken a major hit.

Texas A&M University-Kingsville (TAMUK) President Rinaldo Juarez tem-

porarily suspended the 34-member faculty senate at the university on Oct. 3, in hopes of creating "an opportunity for change."

Texas Faculty Association executive director Charles Zucker does not agree with suspension.

"He said that he was creating a new shared governance system for the 21st century," said Zucker. "In reality what he'd done was just destroyed a shared

governance system that the faculty had worked hard at Kingsville to put in place."

The official reason for suspending the senate came after receiving support

from an external report done by three former faculty senators from outside the university.

Zucker however believes the true root of the situation stems from last year when the executive committee approved the passing of a vote of no confidence.

The suspension of the senate encompassed all the members of the faculty senate, including those serving on the executive committee.

In order to form a new "faculty advisory body," the General Faculty would elect a Constitutional Task Force



Joel de la Rosa/*The Pan American*

SPEECH - Unlike Texas A&M-Kingsville, UTPA has a reasonable relationship between its Faculty Senate and the administration.

which would work with President Juarez to revise bylaws governing the Faculty Senate.

Members of the executive committee would not be allowed to serve on the

See **SENATE** page 11

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THE PAN AMERICAN

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OPINIONS

UNPROTECTED TEXT

The Old Fogie's Guide to Halloween

By DAVID RODRIGUEZ
The Pan American



While trying to decide whether I wanted a new yo-yo or some Silly Putty the other day at HEB, something occurred to me. I'm not a kid anymore. Gone are the days when all my life's problems can be attributed to my smother, I mean mother. I can't take joy in throwing a ball on the roof of my house and watching it roll down again for hours. I mean I can, but I shouldn't. It's time to grow up. I know now I'm not going to be an astronaut, or the president, or even a superhero. I'm not going to have a pizza party for my birthday this year (not that I ever did: thanks a lot, mother). The whole thing depressed me so I paid for my yo-yo and went home.

I started to think about how holidays have changed as well. I doubt I'll be tearing into a mound of presents at Christmas this year. And I'll certainly feel guilty and fat for how much I'm going to eat at Thanksgiving. Halloween won't be the same as it used to be; mostly because I'm not as scared of the dark as I was when I was 17...err 12.

Speaking of which, one of my most vivid memories of Halloween - apart from avoiding every single television station showing "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" - is all the friendly safety

tips you get at school. Check your candy for razor blades, trick-or-treat with a friend, do not invoke the dark lord Satan unless you mean it...that sort of thing. It seems to me a few of these tips are still valid even at my age, but there are others which should be amended a bit. At our age the rules have changed a little. So I humbly offer these guidelines and suggestions for having a fun, safe, and mature Satan's Day.

1. If you are going to a Halloween party, don't look for me. I never get invited to parties.

2. Don't go as anything remotely scary. Apparently, after the age of 13 girls are, by law, supposed to dress up for Halloween as slutty devils, slutty Catholic schoolgirls, or slutty whores. I didn't make this rule. I've only observed it being obeyed. If I was a woman I'd go as Arianna Huffington. That chick is freaky.

3. Guys, you are pretty much free to be whatever you want. However, I would suggest you stay away from any costume that requires an afro wig or that you also do an impression. As the evening wears on your material will run dry.

4. On your way to the party, please drive carefully. The last thing you want to be doing on Halloween is telling a cop, "Hey, that slutty Catholic schoolgirl jumped outta nowhere!"

5. If you are throwing the Halloween party, don't get too caught up in making cute decorations or props or Halloween themed drinks. That kind of stuff never really gets the appreciation it deserves. Besides you'll have enough to throw away since

many people will leave half their costume on your floor.

6. If you are staying home turn off all your lights. This cuts down on the number of kids at your door by about half.

7. Kids are punks. When your doorbell does ring just don't answer it. They aren't like we were. They're opportunists with budding cavities. They don't care how much money you spent on candy. You aren't contributing to wistful memories they will take with them for the rest of their life. No matter how much they get, rest assured the little twerps will be whining about what they didn't get.

8. This one is for the truly old fogies. Do not water your lawn on Halloween. Murphy's Law states, and I quote, "If one waters one's lawn, the punks in one's neighborhood will throw toilet paper everywhere." The idea here of course is that wet toilet paper is impossibly frustrating to pick up off your lawn. Kids know this. Please refer to tip number seven.

9. If you and your friends aren't going to a party and you don't want to answer the door 40 times, go see a movie. The junior high thug quotient will be relatively low since they are all out defacing your property.

10. Do not invoke the dark lord Satan unless you really, really mean it.

Please send all party invitations to
daideric@gmail.com

THE SLEEPWALKER HAPPY DE GUZMAN



MIDTERM EXHAUSTION

NEWS



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Social work students pitch in at food bank

By **HILDA LORIA**
The Pan American

The National Association of Social Workers asserts that the primary mission of the social work profession is to “enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people.”

Oct. 4, 18 UTPA social work students practiced this mission by volunteering at Food Bank RGV, Inc. in McAllen, where they helped package, label, and box food items for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

“They needed a lot of help at the food bank,” said junior social work major Jessica Cantu. “It helped us know that people need other people.”

Food Bank RGV, Inc. is 300,000 pounds behind in its goal to assist victims of the hurricane. Because of donations continuously pouring in combined with the lack of time for the staff to sort and package all the items themselves, the bank was in great need of volunteers.

One of the core values of the social work profession is service. To help her students learn this value, Estela-Soza Garza, the students’ professor and a practicing social worker, suggested the food bank as a possible service project.

“I wanted the students to learn that being of service is not difficult,” Garza explained. “I thought it would be good to provide service in a much-needed

area while living this value.”

Freshman social work major Vanessa de la Rosa explained how she was able to apply what she learned in class.

“As social workers, we’re learning about service
See **SOCIAL WORK** page 12



Courtesy of Social Work Dept.

HELPING HAND - David Espinosa, freshman social work major, sorts through donations while volunteering at Food Bank RGV in McAllen. Espinosa volunteered along with other social work majors as a supplement to their curriculum.

Border health office gets students, faculty into shape

By **ADRIANA GARZA**
The Pan American

While fad diets like Atkins and South Beach have been big recently, a new theme seems to be making its way into the mainstream: health. While the number on the scale used to be the root of people’s worries, healthy habits are now getting big attention.

The University of Texas-Pan American Border Health Office holds events and lectures throughout the year hoping to increase health awareness among faculty and staff. The Provost’s Initiative on Campus Wellness is the office’s main project; it has many events planned for the coming months to help faculty get into the health trend.

According to Denny Meline, health education coordinator, one way the initiative can promote health is by producing a healthy cookbook, scheduled to come out sometime this semester.

“Hopefully it will be in November. It has some healthy recipes and dietetics students from Pan Am helped us compile this book so we can give that out to them,” Meline said.

Robert Puente, health education coordinator, has been working on events for this year’s Initiative designed to contribute to the cause.

Members hold monthly lectures as part of a series, and topics depend on time of year. For

instance, October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and November is Diabetes Awareness month. The themes for each month come from the Wellness Counsel of America, or WELCOA.

While the Breast Cancer Awareness lecture was postponed because of a mix-up with the speakers and time conflicts, organizers hope it will be held at the University Ballroom from noon to 1 p.m. on Oct 27. The planned guest speaker is Janie Garcia, a nurse practitioner from the Rio Grande Regional Hospital.

“She’s going to be talking about breast cancer prevention,” Meline said. “She’s going to bring a model to show women how to do a self-breast examination and then pass out literature on breast cancer.”

A mammography unit was also going to be at the seminar, but a technological switch to digital meant the machine could not be moved. Instead Meline said, coupons lowering the price of a mammogram may be given to participants. Details are still being worked out.

The self-help wellness centers are for UTPA faculty members only. There are two locations: the UTPA Annex and the HShe building, in the nursing department. At the centers, faculty can check their sugar levels, weight, and blood pressure,
See **WELLNESS** page 12

Parents’ Association gains life at UTPA, educates families

By **VICTORIA RODRIGUEZ**
The Pan American

Students whose parents don’t understand why they spend most of their day at school when they only have two classes a day can finally breathe a bit easier. A new Parents’ Association is being formed at The University of Texas-Pan American.

According to Jerry Price, dean of students, the Parents Association is being created with the goal of educating parents about what is going on with

their child at UTPA.

“There are a lot of first-generation students whose parents have no idea why their child is spending the whole day on campus. They want them home right after class like it was in high school,” said Price. “This program is going to show them that there is more that goes into college than high school.”

Sonia Olivarez, program coordinator for the Student Life and Transition Services Office, believes that the organization will help parents real-

ize that their children have grown up and matured.

“The parents are going to realize that their child isn’t a child anymore, they are now a college student. And it is now the student’s responsibility to take action with their classes,” said Olivarez.

Both Price and Olivarez agree that the main goal for the association is to educate parents about their student’s life. They want to let the parents know why their student begins to act a little crazy at certain points during the year, and when important dates come up. They also want to keep

parents informed so that they can help keep the students motivated with their classes and toward scholastic goals.

On Oct. 4, the association had a social at which the plans for the future of the association were discussed. The parents who attended received notice of the social at the freshman 2005 orientation. The group’s immediate goal is to have an advisory board of parents set up so parents can be the ones who decide what they want to learn about at UTPA,
See **PARENT** page 12

Texas teacher salaries below average, continue to fall

By **STEPHENIE ESTRADA**
The Pan American

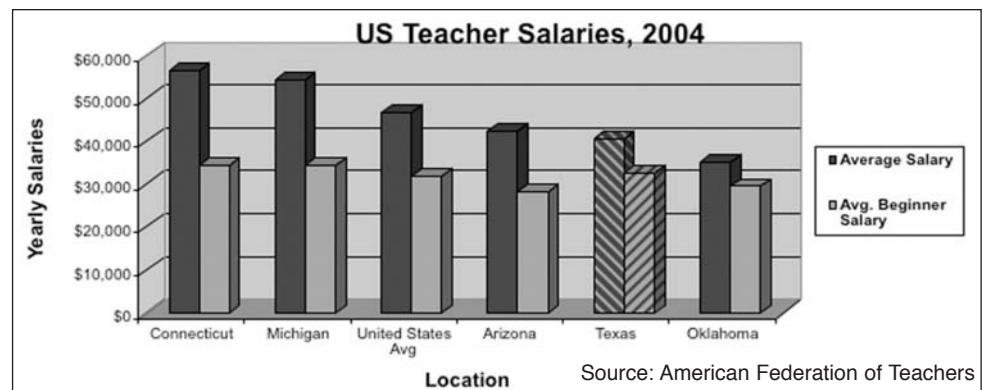
Texas pays its teachers thousands of dollars less than the national average, and the Rio Grande Valley is feeling the effects.

The American Federation of Teachers reported that in the 2003-04 school year, Texas teachers earned \$40,476, or \$6,121 less than the national average of \$46,597. Based on these figures, Texas is now ranked 30th in the salaries it pays to teachers and offers the lowest average teacher salary in the nation when compared to average pay for all jobs in the state.

As a result, many Texas college graduates who are certified to teach choose to put their degree to use in other professions that promise better pay.

“The evidence is that there are a large number of people who have been trained and have a certificate to teach, but instead, they are doing work that pays more. A receptionist in a hospital makes the same amount of money as a teacher,” said J.R. Llanes, chair of the education department at the University of Texas-Pan American.

Llanes also added that one reason that he believes teachers receive low pay is that the voca-
See **TEACHER** page 12



Claudette Gonzalez/The Pan American

Teach for America places quality grads in Valley schools

By ANALEY
The Pan American

Since 1991, a national organization known as Teach for America (TFA) has been seeking to put an end to a constant deficiency of educational resources in the Rio Grande Valley.

According to Emma Dogget, executive director for the McAllen-based regional TFA office, when the organization first examined the area's educational system in 1990, it had a very low high school graduation rate, and displayed an overall low level of achievement. The area was in desperate need for qualified teachers.

The National Center for Education statistics state that on average, "nine-year-olds in low-income areas are three grade levels below nine-year-olds in high-income areas in math and reading ability, and are seven times less likely to graduate from college than children in high-income areas." This is often said to be due to parental disinterest, overcrowded classrooms, and outdated teaching material.

Driven by the desire to make a difference in the community, Dogget decided to move to South Texas to be part of the TFA corps, eventually obtaining a permanent position with the organization. After working in the Valley for four years, she believes the program has been tremendously successful, and that its impact has progressively deepened.

Teach for America's mission is to close the achievement gap between students in low-income communities and their more affluent peers, she said. High-achieving recent college graduates are recruited and are asked to commit for two years in urban or rural public schools which show a deficit in student achievement. These college grads are required to in his first year to catch students up.

"This is tremendously difficult for TFA teachers. Being a teacher is challenging enough, and being a TFA teacher is even harder, because so much more is expected of you," she commented. "It's often an undervalued profession, and it's very challenging to have to keep up with the demands of 100 different learners."

While being a teacher is tough work, this doesn't keep college grads from signing up for the job. Nearly 17,000 individuals applied last year - the highly competitive program only accepted 2,900 (about 17 percent) of these applicants.

Of these candidates, 12 percent were from Yale and Spelman College, 11 percent were from Dartmouth and Amherst, and eight percent were from Princeton and Harvard. These well-qualified, degree-bearing graduates from all disciplines, who typically did not plan on going into the teaching profession.

The program has been in existence for 15 years, and the Valley has been a part of it for 14. In 2005, 176 TFA teach-

ers worked in 46 campuses in Hidalgo, Cameron, and Starr counties.

Over the years, the RGV regional office staff has grown from two to seven members. Corps member numbers have tripled in the last five years, and the organization has increased partnerships with schools and businesses, as well as increased general awareness of what it does.

Over 550 TFA corps members have served the RGV. In 2004, 142 members served - TFA estimates that about 12,070 students were reached by these members. In 2005, 176 members were said to have reached a projected 14,960. It is predicted that in 2006, about 190 corps members will serve the RGV, and they will reach an estimated 16,150 students.

Nancy Castillo, principal for Dora M. Saucedo Middle School in Donna, decided to include TFA instructors in her teacher pool because of her own personal experience with them. A veteran in the education field, she was first a teacher at Donna High School, and then was transferred to Veteran's Middle School, which she worked at for five years before finally becoming principal of Saucedo Middle School.

"My own kid was having trouble with reading, and the year he had a TFA member as a teacher, his scores were just remarkable," she said. "After seeing what an impact they had on my children, I realized how effective the program was, and how great it would be to have it in my school."

The school currently works with 14 TFA teachers. While the institution was established only a little over a year ago, Castillo, whose husband is the principal at Donna High School, feels that like the young, often initially inexperienced TFA instructors, it has already accomplished a great deal.

"We've got a lot of ESL [English as a second language] students, GT [gifted and talented] students, and special-ed [special education] students, and we try to desegregate all of them and get them on the same level," she said. "We're doing very well at doing this, we've actually got several students that are in all these subcategories - they're not native English speakers, they're special-ed, and they're GT."

The principal believes TFA instructors are very committed, often working nights and weekends to further develop their curricula for students.

One such instructor is Alicia Bowman, who graduated from Texas A&M and has been working at Saucedo for about a year and a half. Bowman joined the corps after reading a quote encouraging students to sign up which said: "Educational inequity should be our generation's civil rights issue."

"After reading this and realizing this was something I could be a part of, I wanted to take the challenge," said Bowman.

Bowman said that about 76 percent of her students are getting As and Bs on their six-weeks exams, the highest rate in the school. She says her students feel successful, and that she is proud she created a way for them to succeed.

"To be in the program, you have to be the best teacher possible. You have to be just as good as someone who's been doing it for ten years, in your first year."

While she began working at Saucedo with no experience beyond working with children at summer camps, she

feels that by going about her teaching methods diligently and persistently, she has made much progress in making her students independent learners. Critics say that many TFA instructors leave their teaching professions behind as soon as their two years are up. However Bowman, who plans on staying a third year, does not feel this is the case at all.

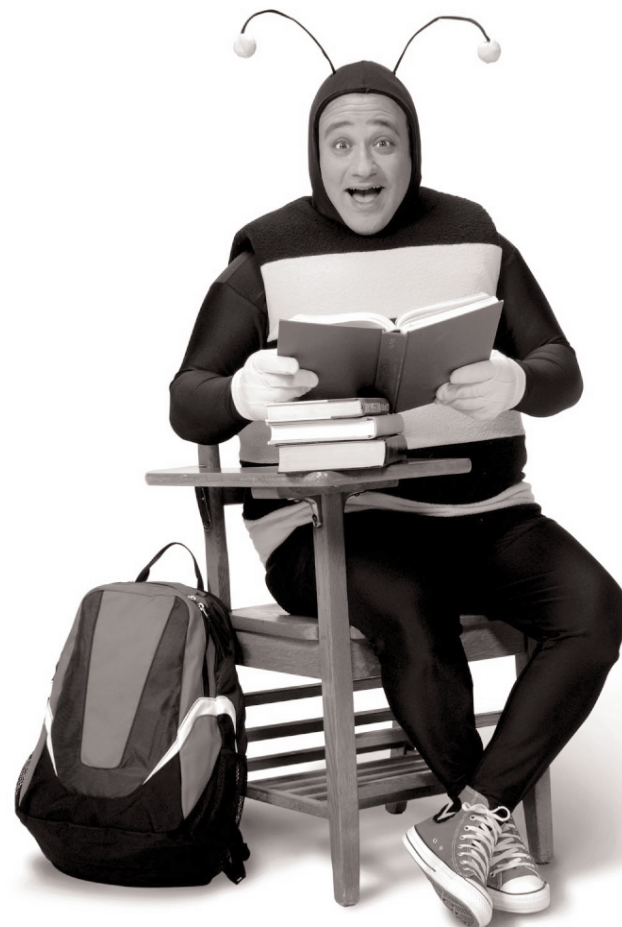
"The screening of applicants is super rigorous," she said. "Only a very small percentage of people get in, and they make sure that those who do make it are

going to be committed to their students for those two years, and time beyond that."

Bowman also says that "statistics have shown that 60 percent of TFA grads stay. Yes, some leave, but that doesn't mean they don't continue being involved with the communities they worked in."

Dogget agrees, saying that 90 percent of TFA alumni stay with the community, often working with after-school programs, or becoming active advocates for the organization.

See **TFA** page 12



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UT Saver Deferred Compensation augments retirement plan

By JEANETTE FERRY-GOMEZ
The Pan American

The University of Texas system is implementing a new savings tool to help with existing retirement plans available to UTPA faculty and staff.

The UT Saver Deferred Compensation Plan is available for use by all employees of the UT system throughout Texas, and came into effect this month.

It allows personnel to tax-defer addi-

tional income toward retirement, using pre-tax contributions. Participants are then able to reduce their taxable income by making pre-tax contributions from their paycheck. These contributions are then put toward mutual funds supervised by a company authorized by the System.

The plan can be secured for as little as \$20 per pay period. For employees 50 or older the amount can be much larger considering their impending retirement

from the UT System, allowing them to play "catch-up" and create a nest egg in a limited amount of time.

"If I were younger, I would probably consider this plan. It is easy to put aside \$20-\$50 a month. For older faculty, the \$20-\$50 would be a drop in the proverbial bucket and just would not make sense," said Barbara Vielma, an English professor at UTPA. "The "catch-up" approach would be workable for those faculty members without expenses such

as older children in college and who have disposable chunks of income to deposit into the plan."

Additional contributions to the Optional Retirement Program or the UT Saver Tax-Sheltered Annuity, two separate retirement plans offered by the System, do not affect the amount a participant is able to contribute to the UT Saver Deferred Compensation Plan.

"For those with retirement needs that go beyond the realm of Teacher Retirement Plans that, as faculty, we all have in place now, this plan would be workable," commented Vielma.

Mary Alice Guerrero, benefits manager for the Office of Human Resources, discussed some of the advantages of the UTSaver Plan.

"Contributing to the UTSaver Deferred Compensation can significantly reduce your current taxes and help

you save for retirement," said Guerrero.

The disadvantage of the plan is that the contribution rests solely with the participant and there is no employer contribution, such as with many 401K plans. Basically it is a way of investing using the UT System as a middleman.

The average faculty member makes somewhere between 35,000 and 65,000, and most do not have \$4,000 to \$14,000 to invest. On the up side, with federal income taxes increasing yearly and the middle class being squeezed more, the ability to reduce current taxes is certainly an incentive.

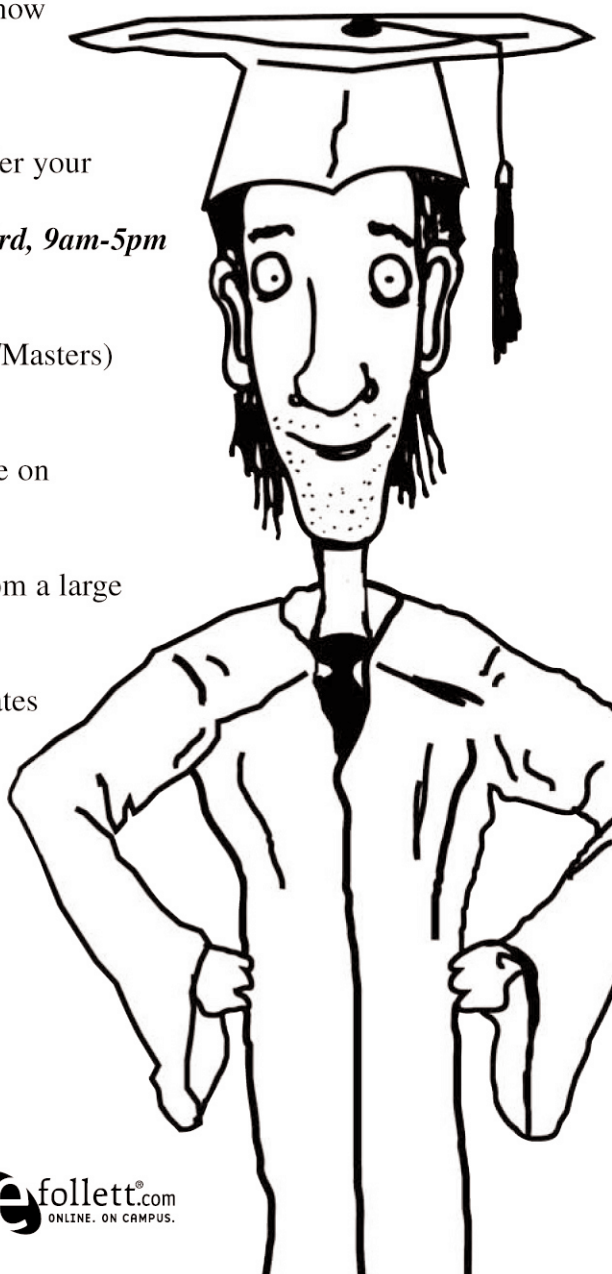
Vendors of this plan, as provided by Human Resources, include Citistreet, AIG VALIC, Great West Retirement Services, and ING.

For more information on the UTSaver Deferred Compensation Plan click www.uretirement.utsystem.edu.

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Bronc spirit on the rise starting with Greeks

By TREY SERNA
The Pan American

A wave of Bronc spirit is spreading across campus.

The Greek Council, which oversees fraternities and sororities on campus, is setting the example by working together with the athletic department at the university to foster a sense of school pride.

"We are currently collaborating with the athletic department to implement a vision of how to increase school spirit and involvement by the Greek Community at every home game," said Rosie Leal, Greek Council adviser.

Leal believes that attending games will help form better bonds for UTPA Greeks, both within their ranks and with other members of the UTPA community.

"The Greek community sees its participation as benefiting the community by providing a venue for fellowship with one another in celebrating brotherhood and sisterhood," she said.

Adrian Sandoval, Student Government Association (SGA) president, said that the Greek organizations' involvement on campus is a start, but he hopes to see more involvement from other students on campus as well.

"I think that we need more, from everyone, not just the Greeks," said Sandoval.

Senior finance major Jaime Ledezma, SGA senator for the College of Business Administration, feels strongly that UTPA students should show support for Bronc athletes.

"The athletes would like to see the stands packed, and everybody cheering for them. They play at home games and expect to hear more fans yelling for them than for the away team," said Ledezma.

According to him, a main reason that UTPA traditionally lacked the school spirit found at other major universities is the fact that the majority of students do not live on campus.

See **SPiRiT** page 12



Joel de la Rosa/*The Pan American*

COMING TOGETHER - Fraternities Kappa Sigma and Tau Kappa Epsilon show school spirit by rallying in support of the basketball team at Midnight Madness.

Vacuna puede prevenir cáncer inducido por enfermedad venérea

Por **LYLONY CAZARES**

Traducido Por **SYLVIA LORENZEN**
The Pan American

Por el momento las cosas parecen que van bien para Rita, hasta la siguiente ocasión en que reciba una tarjeta en el correo en la que le avisen de su próxima revisión anual.

“Me duele el estómago cuando veo esa tarjeta” dice Rita. “Pero sé que tengo que ir”.

Hace dos años, Rita supo que tenía cáncer cervical y tuvo una operación quirúrgica para removerlo. “Me dio mucho miedo. Primero, que dijeron que podían ser tumores genitales o cáncer. Resultó cáncer” dijo.

A principios de este mes, el gigante farmacéutico Merck & Co. dio a conocer los resultados de un estudio indicando que hay esperanza para mujeres como Rita.

En tratamientos clínicos, su nueva vacuna, Gardasil, previno cien por ciento del cáncer cervical asociado con el virus de transmisión sexual papiloma (HPV) tipos 16 y 18.

Este estudio de seis meses incluyó a 12,000 mujeres en 13 países y es parte de un estudio más grande de 25,000 personas en 33 países. La vacuna la podría aprobar la Administración de Alimentos y Drogas de los Estados Unidos (FDA) para

finales de este año.

“La vacuna esta hecha de un poco de HPV, similar a la forma en que la vacuna de polio tiene un poco de polio no activo en ella” dijo Kathryn Hearn, directora de servicios comunitarios de Planned Parenthood. “Pero debemos tener precaución respecto a que es un estudio reciente y no ha sido revisado. Sin embargo, es extremadamente promisorio”.

El cáncer cervical es el segundo cáncer más común en mujeres y la segunda causa de muerte por cáncer. Sin embargo, el cáncer cervical es altamente tratable y fácil de detectar, de acuerdo a Eran.

“Casi en cada caso, HPV es causa de cáncer cervical” expresa Hearn. “Existen más de cien tipos de HPV. Mucha gente lo tiene y no lo sabe”.

Explicó que mientras que existen como 100 tipos de HPV, sólo algunos de ellos causan cáncer cervical.

“Existen HPV 16 y 18. Se sabe que estos dos tipos causan como el 70 por ciento de los cánceres cervicales” expresó. “No son los mismos tipos de HPV genital que causan tumores. Se sabe que HPV 6 y 11 causan todos los tipos de tumores genitales, pero no causan cáncer cervical”.

Como los tumores genitales, esas infecciones microscópicas HPV con frecuencia desaparecen por sí mismas de

tres meses a un año. Pero algunas veces, las infecciones HPV de la cerviz no desaparecen por sí mismas. Estas infecciones HPV a largo plazo pueden llevar al cáncer cervical.

Idealmente, la vacuna debería ser administrada antes de que una mujer se vuelva sexualmente activa y, de acuerdo a las estadísticas dadas a conocer por el



Melissa Martinez/The Pan American
SALUD - La nueva vacuna previene HPV, la enfermedad venérea que causa la mayoría de los casos de cáncer cervical.

Centro de Control de Enfermedades, 87% de las estudiantes de preparatorias reportaron haber tenido contacto sexual, indicando que la vacuna podría ser más efectiva si se hubiera administrado antes.

Sin embargo, algunos padres de familia no aceptan la idea de que en unos pocos años, su hija de ahora 9 o 10 años será sexualmente activa con múltiples parejas. Una vez que la vacuna

del cáncer cervical sea aprobada, los padres tendrán que decidir si administrarla o no a sus hijas.

Mi inclinación sería no vacunar. Esperaría a que fuera algo que a mi hija nunca le pasara, con adecuada educación y el ejemplo tanto mío como de mi esposo y tipo de vida que llevamos” declaró Alicia González, una madre de dos hijos. “Hay muy poca probabilidad de que me puedan convencer, partiendo de que sólo es preventiva y no deseas arriesgarte, pero me inclinaría por negarme”.

A la madre de Gonzales le fue administrado diethylstilbestrol, mejor conocido como DES, una medicina utilizada entre 1940 y 1971 para prevenir ciertas complicaciones durante el embarazo. El uso de DES fue descontinuado debido a que se descubrió que causaba ciertos tipo de cáncer, infertilidad y menstruación irregular entre hijas nacidas de mujeres expuestas a DES.

Afortunadamente para ella, no experimentó ninguno de esos posibles efectos adversos a DES, pero su experiencia la pone en guardia sobre el dar a su hija una vacuna relativamente nueva.

“Mi respuesta es motivada por mi experiencia personal con DES, un medicamento que parecía perfectamente seguro en esa época, pero que llevó

muchos años a los investigadores darse cuenta que con frecuencia afectaba adversamente a los bebés que iban naciendo” dijo Gonzalez. “Quisiera saber si hubo estudios a largo término. ¿Cuáles son los riesgos o los efectos negativos? ¿Cuánto tiempo ha estado en efecto?”

Nuestros padres dicen que dejarán que sus hijas sean parte de la decisión. Carmen Cárdenas dice que solamente daría la vacuna a su hija de 16 años si ella le dijera que la necesita.

“Somos una familia muy unida” dice Cárdenas. “Tendríamos que saber todo sobre la vacuna y lo que produce, junto con una larga conversación con nuestro pastor porque no me gustaría que ella pensara que la vacuna la prevendría de quedar embarazada o contraer otro STD. Rita, sin embargo, no lo pensaría dos veces sobre administrarla a su hija de 6 años. “Sabiedo que le podría evitar por lo que pasé es razón suficiente” dijo Rita. “Pero me gustaría saber los efectos a largo plazo de la vacuna”.

Hearn piensa lo mismo sobre la vacuna.

“Creo que los padres en lo individual tendrán que decidir y no evitar que otros que deseen hacerlo lo hagan” dice. “Yo preguntaría a los padres de familia, si supieran que podrían dar esta vacuna a una joven y la prevendría de contraer

NOTICE TO ALL STUDENTS

Hazing is both a violation of university policy and a criminal offense (Sections 37.151 et seq. and 51.936, Texas Education Code) and may result in arrest and prosecution by civil authorities as well as disciplinary action pursuant to the Regent's Rules and Regulations (Part One, Chapter VI, Sections 3.28 and 3.6).

Hazing with or without the consent of a student is prohibited by the university and by the UT System. Both the hazer and the victim are subject to discipline.

According to state law, a person can commit a hazing offense not only by engaging in a hazing activity, but also by soliciting, directing, encouraging, aiding or attempting to aid another in hazing; by intentionally, knowingly or recklessly allowing hazing to occur; or by failing to report in writing to the Dean of Students or other appropriate official of the institution first-hand knowledge that a hazing incident is planned or has occurred. The fact that a person consented to or acquiesced in a hazing activity is not a defense to prosecution for hazing under the law.

In an effort to encourage reporting of hazing incidents, the law grants immunity from civil or criminal liability to any person who reports a specific hazing event to the Dean of Students or other appropriate official of the institution and immunizes that person from participation in any judicial proceeding resulting from that report. The penalty for failure to report is a fine of up to \$1,000, up to 180 days in jail, or both. Penalties for other hazing offenses vary according to the severity of the injury which results and include fines from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and/or confinement for up to two years.

The law does not affect or in any way restrict the right of the university to enforce its own rules against hazing.

The law defines hazing as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are or include students at an educational institution. Hazing includes but is not limited to:

- Any type of physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body, or similar activity;
 - Any type of physical activity, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, calisthenics, or other activity that subjects the students to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;
 - Any activity involving consumption of a food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug, or other substance that subjects to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health of the students;
 - Any activity that intimidates or threatens the students with ostracism, that subject the students to extreme mental stress, shame, or humiliation, or that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from entering or remaining registered in an educational institution, or that may reasonably be expected to cause a student to leave the organization or the institution rather than submit to acts described in this subsection;
- and

Arts & Entertainment: Halloween

Troxel Hall is UTPA's own haunted house

By **FRANK CALVILLO**
The Pan American

Almost all places have their own legend. Some buildings are well known for their architecture, while others are made famous by the many important names that have walked within its halls. The University of Texas-Pan American has its very own legend, a haunted dorm.

Known simply as "that haunted place," Troxel Hall is a student housing facility on the university campus. For years, there have been multiple accounts from Troxel residents insisting they have been witness to a bevy of ghostly occurrences, including anything from the sound of someone walking down the hall, to a television set turning on and off by itself.

Though these claims have been in existence for years, none have ever been substantiated. But their number is difficult to ignore and the stories, although altered through the years, have become the legend.

So the question at hand remains: is Troxel hall indeed haunted?

"Sometimes things get so blown out of proportion," said Laura Goins, a 22-year-old senior, and former Troxel night assistant. "It's hard to justify what's real and what's not."

Goins was one of the main night assistants, or NAs of Troxel for three years beginning in 2002.

A regular shift for an NA can last from midnight to 8 a.m. and specific duties include making sure that both residents and guests observe curfew, and that those who aren't allowed in stay out. However, the primary task lies in making periodic rounds where each dark hallway in the building must be physically checked in the course of a night.

These rounds, while seemingly routine, sometimes have scary and lasting effects on employees.

"Doing rounds is one of the creepiest situations I've even been in. If you're in the wrong mindset, you will definitely creep yourself out quickly," said Goins, a Dallas native who originally accepted the position to cover her room and board.

Goins, who resigned in 2005 to pursue a public relations internship, can recount a specific incident as to how much of effect nightly rounds had on a fellow NA.

"I can remember one NA, a sensible guy, who was supposed to be doing rounds and after a while we found him sitting in front of the television. He said he didn't do the rounds because he saw something, but never said anything else. He didn't do rounds for another two weeks after that."

Goins' boyfriend, UTPA senior David Bowling, is a self-proclaimed expert on paranormal activity, and offered his own theory as to why ghostly incidents occur in places such as Troxel Hall.

"If you go by the traditional ghost story, anyone with a violent death has their death imprisoned. If you have a place full of people, it will pick up and draw on everyone's physical energy," he said.

Troxel residents are aware of the possibility that they might not be alone. Juniors and seniors usually concoct stories of their own to scare entering freshman, until the prospect of a ghost is accepted by all.

"I think for the most part, people are intrigued by it. It's just a neat aspect of the building that brings a little bit of history to it," said David Canales, a former hall director.

The history of the Troxel ghost originated in the early 1990s when a group of students, who suspected there might be some kind of supernatural activity afoot, decided to play around with a Ouija board. Throughout the course of the session, they discovered that a young woman known only as Virginia, who many believe was a student at UTPA - died of presumably natural causes in Schunior Hall one summer during the late 1960s.

While many believe the ghost something to be feared, those who are familiar with the history insist that Virginia, who has since roamed Troxel Hall, does so because she enjoys being around people.

According to Canales, who works at the Office of Residence Life, it isn't necessarily activity that makes Virginia known.

"It's just feelings. When the building was empty after the semester had ended, you could feel a presence around you and you knew that Virginia was there," he said.

Canales also sees no end to student belief in Virginia any time soon.

"If this story's gone on since the mid-'90s, and is still being passed on, it's become tradition," he said.

Though the prospect of living with a ghost may elicit mixed reaction from students, it seems that if Virginia does exist in Troxel Hall, she is here to stay.



Joel de la Rosa/ *The Pan American*

Touring with the dead

By **MARK LAGUNEZ**
The Pan American

Tonight a bus will hurtle down the narrow streets of downtown McAllen with the spirits of the dead trailing behind. Screams may be heard from Expressway 83 to Nolana, but none are as loud as those inside the black bus.

Beginning last week, McAllen Express Transit (MET) has offered a Halloween experience unique to the Valley with its "Haunted Tours." Those brave enough to ride are taken throughout McAllen on a one-hour historical tour of allegedly haunted sites.

"We've done a lot of research," said Efrain Molina, transit manager for MET. "We've found out there are a lot of sites people don't even think are haunted. The sources are mostly historical."

The tour bus departs nightly, except Sundays, through Oct. 31 from the McAllen City Hall parking lot, 1300 Houston Ave., every hour from 7-10 p.m. Tickets are \$2 and free to children under six.

"The tour is historical, but we've also added a lot of surprises," said Molina. "Creating the tour was kind of hard. It had to be scary and appeal to families. It's historical, scary and very funny."

Among the places visited on the tour are the McAllen Main Library, the old Stevens Steak House, Quinta Mazatlan and the old McAllen High School where Chase Bank sits today.

"The oldest [site] would probably either the old train depot or Quinta Mazatlan," said Molina. "The old train depot used to be a jail, so they say the prisoners who died there still haunt the area."

To help with the tour, which spans the entire city, MET has enlisted the help of several volunteers from the South Texas College drama club, Acting Out. Their role is to add to the eerie vibe of the tour and aid passengers in feeling, and fearing, the holiday spirit.

Elizabeth Garcia, a communication major at STC, is one of the students participating in the tour event.

"My friend dragged a bunch of us into it. We were skeptical about the project," Garcia said. "But it turns out I really like this. The families are really into it. I'd definitely do it again next year."

One thing they didn't expect was up-close encounters with the paranormal while "on the job." Nearly everyone involved has had their own supernatural experience.

"More than once, we have been parked waiting for other zombies. I could feel something else, a presence, there," said Garcia. "I was getting chills. Later that night, I got nauseous and later on had a panic attack."

Other volunteers reported that out of nowhere, pebbles were thrown at their cars.

When asked how other reportedly haunted areas, such as La Lomita or Fort Brown, compare to sites on the tour, Molina asserts that those places have nothing on Quinta Mazatlan.

"I've been to Quinta Mazatlan. You get a real eerie feeling," Molina said. "It's just like a movie; the house sits at the end of this isolated road, up on a hill. They say you can still hear the screams of the owner's wife."

This Halloween season, her scream won't be the only one.

The be\$t co\$tume\$ yet?

By **KRISTINA GARCIA-CORRAL**
The Pan American

What happened to all of the imagination? What happened to the homemade fun? When we were in elementary school, our parents made our costumes from what they had at home and painted our faces for us. Fake vampire teeth, blood capsules, and colored hair-spray were all we needed.

Our costumes were unique and we did not want to dress up like the other kids. Wearing our costumes to school was actually permitted, and dressing as monsters and witches was the thing to do, but now we see so many costumes of cartoon and movie characters without any sign of effort or imagination.

Nonetheless, party and costume stores in the Rio Grande Valley are making a killing during the Halloween season on costumes and accessories.

According to the National Retail Federation, spending for Halloween nationwide is expected to hit an estimated \$3.29 billion, up 5.4 percent from last year.

"Darth Vader and Batman are the top sellers for boys and Disney Princess is the top seller for girls," said Caroline de la Rosa, a sales associate at Party Universe in McAllen. "All the other costumes sell too, but those are the ones that we sell most."

According to the 2005 iParty Top Ten Halloween Costumes found on its Website (www.http://news.yahoo.com/s/prweb), Darth Vader took the number one spot followed by Batman, and the Scream mask was ranked #10.

Nowhere on the list were the traditional vampires

or mummies.

"I think Halloween is different now because it seems more commercial with Halloween specialty stores only open during the Halloween season," said Bob Lopez, a junior broadcast major at the University of Texas-Pan American.

Years ago, youngsters actually anticipated a night of trick-or-treating and were able to walk up and down the block with no worries. Local schools had fall festivals that everyone attended and dressed up for. Houses were spooked out, and ready to scare.

Times have clearly changed, and Halloween seems to have become more commercial. Increasing awareness of child molesters and abductions makes parents wary of sending their kids out in costumes.

"I am older now and have more responsibilities, maybe if I had children I would be more into the Halloween spirit," said Lori Barrera, a junior at UTPA.



Kristina Garcia-Corral/ *The Pan American*

BE AFRAID...

As I walked out of "The Carnival of Terror," I was impressed with all the effort that had gone into putting the thing together. I was also surprised the place made me jump as many times as it did, with a variety of sights and sounds catching my normally reserved self off guard too many times.

Story By Jason Chapa
Designed By Jeanette Ferry-Gomez

In Harlingen, "The Carnival of Terror" is frightening patrons with its own brand of horror. However, the tricks brought by this carnival's ringmaster aren't the only ones going down: the owners and operators of "The Carnival of Terror" have experienced their own bone-chilling tales to tell.

"The Carnival of Terror" is the brainchild of John Cook II, an environmental consultant who in his off time has dedicated himself to bringing horror-themed entertainment and services (such as casket rental for those special occasions) to the Valley through his Living Dead Nightmare Productions.

Cook began working at haunted houses in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex at age 15. By 16, he was managing his first haunted house, and has been yearning to bring a big production to the Valley since moving here in 1997.

The first house he produced was "Haunted Polk Manor" at Pharr, in October 2001. However, with the tragedy of 9/11 still fresh in people's minds, a poor location and no budget, Cook felt it was not as successful as it could have been, despite favorable reviews. Since then, he's been working toward surpassing anything ever seen in the Valley.

"In the past we've had other haunted houses put on by charities or by police organizations," said Cook. "And they're great for kids to be entertained for the month of October, but we've never had anything for the young adults or adults."

"I believe this is taking it towards that with in-your-face, on-the-edge, really graphic horror entertainment. It's like walking into a horror movie, and being able to experience it firsthand."

The story behind "The Carnival of Terror" is about a professor who made a deal with the devil to collect souls, and went around the country recruiting evil carnival folk. They would put on a show in different towns and people would go missing. Eventually, in Harlingen, the carnival was burned to the ground by the sheriff and his deputies. But that hasn't stopped people from disappearing.

Cook said that he wrote the background "on a sleep-deprived night to Dallas, during a training seminar."

The house features several rooms, with live actors, ambient lighting and animation, bringing to life a variety of ghastly scenes inspired by the horror genre. One room features clowns who terrorize unsuspecting patrons. Another hosts an exorcism that hasn't gone right. And maniacs roam the house, waiting around every corner to shock anyone who they can catch. Among the rooms are other frightening sights that are not worth spoiling here.

Zachary Carter, a 17-year-old Harlingen High School student, got a job in the haunted house as one of the clowns when he and his friends arrived to the interview in costume. The clown room is his favorite.

"All of the clowns do different things," he said. "We have one clown whose four-feet tall, running around, freaking people out. Me, I like to make a lot of noise. We have another clown there, named Shanks. He likes to threaten people."

The reactions have been varied, but all can be considered positive when you consider that the purpose of the house is to affect people in some way.

"I've had no negative reactions whatsoever," Cook said. "Even from the people who have come out [of the house] out of breath or even crying; as they go down the ramp they turn around and give the thumbs up, and say they loved it and think it was the best they've seen. I'm feeling real good about the reactions from the people. They really seem to like it."

But not everyone takes being frightened it so "well."

Travis Hapeman "loves Halloween and drives a hearse every day," and portrays one of the chainsaw-wielding maniacs in the house. He believes the reactions are the most important part.

"It's the scaring part," he said. "I love people's reactions when they get scared. But a lot of people deserve it, as a friend of mine told me. Especially those that will scream and run. Some will drop to the ground, some will ball like little babies and some get real offended."

"Some people have hit some of the actors out of fear, we've

had some people threaten to kill us, which is kind of funny," said Carter. "We have some people who come in and don't do anything but hey, that's life."

However, the scares aren't reserved solely for those who wander through "The Carnival of Terror." Many of those involved with keeping the place running have experienced some unexplainable happenings while working on the house.

"This place is creepy," Cook said. "The building has a long history. As a night club has quite a few violent things happen. I know personally of four documented murders either in the building or on the property."

Ron Rust, Cook's second-in-command and "Rotten Ron" during performances, experienced one of the more dramatic encounters with the unexplained. One night he was locked inside the building alone, doing renovations when weird things started happening.

"I was putting up one of the walls and pulled too hard on it, causing it to fall, and heard laughter," said Rust. "[Then] it felt like someone was trying to knock me off a ten-foot ladder. I'd walk through and feel people touching me, as well as cold chills. It all actually ran me out of here. I was done for the night."

Cook also had a strange experience on par with Rust's, and even including him.

"He [Rust] was walking in front of me, and he is very distinct, you can't miss him," Cook said. "I'm walking behind him. We're talking about opening festivities for the night, and what we need to do. We go back into the kitchen, he walks, turns into a little storeroom, and I go 'what are you doing in that back room?' So I go into that back room he's not there. I call out to him, and he's not there. I call him on his cell phone and he's on the other end of the house, and was never in the kitchen."

The other actors have also experienced strange occurrences. Many of their props have been moved around, shadows and cold chills are commonplace, and various apparitions can be seen throughout the halls of the house, only to disappear when revealed.

One such occurrence even happened to some unknowing patrons, who were led around the house by somebody mimicking an actor, back to the entrance. When they came stumbling out, neither the management nor any of the actors could recall leading them back.

Because of all the spooks, Cook will hold a lock-in for the actors so that they may experience some of these other attractions the house has to offer.

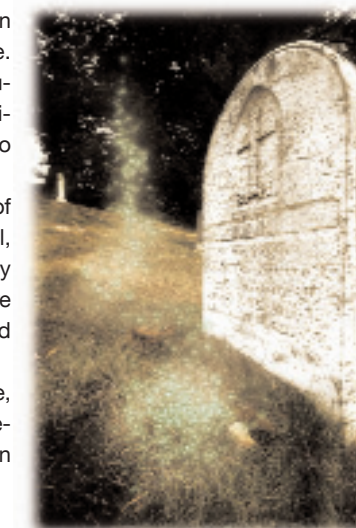
Despite everything that's been put into the house, by his crew and the otherworldly inhabitants, Cook is hardly satisfied with his work.

"My opinion is I hate it; I'm very critical of my work. I've worked in some very large, spectacular productions in Dallas, and have toured the United States looking at other productions. I don't think it's on par with anything, but I do believe with my heart it's the best in the Valley. And it does seem to work."

"I would say if I have to put a number on it, we're probably looking at 1,500, 2,000 have been through here to date. We started the first weekend in October and have run every weekend since. Every day usually doubles or triples the previous weeks numbers. so it has been increasing."

If "The Carnival of Terror" is successful, Cook and company hope to bring a 20-acre Halloween-themed attraction to the Valley.

"If they support me, I will build them something they've never seen before," he said.



SCREAM FAKTOR

By Jeanette Ferry-Gomez

What are you afraid of? Is it an unexplained figure in the darkness? Or the sound of hidden screams? What is it that makes your spine tingle with anticipation and fear?

The organizers of McAllen's Scream Faktor have made it their job to find out the answers. Located on Chicago Street, Scream Faktor's haunted house has taken up residence at the Rio Hotel.

Since October of last year Scream Faktor has been providing chills and thrills to Valley residents.

"It runs throughout the whole month and some days before and after," said Eugene Lozano, supervisor of the Scream Faktor Haunted House. "It was started by people who believe that the Valley lacks a lot of things larger, more developed cities have to offer."

Built in 1962 as a hotel for travelers, it was closed for nearly 10 years under very mysterious circumstances. According to local folklore it was shut down when two people died. But are there any ghosts that still reside at the Rio Hotel?

Lozano, shared some of his personal experiences in the house after hours.

"Things moving, unexplainable noises, and sudden drops of temperature at times inside the building. We've actually had ghost hunters in the building that have caught audio, nothing visual though."

Scream Faktor calls itself the first haunted house in the Valley because in a sense it is the first real one to make its debut in South Texas.

Lozano says, unlike the sort of harmless fun haunted houses that can be comical, Scream Faktor employees take their job seriously and mean to provide a safe rush of adrenaline to terrify and excite customers.

The Scream Faktor crew has mixed feelings about scaring the paying public.

"My greatest fear is getting into a car crash," said Jackie Castellanos, 21-year-old business major at South Texas College. "But scaring people is so much fun, it makes me laugh."

"Getting paid to scare people is great" said Melissa Rodriguez, an Edinburg High School student. "My major fear though is seeing a ghost. That'd probably be pretty bad for me."

Others have similar fears.

"Drowning or being enclosed in a tight space are my top two fears," said Joe Diaz, a freshman drama major at the University of Texas-Pan American, who plans to be Harry Potter for Halloween.

"The most fun about working at Scream Faktor is watching the really tough people break down and get scared."

Based on its past record Screamfaktor stands up to the competition in the Valley. "We have had at least four people wet themselves, three people have fainted and many get out before they are even halfway through," said Lozano.

"I think Scream Faktor is one of the better haunted houses, because it's an actual haunted house," said Diaz.

"The ones I've been to are always at church and they aren't even scary," said Castellanos.

Video game doomed to the big screen?

By JASON CHAPA
The Pan American

Hollywood has poorly translated video games into movies many times; "Street Fighter" and "Super Mario Bros." are the best examples of good games gone bad movies. At best, we've seen the "Resident Evil" saga manage to not stink up cinemas too badly, but this is debatable. It seems that, despite their best attempts, Hollywood has had an impossible time bringing that people enjoy on small screens to the big screen.

While it can hardly be considered a total success, "Doom" at least gets enough things right to not be considered a failed adaptation of the classic video game series. As a fan of the series, I was hoping that it wouldn't do the games a great disservice by being horrible. The fact that I'm not a purist of the series made this easier to accomplish. However, for fans who spent the better part of their adolescence "pwn-ing" their friends and the casual movie-goer, it may not be enough.

Thankfully, Uwe Boll of "House of the Dead," "Alone in the Dark" and the upcoming "Bloodrayne" movie didn't helm this picture. That this franchise was spared his "talent" is a miracle. However, the fact that the movie won't be as bad as some of the worst video game adaptations made is not a big selling point.

"Doom" follows Karl Urban and The Rock as John Grimm and Sarge, the two top marines

charged with investigating a demonic disturbance at a Mars colony where top secret experiments and excavations take place.

Actually, the movie deviates from what little plot the game had and goes onto say that



Courtesy of www.unika.cn

SOURCE CODE - A scene taken from "Doom 3," the film's inspiration.

aliens, not demons, are to blame for the rampant violence occurring in the colony. This is probably one of the biggest continuity errors the crew made, but at least it is explained in a manner that stays true to the intent of the game itself.

The acting is much better than one would expect from the cast of meat heads, that is to say a good majority of them stay quiet rather than try and be more than they're supposed to. No cast member is regulated to such stereotypes as "the comic relief" or "the tough loner," though it aches painfully close with characters

going by nicknames like "The Kid" or "Goat."

Urban and The Rock both fit their roles well, though The Rock seems to swear a whole lot more with each movie he makes. Given his previous occupation, it seems odd for him to be dropping an f-bomb every other word. It may be just me, but such language can get distracting when it seems so forced and superfluous. Given the R-rating, it's like he was aching to add curs-



Courtesy of id Software

es in as much as he was waiting to show off "The People's Eyebrow" one more time.

The tone of the film never takes itself too seriously, except when bad things happen. Then any sarcasm goes flying out the door, breaking all sorts of glass and leaving a trail of gore in its wake. While the computer graphics are decent, the monsters look too fake to be scary when you actually see them. The suspense is only so passable because it relies so much on darkness and "surprise." You get sick of waiting for anyone to die.

However, the film kicks up near the end,

after dragging out the death and exposition as long as it can. The first-person sequences, a direct if implausible homage to the game series itself, are surprisingly affective, if only because they don't offer the repetitive and trite action of the previous acts. Eventually, the movie ends in an upbeat fashion...if you can ignore all the characters who died horrendously.

If anything can be said about Doom, it's that the film is like watching someone else play a video game. However, even though this game is far from perfect, at least it's not like "Street Fighter" or, thankfully, "House of the Dead" in that it doesn't make you never want to even consider playing anything remotely related to the game again.

It does however make you want to play



Courtesy of www.darkhorizons.com

EXECUTE - The Rock as "Sarge," a space marine who takes his job too seriously.

any incarnation of "Doom." Which is infinitely a superior experience to the film, though.



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SENATE continued from page 1

task force. That has led Zucker and the TFA to believe Juarez's actions are in retaliation to the no confidence vote.

The purpose of having a faculty senate is to allow joint decision-making between the faculty and administration. According to Zucker, having a faculty senate is vital in a university because faculty members have the first-hand knowledge on whether decisions and policies are affective or not.

"You might make a comparison for example to hospitals. The hospital administrators run the daily operation of the hospital, but it's the doctors who decide on the treatment of the patients," Zucker stated. "In the same way, university presidents should definitely be involved in the day to day advancement of the university. So, many of the decisions, of course subject to review by the president, should and must be made by the faculty because they're the only ones with the expertise."

According to the Constitution of the Faculty Senate for UTPA, common issues that are brought up regard policies relating to the reviewing existing or proposed educational policies, reviewing proposals from the faculty/librarians and administrators, and initiating policies or proposals for consideration by faculty/librarians and administrators. Additionally, just like at TAMUK, the senate also reviews the performance of university administrators.

Liang Zeng, a professor in the physics and geology department at the University of Texas-Pan American, agrees the Faculty Senate is vital to a healthy university environment.

"The Faculty Senate is crucial. It's an official body of the university and it's an icon of shared governance on campus," said Zeng, who served as a senator for three years.

For the most part, the relationship between administrators and faculty members is free of major

complications.

However, Zucker believes that tension between faculty members and school administrators is always a possibility. Differences in vision for the future of the way the university is run are the major factors.

"As the Faculty Senate becomes more active and more involved in decision making then you always run the risk that some administrator somewhere will decide that they'll do the same thing or something similar to what happened to Kingsville," Zucker said.

Zeng believes that the key to a successful relationship between university officials and faculty members is through clear communication between both parties. She suggests a system in which administrators take an active role in the faculty senate by attending meetings.

"This type of operating style needs to be strongly encouraged. It can alleviate the pain that faculty and administrators go through if we have clear channels to communicate in order to solve problems more effectively," Zeng stressed. "You won't build up such huge barriers between the faculty and administrators as in TAMUK."

While Kingsville works to repair and resolve their wounds, Zucker feels UTPA has a bright future between its faculty senate and administrators due to Cardenas's dedication to clear communication and collaboration.

"Pan Am has an excellent new president who works with the faculty. They have both a solid faculty senate and good leadership right now," Zucker emphasized. "I don't see any immediate threat at Pan American at all."

The next meeting of the executive committee will take place on Nov. 16 while the entire faculty senate will meet November.

VACCINE continued from page 1

them cause cervical cancer.

"There are HPV 16 and 18. Those two strains are known to cause about 70 percent of cervical cancers," she said. "These are not the same types of genital HPV that cause warts. HPV strains six and 11 are known to cause all cases of genital warts, but do not cause cervical cancer."

Like genital warts, these microscopic HPV infections often go away on their own in three months to a year, said Hearn. But sometimes, HPV infections of the cervix do not, and these long-term infections can lead to cancer.

Ideally, the vaccine should be administered before a woman becomes sexually active; according to statistics released by the Center for Disease Control, 87 percent of high school reported having sexual intercourse, indicating that the vaccine would be most effective if administered before then.

However, some parents have a hard time accepting the idea that their 9- or 10-year-old daughters will be sexually active with multiple partners within a few years. Once the cervical cancer vaccine is approved, parents will have to make a decision.

"My inclination would be not to vaccinate. I would hope that it's something that my daughter would never need, with proper education and the example set by me and my husband of the type of life we lead," said Alicia Gonzalez, a mother of two. "There's a small chance that I could be convinced, just from the standpoint that it's just one more preventative and you don't want to take the chance but I'd be inclined to say no and just pass it up."

Gonzalez's mother was administered diethylstilbestrol, better known as DES, a drug used between 1940 and 1971 to prevent certain complications during pregnancy, such as miscarriage. Use of

DES was discontinued after the discovery that it caused certain types of cancer, infertility, and irregular menstruation among children born to DES-exposed women.

Luckily for her, she experienced none of the possible adverse effects, but the experience makes her wary of giving her daughter a relatively new and untested drug.

"What colors my answer is my personal experience with DES, a drug that seemed perfectly safe at the time but took many years for researchers to realize that it often adversely affected the babies that were born," said Gonzalez. "

Other parents say they would allow their daughters to be a part of the decision. Carmen Cardenas said she would only give the vaccine to her 16-year-old daughter if her daughter told her she needed it.

"We are a very close family," Cardenas said. "We would need to have an understanding about the vaccine and what it does, along with a long talk with our youth pastor because I would not want her to think the vaccine would prevent her from getting pregnant or contracting other STDs."

Rita, however, would not think twice about administering it to her 6-year-old-daughter.

"Knowing that I could save her from going through what I went through is reason enough," Rita said. "But I would need to know the long-term effects of the vaccine."

Hearn feels the same way about the vaccine.

"I think individual parents would need to decide and not prevent others who want to do this from doing it," she said. "I would ask parent, 'if you knew you could give this vaccine to a young person and it would prevent them from having cancer, why wouldn't you do it?'"

O'BRIEN continued from page 1

everyone is drinking and drinking some more while watching the game and they're drinking and drinking. By the time my 11 o'clock live shot came around these people were complete plowed, basically," she told a group of journalism students.

Just a few moments before the station were about to toss coverage to her, O'Brien noticed something odd.

"I was like 'Wow everybody in this room is completely drunk and they're standing so close to me.'"

That's when she got a bit of a shock.

"A guy leaned out and pinched me right on my butt. It was such an awful experience. I froze completely."

Luckily, she had been working on a story all night, so they cut away and ran the story.

"By the time they came back to me I kind of had my act together and I could muddle through."

O'Brien walked away from the experience with some very valuable lessons.

"Rule number one, never go to a bar to do a story where people have been drinking. Rule number two, always make sure your back is up against a wall when you're doing a live shot," she said.

DIVERSITY FIRSTHAND

However, her lessons aren't limited to such random experiences. O'Brien has learned several important lessons about diversity in her years of reporting.

When she first began, she had the normal "gopher" jobs assigned to those who want to be in television. When she finally got a reporting spot, it turned out to be a little different than expected. She was assigned to be the "minority reporter" for the news station.

"The worst part, for me, of the minority writer training program was that I was assigned all the 'people of color' stories, which usually go in the D block," O'Brien said. "They felt that they had to go cover it, but no one wanted to give it any importance so they kind of threw it in the back of the show."

Growing up as a middle-class girl in Long Island, O'Brien claims she had "no struggles worth documenting." But she did meet many closed doors.

While looking for a reporter position, she encountered her fair share of "idiotic bosses" who attempted to categorize her, to no avail.

"One job I applied for the people said 'Soledad, well you can't pronounce that name... No one is going to be able to say that, you should think about changing it,'" she said. "And then two days later, I had a job interview and they said, basically, 'well, you know, we have one minority position and you don't look ethnic enough. You can't be my black hire.'"

So in a 48-hour period, she had been both too ethnic and not ethnic enough. But she didn't let it get under her skin.

"We've all dealt with idiocy, where you just grit your teeth and you run that person over with your car when you get the opportunity," she joked.

O'Brien was also present as a major lesson in the importance of racial tolerance unfolded while she was working in Boston. It involved a man named Charles Stuart who claimed that he and his wife were taken to a poor neighborhood, shot, and his wife killed after a black man jumped in their car as they were leaving a birthing class.

What ensued was a ruthless manhunt in which dozens of inner-city black men were humiliatingly lined up outside apartment buildings in attempts to

find the killer. They finally settled on a man named William Bennett.

But Bennett never stood trial, because Stuart's car and a confession/suicide note were found on the Tobin Bridge in Boston.

"The Charles Stuart case really became a moment in Boston's history that showed how bad the racial tension was in that city," O'Brien said. "And it was very much believed that Charles Stuart took advantage of that racial environment at that time."

She added that though the mystery was over, the effects remained.

"The suspect was eventually cleared but the anger lingered and to this day, black residents, and really all minority residents, are very angry about the ease at which the police, and the media too, were able to jump to the conclusion that this guy, William Bennett, climbed in the back of a car and shot Charles Stuart."

She also added that diversity in all aspects is very important to her profession.

"In my business, you need a viewpoint and a mindset that extends beyond just one particular perspective."

FAMILY MATTERS

But her job isn't the only place she has been exposed to different plights that come with diversity. With a white Australian father and a black Cuban mother, she has heard and learned from her parents' struggles in being an interracial couple in 1958.

"At that time in this country, interracial dating was very much frowned upon, and that's the understatement of the year," she said. "When they would go on their dates, no one would actually seat them because they were interracial."

To remedy this, her mother would take her father back to her place, and cook them both dinner. O'Brien said, thought the matter was serious, her mother found a way to find the humor in the story.

"My mother always used to tell us this story because the punch line for her was 'See girls, if you could cook you could get a man.'"

By the end of 1958, her parents faced a new struggle. Marriage. Since interracial marriage was illegal in Massachusetts, where the couple lived, they defied their relatives and moved to Washington D.C. to get married.

"They didn't listen to what people told them, ever," O'Brien said. "For me, it's always been a really great lesson of the need to work around obstacles."

MORE LEARNING

From her experiences, O'Brien has developed her own strategy for survival and perseverance: if you have something you want to do, go do it.

"There's always going to be a million people who will stand in your way and tell you all the reasons you can't do it," she said. "Some of them will pose as your friends, some of them will pose as your enemies but they will constantly remind you why it's just not going to be possible, you're never going to do it."

"You have to remember that it's very doable. My story is just one of putting my head down and learning from my mistakes and trying harder the next time."

According to O'Brien, if you don't do it for yourself, you should do it for those who sacrificed to get you where you are.

"You have to remember that you owe it to them to figure out how to get through. If you remember what you want to get to, you will get there."

SOCIAL WORK continued from page 3

as our first code of ethic," de la Rosa said. "We learned how to contribute our time to helping others."

"When you're helping out, you see that there's a need for more volunteers," added junior social work major April Loya. "As social workers, we have to realize that there are plenty of things an individual can do."

Aside from the altruism of the project, Garza wanted to see the students emerge with a sense of unity as a group.

"The community service that we did was awesome because it got our group together," said freshman social work major David Espinosa.

"It brought all of us a little closer," Loya said. "We got to know each better because we were working together."

MULTIPLE LESSONS

The service project also reaffirmed the group's commitment to social work as a profession. It was

especially meaningful for the male students who participated. Social work began as a female-dominated profession, but many males are choosing to break the gender barrier.

"Social work will get me more involved," Espinosa said. "And hopefully, I'll make a difference by helping a child or a family."

For others, like freshman Jesus Gonzalez, the project provided personal rewards beyond that of altruism.

Diagnosed with a social anxiety disorder, Gonzalez must take medications daily. And for him, "social work helped with my social anxiety."

For many of these future social workers, their experiences at the food bank acted as a stepping stone to future endeavors in service. Per their major, they are required to fulfill 20 hours of shadowing a social worker in order to gain a deeper understanding of being of service to others.

"When you're doing the work you enjoy and getting paid for it, it's like, 'Wow,'" said Garza.

WELLNESS continued from page 3

relax, and pick up healthy literature.

"If something's wrong then obviously they have to go visit the doctor, but all this is there for just a simple check-up that they can do on their own and at their own time," Puente said.

Another event in development is the Walking Program, scheduled to begin in November and run through February. The goal is to try to get faculty and staff to walk the covered walkway surrounding campus, for 30 minutes. There will be a monthly competition and incentives will be given to participants.

"We've had the program for two years and we realized that we can't do it year 'round because of the temperature," Meline said. "It's too hot to do it in the summer, so we're going to target more toward the winter months."

According to Doreen Garza, who works with Border Wellness, exercise posters have been placed in several campus offices to show people that you don't have to go to a gym to exercise.

"We developed a poster as part of the wellness program that has stretching and some exercises that you could do in your office," added Garza, who is featured on the posters.

She also said that it's not just the exercise they are worried about.

"We want to create awareness about the importance of exercise but at the same time the importance of doing an exercise or a stretch the proper way, so that you don't hurt yourself," Garza said. "On the poster there's an explanation of the proper way to do it."

The office also sends out the Healthy Bronc Newsletter, which provides tips in union with the theme of the month plus a profile on a faculty or staff member who is doing something to promote healthy habits.

Aside from the Provost's Initiative, the Border Health Office has another program helping to increase health awareness. The School Enrollment Enrichment Program (SEEP) includes fourth-graders from surrounding school districts who have diabetes. By keeping track of them, the program offers students more information about staying healthy.

Meline says he has high expectations for the coming months.

"I hope to see more participation from faculty and staff. We want them to be healthy."

PARENT continued from page 3

and also learn the processes that their student has to go through every year in order to register and gain financial aid.

"Right now we have about six couples that would like to participate in the advisory board and one couple from Reynosa that would like to act as the liaison between the association and other parents that live in Reynosa," said Olivarez.

Price would like to arrange a "college day" for parents, offering them informative classes that edu-

cate about what RAC and PIN numbers are, or about registration and financial aid applications.

According to Olivarez, they would like to have a meeting once a semester to welcome new parents into the fold, and put out a newsletter to keep parents informed about issues that may concern them and their students.

The next meeting is Friday, where advisory board appointments will be finalized and discussion will be had on other matters parents bring up.

TFA continued from page 4

"Even if they don't stay, they still make an impact," she said.

Although no UTPA alumni have ever been part of the TFA corps, Dogget highly encourages graduating students to do so.

For those interested, the deadlines for the 2006

corps are Oct. 30, 2005 and Feb. 17, 2006. Candidates must complete an online application, which includes a letter of intent, resume, and essay. The TFA We site is www.teachforamerica.com, and the program's main office can be reached at 1-800-832-1230 x 225.

TEACHER continued from page 3

tion has traditionally been a female-dominated profession. According to him, this has allowed the salary to stay low, despite the fact that teachers are professionals who have college degrees.

Ideally, that isn't the case, he added.

"You are accountable; you are implementing what the state mandates, and constantly improving your technique. The hallmark of a profession is a license, and as professionals, teachers should get paid more," said Llanes.

Some analysts believe that Texas salaries are lower than those in most other states due to what is considered a lower-than-average cost of living in the state. However the American Federation of Teachers reports that it does not use cost of living as a factor in its survey due to the varying amounts of cost in different regions.

Annette Garcia, public information officer for Region One, said she believes that teachers need to be adequately compensated for the difficult job they perform.

"Teacher salaries need to be increased," Garcia said. "Teachers are professionals. They have a tough job, and, if we intend on keeping teachers, we need to be able to pay more."

Texas first adopted a state-mandated minimum salary for teachers in 1949. Then, in 1955, the state began requiring a baccalaureate degree for public school teachers.

Many teachers from that era, such as Enriqueta Villafuerte, are now retiring. Villafuerte began teaching for the Edinburg School District in 1955 and continued to teach for the school for 37 years, including 26 summers in a row.

"My first month's pay was \$167 in September 1955. It was peanuts. I was very discouraged about that," Villafuerte said. "But, when I retired,

I was okay with my salary, and my retirement pay has more than made up for my many years of teaching."

Replacing retired teachers is a serious problem for school districts. Attracting and retaining quality teachers is difficult when graduates can earn more doing other, more lucrative jobs. There is also a high turnover due to the meager compensation in the profession.

However, at UTPA, it takes more than that to deter education majors.

"The low pay doesn't discourage me because I know this is what I want to do," said Anabel Palacios, junior education major.

However the fact remains that Texas is still losing ground against the other states in terms of average salaries.

Linda Bridges, president of the Texas Federation of Teachers, said that the solution will begin with state legislators placing more importance on the role of teachers.

"Texas is falling further and further behind the national average for teacher salaries each year, and it's an unfortunate statistic that shows state leadership is not putting an emphasis on attracting and retaining quality teachers," said Bridges in a recent article featured in *The Monitor*.

Fred Mann, a lecturer in the communication department, agreed.

"I have always thought that our state legislators are totally out of touch with our elementary and secondary school systems. Teachers are a necessary cog in the education gears but they seemed to have stripped us of our dignity," said Mann. "30th in the nation. Now if that was UT football, a new million dollar-per year coach would be selected in a heartbeat."



Joel de la Rosa/*The Pan American*

EDUCATING OUR YOUTH - Jose Saenz helps students in his 4th-grade class at E.B Guerra Elementary in Edinburg proofread their English assignments. Teacher salaries across Texas are lower than the national average.

SPIRIT continued from page 5

"I think in the past it had to do with the fact that people commute to school and the average age of students is higher than at other schools," said Ledezma. "They come to class and then they go home or they go to work. They have responsibilities that they can't get away from, unlike most students at UT, for example, who are straight out of high school."

However, Ledezma sees a change in the way students are viewing their time on campus.

"The culture is changing here a bit. More stu-

dents are saying 'Hey, I want to live on campus,'" said Ledezma. "It's another part of the college experience."

Ledezma believes that UTPA students can emulate the spirit found at other universities.

"At other schools, you see crazy fans hanging over the railings at games, painted in school colors," he said. "We have a Division I program. We compete with the likes of UT Austin and Texas A&M. We don't need a football team, we can do it at the basketball games or the baseball games."

SPORTS CLIPBOARD

UTPA tennis returns from ITA Tournament Steil, top performer for the Broncs

The University of Texas-Pan American men's and women's tennis teams traveled to College Station last weekend to compete in the ITA Tournament hosted by Texas A&M University, enjoying varied results.

Senior Oliver Steil won his first match and advanced to the round of 64. In the second round of the main draw, Steil was defeated 6-1, 6-1 by third-seed Robert Searle from Rice.

Newcomer Andrew Bost lost his first match, placing him in the consolation bracket. In consolation action, he received a bye through the first and second rounds then defeated Patrick Russ from Centenary 1-6, 6-3, 10-7. Bost dropped his next match 6-2, 6-0 against Texas Tech's Michael Breier.

Fellow Broncs Nik Porter and Rehman Esmail both competed in the consolation bracket after dropping their opening matches. Porter dropped his first consolation match 6-0, 6-3 while Esmail dropped both his matches after not being able to finish due to illness.

In doubles action, Bost-Steil were knocked out by Diblasi-Rojmar from Texas Tech 8-4 while teammates Esmail-Porter were handed a 8-1 loss by Tulane's Goulet-Sottocorno who reached the semifinals.

For the women, Silke Buksik dropped her initial match 6-1, 6-0 to the 16th-seed in the tournament, Celine Vanweydevel from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. Buksik then faced off against Melanie Brown from Prairie View A&M and dropped a 6-3, 6-4 decision. In her final match, Buksik fell to Teri Wilkerson 6-2, 6-3.

Maria de Bourqueney also faced a seeded opponent in SMU's Kristen Reid, the sixth seed, who defeated her 6-2, 6-1. De Bourqueney lost her next match 6-3, 6-2 but bounced back to win her third match 6-2, 4-6, 10-7 against Sarah Reimer from the University of Houston.

For the women in doubles action, Sheila Mabulac and Elysia Sloan teamed up in an 8-0 loss to the eighth-seeded duo from Baylor. Mabulac-Sloan were then defeated by the Rambally twins from SMU. Buksik/de Bourqueney earned the 8-4 victory in their first matchup against a duo from Texas A&M-Corpus Christi but were knocked out by the third-seed duo from Baylor 8-2.

The Broncs are done for the fall while the Lady Broncs will be compete in San Antonio at the UTSA Fall Tournament on Oct. 28-29.

Phillips earns Newcomer of the Week honors Third straight award for Lady Bronc

For the third consecutive week and fourth time this season, volleyball freshman Kellie Phillips was selected as the Independent Newcomer of the Week when the teams were announced on Tuesday.

Phillips was the top offensive performer for the Lady Broncs as she collected 41 kills, averaging 4.10 kills per game in three matches this past week. She also notched 35 digs, averaging 3.50 digs per game. She posted a double-double (kills-digs) in two matches on Saturday with 10 kills and 11 digs against Prairie View A&M followed by a team-high 18 kills and 16 digs versus TCU. She barely missed her seventh double-double against Prairie View A&M as she recorded 13 kills and eight digs.

The Independent Player of the Week honors are selected by Sports Information Directors from NCAA Division I Independent institutions.

Keating named Independent Runner of the Week Keating honored for past week's performance

Senior Westly Keating, no stranger to awards, was tabbed as the Independent Runner of the Week on Friday.

Keating most recently competed in the Pre-Nationals meet in Terre Haute, Ind., hosted by Indiana State University. He led a majority of the race and was overtaken near the end, finishing in third place against some of the best competition in the nation.

Keating crossed the finish line with a time of 23:43 in the 8,000-meter race, the fastest time in UTPA program history. The previous record of 24:14 was also held by Keating, set in 2002.

The Independent Cross Country Runner of the Week award is selected by head coaches at NCAA Division I Independent institutions.

Finally curtains for 2005 Astros? Game 4 close to end with White Sox in lead

HOUSTON - As the Pan American went to press Wednesday night, the most successful season in Houston Astros history appeared ready to close. Down 3-0 in the World Series, the Astros surrendered a run to the Chicago White Sox in the eighth inning when Jermaine Dye singled off Brad Lidge for a 1-0 lead.

The teams played shutout ball through seven innings as pitchers Brandon Backe of Houston and Freddy Garcia of Chicago each fanned seven batters. But in the eighth Lidge, one of the best relievers in the majors the past few years, faltered for the third time in the four games so far. He was outstanding in the playoffs before the White Sox series. The White Sox, whose last series appearance was 1959 and who have not won a title since 1917, were tantalizingly close to wrapping up the championship in Texas.

FOR THE RECORD

UTPA SPORTS

Cross Country

Men's

2005 schedule and results

Oct. 29 Independent Championships
Nov. 12 NCAA South Central Champs.
Nov. 22 NCAA Championships

Women's

2005 schedule and results

Oct. 29 Independent Championships
Nov. 12 NCAA South Central Champs.
Nov. 22 NCAA Championships

Golf

Men's

ORU Invitational Oct. 23-24

1. Oral Roberts	304	288	296	888
2. UMKC	302	295	302	899
3. Southern Illinois	295	304	307	906
4. Bradley Univ.	301	304	302	907
5. Loyola-Chicago	312	301	306	919
6. UTPA	314	306	301	921

Individual stats:

T7. Craig Berger	78	76	70	224
T16. Jeff Hensley	77	76	74	227
T32. Kyle Tudi	82	77	78	237
T39. Shane Pearce	78	84	79	241
T42. Colin Norris	81	77	85	245

Men's

2005 schedule and results

Nov. 7 Battle of the Bend

Women's

2005 schedule and results

Oct. 31 Pat Bradley Invt.

Nov. 7 Bronc Classic

Volleyball

Texas Christian University Match

Saturday, Oct. 22 UTPA Field House

TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY DEF. UTPA

30-20, 30-20, 30-32, 30-29

UTPA: Kills, Kellie Phillips 18; assists, Chelsea Blakely 44; digs, Chrissie Carrigan 26; aces, Danielle Holthe 2.

Record: (7-14)

TCU: Kills, Anna Vaughn 20; assists, Nirelle Hampton 51; digs, Talaya Whitfield 35; aces, Anna Vaughn 3.

Record: (14-9)

Prairie View A&M Match

Saturday, Oct. 22 UTPA Field House

UTPA DEF. PRAIRIE VIEW A&M

30-15, 30-17, 30-21

UTPA: Kills, Danielle Holthe 10, Kellie Phillips 10, Heather Bravo 10; assists, Chelsea Blakely 40; digs, Chrissie Carrigan 16; aces, Chelsea Blakely 4. Record: (7-13)

PVAM: Kills, Crystal Stingler 7; assists, Litiana Vakazausau 14; digs, milcah Whitaker 10.

Record: (11-13)

Prairie View A&M Match

Friday, Oct. 21 UTPA Field House

UTPA DEF. PRAIRIE VIEW A&M

30-15, 30-20, 35-33

UTPA: Kills, Danielle Holthe 15; assists, Chelsea Blakely 47; digs, Chrissie Carrigan 16; aces, Carrie Ermel 21; aces, Karen Lyons 4.

Record: (6-13)

PVAM: Kills, Sharla Cannon 9; assists, Litiana Vakazausau 20; digs, Shannon Harrison 13; aces, Crystal Stigler 1.

Record: (11-12)

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Astros fans find it easy to stay faithful despite outcome

By **DARYL GONZALES**
The Pan American

Even though their team is down, in the eyes of Astros fans around the world, they're not out just yet. As the World Series threatened to wind down prematurely for Houston, supporters were glued to their television sets trying to send some positive vibes.

The local bars are packed every night that the Series is on, and even though the Astros are currently down three games to none to the Chicago White Sox, fans remain faithful.

"It would be disappointing if they lose, but only

"It isn't over until it's over ... It will be hard to accept, but I'm just happy to see them in the series."

-Moses Gonzales
Astros fan

because I expected more from them," said fan Mario Salazar.

Sports media have been abuzz about other

topics surrounding the Series, like Commissioner Bud Selig's decision to leave the retractable roof open at Minute Maid Park (AKA the Juice Box). In a sport that is extremely superstitious, everyone knows that the Astros play better with the roof closed.

Last night's game was do or die for the Astros. There has never been a MLB team that came back from 3-0, so the 14-inning loss was a disaster, especially it came via a home run by former 'Stro Geoff Blum. Don't tell these die-hard fans about history, though.

"It isn't over until it's over," Moses Gonzales said as he watched game four Thursday night at Buffalo Wild Wings in McAllen.

If the Astros lose game four it will be over and though they will be disappointed, most fans seem ready to give their team credit for the great turnaround and victories in the playoffs against Atlanta and St. Louis.

"It will be hard to accept, but I'm just happy to see them in the series," Gonzales commented.

At one point in the season, the Astros were

considered done, 15 games under .500 in May. But great pitching, and timely hitting, brought them out of the cellar into the pennant race, just like it did in 2004.

The Astros would get into the playoffs by winning the NL wild card race by one game. They then ran past the Braves in the division series and

upset the favored Cardinals in six.

In their minds, fans think the Astros are going to turn things around and pull off the biggest comeback in MLB history. The Red Sox won four straight in the playoffs last year, they say.

But win or lose, they are always going to be Astros fans.



Delisa Guadarrama/The Pan American

GO 'STROS - (left to right) Vanessa Ramon, Liz Amaya and Denisse Garcia cheer on the Astros during game 4 of the Major League Baseball World Series Wednesday night at Buffalo Wild Wings on 10th and Nolana in McAllen.

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Cross country runners prepare for major meet

By ANNALISA LIMAS
The Pan American

The culmination of hard work and perseverance has been reached as the University of Texas-Pan American cross country season comes to a close. The men's and women's teams will head to Corpus Christi to compete in the Independent Championships this weekend.

After six months of training during summer and fall, the Broncs and Lady Broncs have reached the apex of their season as they finally get a chance to see where they stand among Independent competition.

The men's team heads into this weekend's competition full of confidence and eagerness to compete, having already achieved two top-10 finishes and the seventh ranking in the region by the South Central Region poll. Seniors Westly Keating and Hector Gandara have again proven to be two of the Broncs' strongest assets as they have led the team in each meet. Keating has finished all three meets this season with a 3rd place finish, while

"The guys are going to have to step it up but they've done a great job so far, I think we're going to do really well at this meet and we're looking forward to regionals as well."

-Hector Gandara
Senior cross country runner

Gandara holds two top-20 performances.

But two standout runners can't win a meet on their own and the Broncs' fate lies in their No. 3, 4 and 5 runners. With one sophomore and three freshmen, the core of the team has held its own and provided strength for the Broncs in each meet. Assistant Coach Brian Cunningham said he is pleased with the progress his team has made, and with the maturity of his younger runners.

"These guys have done a fantastic job this season," said Cunningham. "I'm going to play with our roster a little bit this meet to get these guys more race experience, but they've done a great job so far of buckling down and focusing on their races."

Redshirt freshman Luis Nava, sophomore Alex

Moncivais and freshman Juan Davila comprise the heart of the rest of the team. Nava's best finish was at the Rice Invitational where he crossed the line in 11th place with a time of 18:12. Veteran runner Gandara said the team has a great chance of winning the meet and taking the Independent title.

"The guys are going to have to step it up but they've done a great job so far," said Gandara. "I think we're going to do really well at this meet and we're looking forward to Regionals as well."

The Independent Championship course in Corpus is well known by the UTPA cross country teams as they have competed there in the last several years. The Broncs face competition from Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, University of California-Davis, Utah Valley State College, South Dakota State and North Dakota State.

With only three seasoned veterans on the women's side, the Lady Broncs have a young team as well. Juniors Ashley Perez, Karla Hernandez and Lorraine Garcia all have three years of experience racing at the Independent Championships and will be a major factor in Corpus Christi.

At the Texas Lutheran Invitational, Perez had a career-best finish, crossing the line in fourth place with a time of 24:00 for the 6k race. Teammate Karla Hernandez finished seventh also gaining a career-best finish. Rounding out the Lady Broncs top five are freshmen Rose Escovedo and Sharon Toroitch.

"We do have a young team but everyone's really stepped up and have shown what their capable of," said Perez. "I think a lot of us will run under 19 minutes this weekend at the 5k race."

The women will compete in a full 5k race this weekend and will face the same competition as the men, with the inclusion of Northern Colorado.

"A win is certainly possible this weekend," said Cunningham. "Everyone just needs to get out and run hard and we'll see where

Volleyball honors players Friday

By DARYL GONZALES
The Pan American

The University of Texas-Pan American Lady Broncs are coming off a 3-1 loss to TCU Saturday night. Now they welcome Independent opponent Utah Valley State for the second of two meetings this season before heading into the NCAA Indie Championships later this month.

Friday is Senior Night, marking the final home game for two Lady Broncs, Stephanie Redd of Seguin and Californian Danielle Holthe.

This will be the fifth meeting between the Lady Broncs and Lady Wolverines. Utah Valley State currently holds a 4-0 lead in the series. In the last meeting the Lady Broncs were handed a 3-1 setback, 30-28, 28-30, 30-16, 30-19.

The team was led offensively by freshman Kellie Phillips of

Chandler, Ariz., who notched 22 kills on the night, and seven digs. Junior Heather Bravo of Las Vegas also did her part in keeping the Lady Broncs in it with 11 kills and 14 digs.

Utah Valley State had four Lady Wolverines that finished with over ten kills. Jessica Endres and Anne Olsen both finished with 14 kills a piece, while Brooke Adams and Camie Manwill each notched 11 kill performances.

The Lady Wolverines are currently 9-10 on the season since playing UTPA. Leading the team in kills is Enders, Independent Offensive Player of the Week for the week of Oct. 4, a sophomore with 247 kills (3.35 per game). Also adding to the fire offensively are Olsen and Manwill who currently have 252 and 230 kills, respectively. Racking up the assists for the Lady Wolverines is two-time Independent Setter of the

Week recipient this season, junior Lacey Koelliker with 914 (12.0 a game).

On a night to honor two of the program's most prized players, Friday's game marks the final home game for both Redd and Holthe. The two both appear in eight record categories at UTPA.

Redd has had a prolific career at UTPA, most notable is her total number of kills. She now has 1,008 kills in her career wearing the green and orange, sitting her third all-time. The senior also has 2,756 total attacks to her name, placing her third on the chart.

Holthe's most notable appearance on the school's record books is in block assists with 233; she is second in total blocks with 292. The record - held by Lisa Yanez at 323 - is still in reach for the Lady Broncs senior as she still has eight games remaining on the season, including Friday's.



Daryl Gonzales/The Pan American

100TH WIN - (left to right) UTPA Sport Information Director Joe Monaco, head athletic trainer Jim Lancaster and Lady Broncs head coach Dave Thorn pose before the game against TCU Saturday to celebrate Thorn's 100th career victory at UTPA.

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SPORTS



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Former coach ushered in golden age for basketball

By **JOEY GOMEZ**
The Pan American

They are a testament to the Broncs' humble roots.

Those scores of athletes inscribed in the pages of the school's athletic history, pillars of strength for future generations who will leave their mark, then fade into anonymity but never be forgotten.

Almost 50 years ago, in 1958, Sam Williams came to what was then known as Pan American College with a small contingent of handpicked recruits who would lay the foundation for Bronc basketball.

In the beginning PAC had no gym, and practices were held on wooden backboards in an old bus barn at the local high school. But in a 13-year span, Williams would set forth an age of prosperity for Bronc hoops eventually finishing with one national championship, several national tournament appearances, and the satisfaction of coaching the greatest players the university has ever known.

Some of those players, like Lucious "Luke" Jackson, even reached the pros, playing with the likes of Wilt Chamberlain in one of the greatest teams in NBA history, the 1967 Philadelphia 76ers that won a record 67 games.

BRONC BEGINNINGS

"It was ridiculous to think that Pan Am could do anything without a gym, no dorms, they had nothing," Williams, who is now 80 years old, said from his home in north McAllen. "People thought I was crazy for going over there, I was the only person who showed any interest in going to Pan Am because no one thought anything could be done."

Williams brought an uncanny knack for developing winning teams wherever he went possibly stemming from his days on the court playing for a Greensboro team that took the North Carolina AAU championship in 1946. A teammate there, Fred Taylor, would eventually lead the Ohio State Buckeyes to the 1961 NCAA championship.

His arrival in the Valley in 1950 led to stints in Donna, where he coached for three years, and McAllen High; overall he notched a 109-32 record with the Bulldogs.

Upon arriving at Pan Am, Williams said he recruited junior college players, and couldn't offer anything more than scholarships.

"I had to do it on my own, in fact I spent my own money going to recruit the first players I had in 1958," Williams said. "They were good ball players, not great, but I made sure the players I picked were good enough to win, but were also kind of poor kids, money wise, so they would understand a little better that we were starting out."

Incidentally, Williams said that of the first players he recruited, two turned out to be some of the greatest coaches in the state of Texas.

Williams said Paul Benton, a 6-foot-2 second-team all-Big State Conference selection from Houston, would eventually coach at the high school level and win the state championship at San Antonio Madison High. He would garner enough wins in his career to be one of the winningest high school coaches in the U.S.

Bob Derryberry, a 6-foot all-Big State Conference guard during the '58-'59 season, would find success as the head coach at three colleges on his way to a successful career at the collegiate and high school level.

"You know they have national charts that show the top five players in the U.S.," Williams said. "I pay no attention to the top 50, but I did pay attention to players that had real potential to be good players"

"If I was fortunate enough to have them, then I'd know I would have a good ball club (and) that was the basic background," Williams said.

NAIA A PERFECT FIT

At the time, the infancy of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics ran parallel with the developing program at Pan Am.

The NAIA actually started out as the National Association of Intercollegiate Basketball (NAIB) in 1937 at a tournament in Kansas City created in part by the sport's founding father Dr. James Naismith.

Naismith, along with others, wanted to provide fans of the area with worthy amateur competition, eventually aiming to provide the basis for

smaller schools to determine a national champion.

That tournament in 1937 set what would be the longest continuous national collegiate tourney in any sport.

According to the organization's Web site, in 1948 the NAIA was the first to offer postseason opportunities to black student-athletes, and in 1953 predominantly black schools were voted into membership. This was long before blacks were plentiful at Division I schools.

The creation of what is now known as the NAIA coincided with the creation of Pan Am athletics, as the official rules that would govern the organization were set forth roughly at the same time PAC was struggling to start in 1952 even before Williams arrived. The organization added a host of other sports like football and baseball in 1956.

This is where the young Pan Am team thrived until they switched to the NCAA in 1969. The team, similar to its current situation, wasn't always conference affiliated but nevertheless prospered for much of the decade.



Courtesy UTPA Athletics

HONORED - Former Bronc Coach Sam Williams is honored in this 2003 file photo. That year marked the 40th anniversary of the Broncs' only national championship in 1963.

Williams reflects on the process of winning a tournament in the old NAIA.

"You had to win five straight games," Williams said. "Back then, the NAIA was the toughest competition in the country.

"The NCAA was all about the big names but in the teams in the NAIA, at the time, there were tremendous players," Williams said.

Williams remembers Pan Am taking on future NBA Hall of Famer Willis Reed when he played for Grambling.

Seven-time NBA all-star Reed is probably best known for limping onto the floor with a knee injury in game seven of the 1970 NBA championship, and playing 27 inspirational minutes on one leg in the Knicks' win.

"In 1963 we played Grambling in the semi-finals, we had each won three games," Williams said. "It was [Lucious] Jackson against Reed and this supposedly was the greatest game between two star players that have ever been in the NAIA.

"We won that game and went on to win the finals against West Carolina," Williams added triumphantly. The 1963 national title is still one of the school's most outstanding sports moments.

THE PROSPEROUS EARLY SIXTIES

Williams, sometime in the early sixties according to old reports, once asked a player how tall he was and the player thus replied:

"Coach, I'm 6-foot-five but up under the basket I'm 6-foot-11."

The sixties marked the time of NAIA championship-caliber teams that peaked, and fell, in an otherwise golden age for Bronc athletics. Williams would tally more than 200 wins in that span.

It started inauspiciously with a 13-16 showing in the 1960-61 season riding on the talent of Howard Montgomery who would turn pro in 1962. Montgomery was drafted in the third round by San Francisco where he would falter.

"He never got the chance to be the player I thought he could be,"

Williams said.

The boom times, however, were on the way. The 1961-62 roster would have three Valley high schools represented (McAllen, Pharr, and Elsa) for a team that would be ranked ninth in the nation by United Press International.

For the first time in school history that team reached the NAIA national tournament; they had won three previous Big-State conference nods without advancing. Furthermore, the team would make it to the second round of the national tourney to eventually log a 25-5 record for the season, 9-3 in Big-State conference play.

Future Bronc superstar Jackson was nominated as All-American for the upcoming year by Wilt Chamberlain in a byline article in the October issue of Complete Sports, Basketball.

The 6-foot-7 240-pound Jackson played in only 11 games as a sophomore (1961-62) but tallied 230 points.

"Jackson was the greatest," Williams said. "He was a tremendous player and I was very fortunate to have him."

The 1962-63 season remains the most successful year in Bronc sports. That season PAC returned seven lettermen and boasted solid veterans, the names of which probably remain lost in time to everyone who doesn't follow school history.

At forward, veterans included Walter Yates and Bronc standout Jim McGurk. Jackson started at center. At the guard/post position Marty Urand, along with Paul Friddle, rounded out the starters.

With the implementation of a single post attack on defense, and a strict man-to-man scheme with various presses involved, the Independent Broncs went 25-5 to take its one and only NAIA national title.

Williams described how hard the NBA scouted Jackson.

"They were all amazed," Williams said. "They asked 'How do you get these guys satisfied practicing in a barn?' it was the old bus barn and they elevated the gym, if that's what you want to call it.

"People have always said 'You have a way of making players love the place,'" Williams said. "Those guys loved it down here because we were winning and all of that...they really liked it"

A total of 84,200 fans saw the Broncs play that season. An average of 1,200 people saw them play at home crammed into the Edinburg High School gym. The Broncs' largest single crowd was in the third round of the

NAIA tourney where 10,000 people watched Pan Am beat North Michigan.

The following season (1963-64) would find Jackson on the U.S. Olympic Basketball team which competed in Tokyo, and Williams named NAIA Coach of the Year. The Broncs were one of the few teams to make the finals in two consecutive years.

They were stopped short in the final game of the 1963-64 season despite going 28-6 the whole way.

In fact, by 1969, reports



UTPA Special Collections

IN HIS PRIME - A younger Sam Williams circa 1964.

were published that Williams had compiled one of the most outstanding records in collegiate hoops. His 202-106 record, and a 65.6 winning percentage, ranked Williams no. 1 among Texas NCAA coaches with over 200 wins.

A FINAL ODE

"I do wish Pan Am the very best," Williams said. "I wish they could win, well, something realistic, I wish they could win 20 games and see what would happen, you know. Some times I wonder, if I didn't have the help of the good Lord," he digresses. "I must have had because of all the good things that happened along the way."