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Emma Clark

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THE PAN AMERICAN

The Student Newspaper of The University of Texas-Pan American

July 14, 2005

Permit costs permanently hiked up

By NAYELLY BARRIOS
The Pan American

A fee increase for the 2005-2006 parking permits has been approved and will take effect in the fall.

Currently priced at \$20, student/general parking permits will increase to \$34, while faculty/reserved parking permits will go from \$45 to \$65.

The funds from the increase in rates will be used for maintenance such as re-stripping, repainting, and resurfacing parking lots, as well as for acquiring more land to build additional parking lots.

"The upkeep is very costly. Just maintenance in general really takes a hit on our budget," said Eddie Morin, the university's parking manager. "Just to keep up with the cost of all of that, that's also needed. That's why we also increased the fee."

The proposal, which was approved in April of this year, went through the parking and traffic committee, the president's council, the dean of students and the staff senate.

"Dr. Cardenas asked us to meet with the dean of students. The dean of students created a focus group and from there we met with them," said Morin. "The results were sent back to the President's Council. Then from there it goes through the system and they approve it there."

The rising fees go hand in hand with

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Joel de la Rosa/The Pan American



Joel de la Rosa/The Pan American

Explosion rocks Mission School

By NAYELLY BARRIOS
The Pan American

MISSION – Where there's smell, there's fire, apparently. An explosion due to a gas leak in the field house at Sharyland High School demolished much of the west side of the building Monday morning, causing extensive damage but no injuries.

The \$1.5 million facility, built two years ago, was examined recently by a sub-contractor. The scent of gas had been detected days before the blast.

"It was being checked on last week because there was a gas smell and the sub-contractor we have was working on it," said Jesse Muniz, assistant superintendent for business and finance at SISD.

"They're investigating now if the valves were left open or if they were closed, or what happened."

The gas in the field house is used for the water heater and industrial dryers. The majority of the damage was to the girls' locker room and athletic trainers' area. As a precautionary step, the girls' cross-

country team had been meeting outside of the field house since the smell of gas was noticed last week.

A portable building next to the field house was also damaged. It is still too early to tell how much it will cost to repair.

"It looks like most of the eastern part of the building is intact, but you won't be able to tell until the structural engineers get in there and start testing the concrete, the foundation, the walls, to see if they need repairing or not," Muniz said.

State and local laws require schools to check all facilities that utilize gas. Muniz remains adamant that all proper measures were in place.

RUBBLE – SHS athletes smelled gas in the weeks prior to the explosion which caused a considerable amount of damage to the fieldhouse.



Joel de la Rosa/The Pan American

Alamia: In Memory

By EMMA CLARK
The Pan American

The Department of Psychology and Anthropology at the University of Texas-Pan American lost a long-time faculty member in June.



Dr. Alfonso J. Alamia, 58, died suddenly of a major heart attack at his home in Edinburg. He had taught in the department for more than 25 years.

He also leaves behind a large family.

UTPA president Dr. Blandina Cardenas released the following statement earlier this week, explaining that Dr. Alamia was a dear friend of hers.

"A.J. Alamia was a personal friend of mine as well as a respected colleague. The outpouring of emotion and sense of loss expressed by family, local leaders and friends - both on and off campus - is testament to the many ways in which this great educator connected to the community."

UTPA's former president, Miguel Nervarez agreed.

"His friendship and knowledge of the process helped me get my resources. He had a knack for dealing with legislators," he said.

Wendy Aldridge, associate professor and department chair said in an article featured in The Monitor, "I'll miss his red cowboy boots," which he was known to wear when he gave exams to his students.

Alamia, who had a long and fruitful career in academics, was also a Vietnam war veteran. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Dallas. He went on to get his masters in education at then-Pan American University in 1972. In 1985, he received his doctorate from the University of New Mexico.

His focus, while he was interested in education, was child psychology according to Aldridge. He worked with many lawyers throughout Texas, and acted on behalf of children who were unable to speak for themselves.

WEATHER



Thu, Jul 14
Mostly Sunny
100°/77°



Sat, Jul 16
Mostly Sunny
97°/75°



Mon, Jul 18
Isolated Storms
98°/75°



Wed, Jul 20
T-Storms
99°/74°



Fri, Jul 15
Mostly Sunny
100°/76°



Sun, Jul 17
Mostly Sunny
98°/76°



Tue, Jul 19
Isolated T-Storms
98°/75°

Weather forecast
courtesy of
www.weather.com

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NEWS



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UTPA has gas rupture

By EMMA CLARK
The Pan American

A gas line near the University Bookstore ruptured Tuesday morning on the University of Texas-Pan American campus, raising questions among many about student safety in light of Monday's gas explosion at Sharyland High School.

The rupture occurred after construction workers hit a gas pipe, according to officials at the scene. Students, staff and faculty were not permitted near parking lot G, and air conditioning units were turned off in the Fine Arts Complex, despite scorching heat.

However, bookstore employees said that it was business as usual for them. Campus police were unable to comment at the time of publication.



Joel de la Rosa/The Pan American

WARNING - Construction workers take precautions to seal off broken gas pipe.

SLA: The Other Grads of UTPA

By ANNA FLORES
The Pan American

John F. Kennedy once stated that leadership and learning are indispensable to each other. The University of Texas-Pan American's Student Leadership Academy teaches just that, and allows students to learn personal development skills while becoming involved in campus activities.

"The program opens up possibilities to become a better leader," said Student Government Association (SGA) President Adrian Sandoval. "We attended seminars and workshops which taught about communication skills, volunteerism and other qualities essential to becoming a leader."

One of the first seminars held for the students last year was hosted by Stan Pearson, a motivational speaker. He suggested that the participants should "take risks to try new things," and even convinced one of the students to take courage and sing in front of the group of peers.

Amy Martin is the Coordinator of the SLA as well as the Advanced Leadership Academy, a similar program geared toward graduate students who wish to continue expanding leadership skills that will help them in the long run.

"Amy is very student-oriented," said Argelia Barrera, a junior political science major who is currently serving as a senator-at-large in SGA. "She is the best adviser I know, and as clichéd as this may sound, she is always there for the students."

Earlier this year, members of the academy attended a conference in Laredo which included sessions on etiquette, public speaking, planning and other leadership-based courses.

"I enjoyed the conference because I met people from other universities," said Linda Gonzalez, a junior education major at UTPA. "It was a camp-type of event where I mainly learned that it is not as difficult to speak in front of people as I thought it would be."

According to Gonzalez, some members of the SLA met every day during casual lunches, producing closer relationships among themselves. Sandoval agreed that these encounters were extremely valuable.

"I learned most from my peers and made a lot of good friends," said Sandoval. "I realized the importance in listening to other fellow students and discovering different opinions and views."

Being a part of the academy also served to expose students to other organizations on campus.

"Joining the [SLA] leads you to join other activities and groups because the leadership skills being acquired develop interest in wanting to be more involved," said Barrera.

"I especially think that students should join organizations having to do with their career choice so they can be well-rounded and prepared."

The first class of the SLA began in 2004 and offered seminars two to four times a month. Each seminar featured a speaker who

would share his or her expertise in topics concerning leadership abilities such as goal-setting and individual growth. Students also attended interactive workshops and discussions where they were able to sharpen their communication skills.

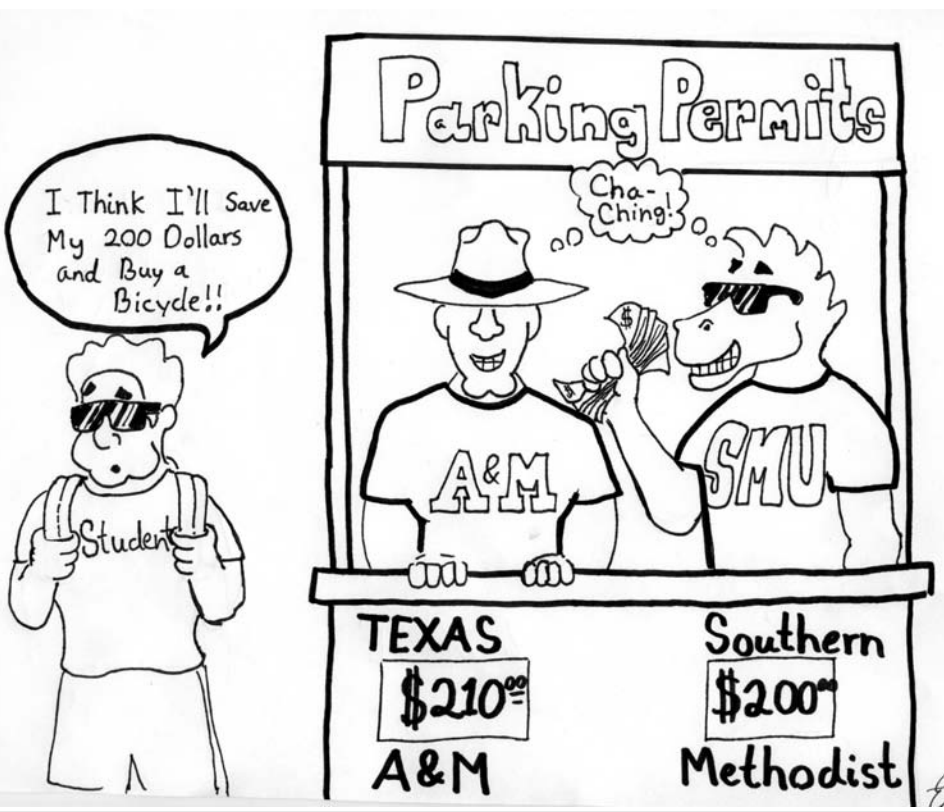
This year, the Student Leadership Academy graduation was held May 3 and 19. UTPA students received their certificates upon successful completion of SLA requirements. A student completes the program after having finished at least 10 of the sessions.

Martin, with the collaboration of Dr. Jerry Price, dean of students, and Dr. John Edwards, vice president for Enrollment and Student Services, looks forward to continuing with the Student Leadership Academy. Planning for fall seminars is under way.

The academy welcomes any UTPA student who is interested in getting the training and experience needed to build the character of a leader. The program is designed to be completed at one's own pace, so students can join at any time. One major benefit is that students may attend academy workshops and presentations without being a registered member of the SLA.

"I think it is very important that students get involved," said Barrera. "The Student Leadership Academy provides you with the confidence that is necessary to face the real world. You learn so many things that help you become more knowledgeable, and most importantly, it helps students enhance skills that they already possess."

Cartoon by Eric Espinoza



The Million-Dollar Chair

By J. FERRY-GOMEZ
The Pan American

Even after stepping down from his 25-year term as president of The University of Texas-Pan American, Dr. Miguel A. Nevarez is still making an impact on campus, this time with his Endowed Chair in Education, which received \$1 million June 21.

Initially created in 2004 in honor of Nevarez's retirement, the endowment has increased from the \$250,000 originally raised to fund the Chair. Various donors contributed a total of \$1 million to the venture.

Subsidized independently from the state, the Miguel A. Nevarez Endowed Chair in Education creates teaching positions paid for with privately raised funds.

The purpose of the chair is to "...supplement costs needed to cover research, and bring in high caliber and prominent professors into the university," said Lydia Aleman, director of corporate foundation relations for the Division of External Affairs.



NEVAREZ

Contributions:
UT Board of Regents
\$150,000
UTPA Foundation:
\$150,000
Private:
\$700,000

SOURCE: UTPA

The Endowed Chair also promotes graduate research and aids in creating faculty positions.

"The income from the investment of a million dollars can be used to fund a [faculty] position or can be used to sup-

plement a regular faculty line to make it more attractive to some outstanding professor," said Dr. Marian Monta, a theater professor at UTPA and a benefactor of Nevarez's project.

UTPA already has five endowed professorships and another six endowed chairs, but the creation of the Miguel A. Nevarez Endowed Chair for the College of Education signals yet another milestone reached in the University's quest to become a Ph.D. and research facility.

The Board of Regents will have to approve a written endowment plan and thorough research must be conducted before this position is awarded to a professor. For now, the endowment can be used to support existing university facilities and projects.

At the press conference, Nevarez was also honored with his portrait that will be displayed along with the likenesses of the past five presidents of UTPA, celebrating his legacy in education and his contributions to the Hispanic community of the Rio Grande Valley.

High school students make the college jump

By **KRISTINA LEATHERMAN**
The Pan American

The University of Texas-Pan American's Valley Outreach Center (VOC) watched a vision come to life June 5, as it greeted the first wave of high school students to participate in camps set up by the Pre-College Academic Program (PCAP).

The PCAP offered a series of five-day academic camps designed as a learning tool for ninth- and tenth-graders valley-wide. They ran throughout the month of June and into the second week in July, with a new session beginning each Sunday and ending on Thursday.

Each week featured camps with different focuses, such as engineering, nursing, astronomy, and communication leadership, each with hands-on activities for students to participate in. The engineering camp, for example, had students build a battery-operated car, while the astronomy camp saw students making a sundial and a telescope.

"It was really interesting. It was the first year and I think it went really smooth," said Rebeca Cavazos, a resident adviser for PCAP. "We were able to learn a lot and I think that next year is going to be great."

According to Lisa Prieto, the associate director for VOC, the PCAP has enjoyed widespread approval from students, parents, and participating departments at UTPA.

"The students have been enjoying it tremendously, and are interested in coming back to other camps. The interest is across the board to do this again next year," said Prieto. "We were able to get a good idea of what types of subjects [the students] are interested in."

The registration fee for each camp - which included housing, meals, program materials, and a camp T-shirt - was \$150 per student. Some students, however, qualified for scholarships covering the cost of registration.

The PCAP was able to receive a Texas Educator Agency grant for local high school students who were not able to pass the Texas

Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). The grant covered the entire \$150 fee for those students who qualified.

TECH PREP students' registration fees were funded by the Ready For The Real World program.

The PCAP was modeled after UTPA's High School to University GEAR UP Project, which is centered on improving students' preparation for college and helping them succeed in receiving a higher education. GEAR UP offers high school students the opportunity to gain high school and college credit by taking classes at the university.

"It's there to help students get hours and to get them closer to the scholars program," said Eloy Cavazos, a resident adviser for the GEAR UP program.

GEAR UP is also offering a Health Careers Summer Investigation Camp, July 10-14, for students who will be seniors in high school come the fall semester. The intent is to expose these students to the variety of health related studies that UTPA offers.

The PCAP is the fourth program organized by the VOC. Others include the Mother Daughter Program, the Go Center, and the UIL Resource Center.



Joey Cortez/*The Pan American*

COMEDY - Raymond Orta, sophomore, TV/Film major entertained the PCAP participants with his act, "Use Your Imagination."

Pirates of Entertainment

By **OMAR RODRIGUEZ**
The Pan American

In the ongoing saga of the entertainment industry versus technological progress and development, the Supreme Court handed down a decision that could undermine the effectiveness of peer-to-peer file-sharing.

The affected parties in the case are Grokster and StreamCast Networks, Inc. Both companies produce software intended for the purpose of downloading music and movies. This software is used almost exclusively for copyright infringement.

Grokster not only sells file-sharing software - its most popular is known as Morpheus - but also sells advertising space on its peer-to-peer network. These networks require that you pay a membership fee and offer individual consumers the opportunity to trade or share music, movies and other files online.

In the recent ruling, the Supreme Court, as the upholder of individual rights, has entered a gap that the U.S. Constitution helped to create between the First Amendment and a clause in Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution.

The amendment allows for freedom of expression. Consumers' file sharing music among peers can be thought of as an expression of their personal likes and dislikes.

However, in Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution, there is a clause that states that Congress is required "To promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries." In other words, artists are entitled to copyright their work.

In an attempt to form a bridge between the two, the Supreme Court has laid down guidelines that are vague at best and allow for open interpretation.

In the Opinion of the Court, written by Justice Souter on June 27, the Supreme Court claims, "We adopt it here, holding that one who distributes a device with the object of promoting its use to infringe copyright...is liable for the resulting acts of infringement by third parties."

Those in the entertainment industry feel strongly that piracy must be stopped because the industry as a whole loses money as a result of piracy. Movie sales are down this year as

well as music sales and some blame file sharing.

Following the ruling, however, the entertainment industry has shifted the focus when it comes to blame. As opposed to suing thousands of individual chronic abusers, the entertainment industry will attempt to make technology companies take responsibility for their actions and change the way new software is produced and marketed. In this way the consumer will be left without liability.

The software companies are now faced with the problem of addressing whether or not they are purposefully promoting copyright infringement.

Leaders in the technology industry, such as Michael Weiss, CEO of StreamCast Networks' Morpheus, deny that they are in the wrong.

"We will continue our David vs. Goliath fight to prove that we operate 100 percent on the right side of the law," said Weiss. "The Morpheus software provides an efficient means for distribution of digital media and creates a powerful distribution channel that we expect will be embraced by many, many content providers and copyright holders."

Although individuals may use software such as Morpheus illegally, there are those who use the same software to promote their own work. Musical groups and film makers can use them as a tool to show their material to a vast number of people without the need for mass distribution by a Hollywood-style record company or studio.

According to local musician J.J. Mendoza of the band Driver 23, "They are helpful to local groups who are trying to gain exposure and a wider fan base." Local heavy metal lead singer Adam Miller, whose band, Abyss, has gained exposure through a Chicago Internet radio station agreed.

"We would've never made it into that market if it hadn't been for the peer-to-peer networks that were passing along our sound," Miller said.

The Supreme Court's statements will now be translated by the lower courts and the saga will continue. There are two giants here, not just one. The entertainment industry and the computer software industry will continue to battle as long as both industries strive for advancements. This is just one decision in a long line of non-absolutes.

PARKING

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several ideas the university has for improving the parking situation. Plans are to have a new 337-space parking lot operative in the railroad property by September. Forty additional spaces will be available by the Child Development Center and there are already 500 spaces northeast of Edinburg Baseball Stadium. Students can begin registering for new parking permits in early August.

"The university is also looking at purchasing land west of Jackson," Morin said. "They're looking at making a remote parking lot over there and shuttling students in. Another thing this increase will help in is the shuttle system. They're looking at doubling the shuttles by this fall."

Diana Gonzalez, who will be working on her master's in educational leadership in the fall, does not like the idea of waiting for a shuttle to transport her to campus.

"I'm going to be coming to school in the evening after work. By the time that you get out of work and come straight to school, you're in a rush to get to class and then you have to wait for a shuttle," Gonzalez said.

As for reserved parking spaces, many staff and faculty members believe there simply are not enough.

"Sometimes you can't find parking spaces even in the reserved. You have to park clear across the baseball stadium," said Minerva Lozano, who works in the Department of Rehabilitation. "You have to get here early in the morning in order to get a parking space and you can't even go out to lunch because if you do you can't find one after you come back."

Dean of Students Dr. Jerry Price created a focus group made up of about 15 students to discuss the fee increase. The students were representatives from organizations around campus such as Student Government Association, Greek organizations and the Student Leadership Academy.

"Our research shows that [UTPA] students complain about parking more than most students complain about parking, so we know something needs to be done," said Price. "But what we charge isn't sufficient to maintain current parking lots much less add new ones."

"What we learned from the focus group was that students said, 'We don't mind paying more if we actually see something for it.' The goal is, this increase is going to help us begin

creating new lots and spaces for students," added Price.

There might also be a shuttle system added that is not yet covered by this year's fee increase. If needed, the parking fee would go up to cover the shuttle fee.

"Another recommendation that came from that focus group is, if we do need more money to cover the shuttle system, don't create a separate fee," said Price.

"They'd rather see our parking fee go up a little bit to cover the shuttles than have more fees. Don't nickel and dime us, is what they were saying. At this point there is no fee in the near future for the shuttles," he said.



Joel de la Rosa/*The Pan American*

SUMMERDANCE - (front) Samantha Finley does a backflip in rehearsal for the McAllen Ballet Studio Ensemble's upcoming show. The show is scheduled for Friday July 15th 7p.m. at University Fine Arts Auditorium.



Documentary class breaks new ground

By **JASON CHAPA**
The Pan American

This summer Donna Pazdera, a Communication Department lecturer at The University of Texas-Pan American, led a small group of students into the world of documentary filmmaking. Her class was the first of its kind at UTPA.

Students endured five hours a day for five weeks of extensive study and hands-on experience concerning everything related to documentaries and film production. In the end they were left with a 5-to-10-minute short documentary on a topic of their choosing.

The students covered a wide range of subject matter in the class before they even touched a camera.

"I modeled [the class] on my two-year master's program at [The University of Florida]," Pazdera said. "I spent the first couple of days just exposing them to what a documentary is, so they understood the concept. I tried to show them a variety of styles, from avant-garde to cinema verite to historical. Then I spent a day with them, showing them how to shoot, [and] use lights and microphones."

When the students had a grasp of what they had to do, they were cut loose with the daunting task of finding something worth filming, and then actually filming it. That meant freedom to do what they needed to, and all the problems that entailed. Pazdera felt that this made her like a drill sergeant, keeping track of everyone.

"We needed to put in about four or five hours a day, and I needed to ensure someone wasn't just blowing off class," said Pazdera. "That isn't much fun, but because we have so much leeway in terms of freedom, you have to make sure people aren't taking advantage of you."

However, despite the freedom to do whatever they wanted, and the potential for indolence and failure, Pazdera's students rose to the challenge.

"Almost all of them impressed me



Joel de la Rosa/The Pan American

NOT THE ONLY KEY - Students and faculty gathered this past Saturday to watch Jack Stanley's annual summer movie, along with a host of student-made documentaries.

in one way or another," Pazdera said.

Her students turned in documentaries on a variety of subjects, all of which had a distinct Valley feel to them.

"Since we have no documentary courses yet in the curriculum, I can only hope this helps," she said.

Many of the students felt the class was, if not essential, an informative and fun way to get six credit-hours.

"It was a real good experience," said Lori Chavez, a senior print journalism major. "I learned a lot about filming and editing. It was also a lot of fun. The structure [of the class] was one of the best I had. You work independently with your group. You keep in touch with the professor every day, calling her, giving her an e-mail."

Chavez was in the biggest group of the entire class, which went by the name "Team Raspas." Not surprisingly, their documentary was about snow cone stands all across the Rio Grande Valley.

"We spoke to someone in the

business for 21 years, someone in for 14 years, and someone who had just started and was in the business for three months," Chavez said. "They all really enjoy the business. They think it's very profitable. No one told us how much they made, but they said it was enough to pay the bills and go to Vegas once a year."

"Our whole group got an 'A,'" Chavez said. "We were always told by Pazdera that [we] had the best work ethic. I think it's because we all only had little over a month to do a five-minute documentary. So in the beginning, you set it straight. Let's all work together and cooperate to get a good grade."

Another student of Pazdera's, Rick Aguirre, sophomore television/film major, thoroughly enjoyed participating in the class, despite a rocky start.

"At first I didn't think I was going to do as well as I did, because [it was] really hands-on," Aguirre said. "We [his group] felt unsure about ourselves because of all the responsibili-

ty. We were unsure of the direction we were going to take but in the end it came full circle, and it actually turned out to be a good project."

Aguirre and his group produced a behind-the-scenes documentary on UTPA's own Dr. Jack Stanley and the summer film he directed, "The Only Key to Baldpate."

"[Aguirre's group] had an unenviable task, because there's nothing worse, in some ways, than making a film about filmmakers because they will tell you what you need to shoot, etc.," said Pazdera. "In the end... [They] turned out a funny, insightful film about the making of a film."

Stanley, however, was not too fond of the results.

"My biggest problem with the behind-the-scenes documentary is that the crew on that project didn't spend near the time covering our film as did those who worked on 'The Only Key To Baldpate,' and therefore short-changed many of the hardworking people," said Stanley. "There were

some interesting ideas touched on in the documentary but the entire piece didn't have a clear point of view nor did it have a clear beginning, middle, and end."

Regardless, Aguirre felt very positive about the film.

"Someone said that it was one that people had the most skepticism about," Aguirre said. "But the actual final product came out very good."

"I thought it was a great hands-on project," Aguirre said about the class. "I recommend it to anyone who really wants to have a real-life course on learning [about filmmaking]. It's something you and your team put 100 percent into, and you get 100 percent back."

The instructor agrees.

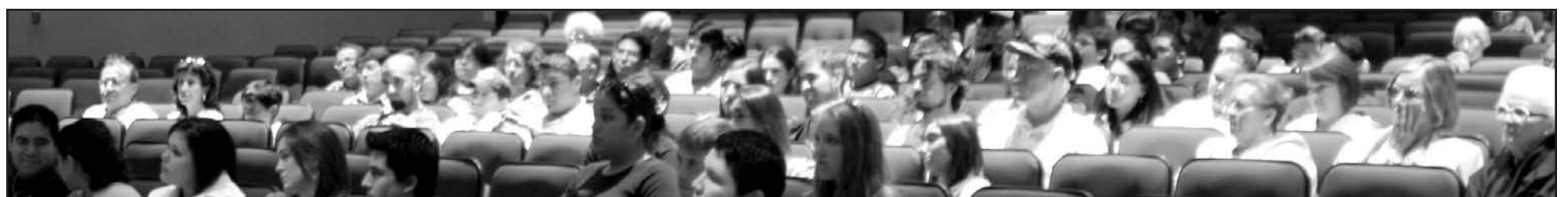
"More than anything this class was a gift - for me and the students," Pazdera said. "For me, because I'd been wanting to teach it all year and was relieved I had enough people to enroll in my section."

For the students, she said, "I think this course was a gift...because it was a 6-hour elective where you don't have a book, you don't have to study or take a test and you had a lot of autonomy to pursue something that most students never get to do: make a film."

"In the end, they all have something to feel proud of, and so do I," said Pazdera.

Stanley believes there is a need for similar courses but is also critical of what it is to make such a film. With the support of the Communication Department, he believes that Pazdera could give students a positive outlet for their craft. But documentary filmmaking requires the same long hours, late nights and creativity that any other film would need.

"It is a different kind of creativity than we teach in fictional filmmaking," Stanley said. "Unfortunately many are attracted to documentary filmmaking because they somehow think it's easier since this form doesn't require the same kind of structure and paperwork fictional films do."



Another kind of art: IMAS hosts lit-fest

By **MEREDITH LAGRONE**
The Pan American

Literary lovers across the Valley will reunite at the third annual South Texas Literary Festival at McAllen's International Museum of Art and Science (IMAS), thanks to The University of Texas-Pan American's GEAR UP program.

Carmen Lomas Garza, a prominent Hispanic artist and author, is scheduled to headline the event. Garza, a Chicana narrative artist, bases her art and stories on her experiences in South Texas. Other authors included in the lineup are Arturo Longoria, Bret Anthony Johnston and Carolina Mosivais.

Evana Vleck, organizer of the event and education coordinator for IMAS, said that she planned the event three years ago to raise awareness of regional authors. Vleck said that she feels the festival helps promote literacy through interest.

"[The festival] mainly reaches educators," she said, and added that she hopes the event will draw teachers who will then spread interest in regional authors on to their students.

Vleck explained in the festival's first year 150 to 200 people attended. The second year drew in about 100 more people. She is hoping this year's festival will bring in 300 to 400.

Lomas Garza is also the author of several children's books, which Vleck thinks could be a big draw to the younger crowd.

This festival is just one indication that literary awareness is growing in the Rio Grande Valley. Barbara Vielma, lecturer and under-

graduate academic adviser in UTPA's Department of English, says she feels like events such as this are making the Valley more literature-friendly.

"When I first began teaching at UTPA, my English students were afraid of taking ANY English classes," she said. "Do you know our English Department now graduates more Hispanic English majors than any other university in the country?"

Vielma gives credit to local venues such as Barnes and Noble and coffee shops with events such as open mic nights. She believes festivals like this invite the curious to "...approach literature in a non-threatening environment."

Jose Skinner, assistant professor in the English Department, also contributes positive opinions about the festival.

"To judge by the increase in readings and literary events in the Valley, there seems to be a growing literary community here," he said. "Literary events such as the South Texas Literary Festival are important because they give venue to writers who otherwise might feel they are toiling in a vacuum. It is important that Latinos and Mexican-Americans write and publish more because they are underrepresented in this area of culture."

Students at UTPA also feel the festival is a valuable contribution.

Lance Davis, a junior criminal justice major and president of the Criminal Justice Club, says, "Any kind of literary event is a plus for this area. In my field, I need to read and write, as does anyone else. Anything that promotes interest in reading is a positive."

Calendar of Events

Concerts

July 17 - Gwar / Every Time I Die / Clutch
(La Villa Real Special Events Center)

July 22 - Donna Summer
(Dodge Arena)

July 24 - Ana Gabriel / Marco Antonio Solis
(Dodge Arena)

Student Union Free Movie Showings

July 14 - Sky Captain & the World of Tomorrow (PG)
(SU Palmetto Room 3-6 p.m.)

July 21 - The Pacifier (PG)
(Outdoor - Quad - 8 p.m.)

Student Events

July 14 - Pool Tournament
(SU Game Room - 3:30 pm)

July 19 - Live music and free refreshments
(SU East Patio - 11:30 - 1 p.m.)

July 26 - Summer BBQ
(Chapel Lawn - 11:30 - 1 p.m.)

July 27 - Air Hockey Tournament
(SU Game Room - 4 p.m.)

UTPA

campus life committees

Make A Difference

Student Affairs Advisory Committee

- Serve as an advisory committee to the Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services

Committee on Student Organizations

- Recommends University policies and procedures for governing student organizations
- Approves recognition of new student organizations
- Recommends disciplinary action against student organizations

Student Financial Services Advisory Committee

- Serves in an advisory capacity for the operation of all responsibilities of the Office of Student Financial Services

Academic Integrity Council

- Fosters campus-wide understanding of and proactive support for student academic integrity

Committee on Student Awards and Recognitions

- Advises the Dean of Students in the development of an awards and recognitions program for University students

Residence Life Advisory Committee

- Serves in an advisory capacity to the administrative directors of Residence Life and Auxiliary Services

Student Health Advisory Committee

- Presents student concerns and suggestions to the Director of Student Health Services
- Actively seeks to resolve problems identified by individual students and student organizations

other university committees with student membership

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Admissions Committee

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Youth sample three-day Bronc baseball camp

By JOEY GOMEZ
The Pan American

From an empty dugout on the field at Edinburg Baseball Stadium Mark Reyes watched, and constructively criticized his son as only a professional can.

Reyes, who has experience as a coach at a Donna middle school, points out the improvements he has witnessed in the children after three days of Bronc Baseball Camp.

On the field, 11 campers ranging from six to 13 years old gathered in the June sun as UTPA coaches attempted to hone the group's skill on the diamond. Reyes said the entire group, along with his son Jonathan, has learned to catch, pitch, and hit better than when they started.

"It's vital," Reyes said about camp. "It's what they need to put them over the edge (competitively)."

Reyes, who is a UTPA alumnus, said that it is good experience for children to be instructed by Bronc coaches who show great patience making a camp more than just "drill and kill."

"The coaches have been great," he said.

In this second leg of the Bronc summer youth baseball camp, UTPA coaches said the purpose is to give the children a worthwhile activity while providing instruction and in the process "having a little fun."

"They love to be out here," said Bronc

pitching coach Justin Meccage about the children's enthusiasm. "I love seeing kids be successful."

By 10 a.m. the heat had risen and during

"Water's for the weak anyway," Meccage joked.

Esmer Flores also watched, sitting in the vacant stands as her son Rick, 10, drilled



Joey Gomez/ The Pan American

AT BAT - Jeremiah Odale, 9, swings amid a series of pitches from Bronc assistant coach Kiki Trevino last month in Edinburg. The second leg of the second annual camp lasted three days.

"pop-up drills," one child seemed too psyched up for even a quick water break.

on basic fundamentals on the diamond.

Flores said her son started with tee-ball,

and that she allowed him to pick a sport for the sake of being active. She said the ultimate goal for her son was to excel, and maybe play at the high school varsity level some day.

"The coaches have great patience, using positive reinforcement," Flores said. "They also make it competitive."

She said camps are useful because children make new friends, and playing competitively builds self-esteem. Throughout the summer, a wide variety of activities serve to accomplish the same goal.

UTPA offers summer camps in basketball and volleyball as well. While Bronc hoops ended its string of camps in June, assistant volleyball coach Fabiana de Abreu will hold camp July 20-23 at the Field House.

The Edinburg Parks and Recreation facility at 305 E. Palm Drive enables children 6-12 years old to participate in 13 activities in their summer day program.

"It keeps them busy," said Ruben Morales of EP&R. "It keeps them out of trouble."

Morales said an estimated 265 kids attend the day program on a daily basis.

"We handle kids 6-12 years old from 7:30 a.m. all the way to 5:30 p.m. After that anyone can come in as long as they're a member."

Edinburg Parks enables kids to sign up for activity all the way to Sept. 30.

Hoops camp highlights Bronc summer season

By JOEY HINOJOSA
The Pan American

Youth basketball camps have been a part of the Broncs summer agenda for over six years. UTPA men's basketball coach Robert Davenport was pleased with the turnout of Valley youngsters this June.

"We've had good attendance in the three camps we've had," said Davenport. "The camps we've had so far have been mostly the younger kids, and the middle school and down. We've gotten a good response and we're really excited about it."

The younger campers receive the basic instructions needed to learn basketball. The



Joey Hinojosa/ The Pan American

DRIBBLE DRILL - A young camper, part of 50 5-8 year olds who turned out for the camp last month, smiles through practice.

older kids learn a variety of techniques and skills.

"For the little guys it is basics, how to play the game, how to dribble, pass and shoot, basic fundamentals," said Davenport. "In middle school camp we teach them a lot of the same things we teach our players, just on a little different level, so from there we kind of have basic fundamentals that everybody needs to have, and that's what we work on."

Assistant coaches and players also help out at the camp. However, players are not always able to make it to the morning camps because of their summer classes.

"They would be very involved, but most of them are in class," said the Bronc head coach. "If they don't have class in the morning, and they are able to work, then we let them work. That works out well, but sometimes it doesn't work out at all."

One former Bronc basketball player was helping out Davenport this summer with the camps. Mire Chatman played for UTPA from 2000-2002. The Garland native ranked third in scoring (26.2 points per game) for Division I programs in 2001-2002.

After completing his collegiate career at UTPA, Chatman made his way to Europe to play professional basketball. With a couple of Latvian championships and an all-star slam dunk contest win on his résumé, Chatman hopes to take his game to the NBA.

"I've got a couple of tryouts in the summer leagues," said Chatman. "I'm going to try and make it to the NBA again,

and if not then I'm going to go back overseas."

With NBA aspirations on his mind, Chatman was still pleased to help out his alma mater with their summer camps.

"It feels good to come back to my college, and help out the little kids, and just help them learn the game of basketball," said Chatman.

Davenport believes these camps are good for both the university and the community's youth.

"It gets kids on campus, and gets them involved in the program, and at the same time we are teaching them the fundamentals they are going to need when they get started in their youth leagues," said Davenport.

"And just like anything else, in school you don't give a kid a novel and tell them to read it. You have to teach them the basic fundamentals to build up to the level that they want to be at, and that's what we try to do," said the second year Broncs head coach. "Get (the kids)

started early, and let them have fun, and at the same time

teach them the rules and how to play the game".

Davenport and a solid group of assistants maintain the camp, but there are still some challenges when dealing with the plethora of young children.

"When you have 50, five- to eight-year-olds, I don't care if you have 100 helpers, or five or 10, it is always going to be a challenge because they are always doing something, and everyday is different, and it's fun," said Davenport. "My six-year-old is here, and I know what it's like having to keep up with him, so just imagine trying to keep up with 50 of them."



Joey Hinojosa/ The Pan American

TEN HUT - Basketball coach Robert Davenport, far left, organizes hoop drills last month at the Field House. Different age groups participated in a series of camps that took place throughout June.

SPORTS



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Soccer club set to make debut this fall

By VICTORIA GUAJARDO
The Pan American

As many students are taking the summer off to relax and have fun, many University of Texas-Pan American students are working hard every day to prepare for the fall semester, by playing soccer. Following a large response to tryouts during the spring semester, over 150 men and women are now practicing daily for their inaugural soccer season of The Bronc Soccer Club at UTPA.

The women's team has gained a significant amount of membership since April. Even though the season still seems far away, many girls go out to practice four days a week. The thought of soccer at UTPA is becoming more of a reality for the young men and women that love the sport.

A sport that once flourished at UTPA has since been omitted from the school sports list since 1995. But the club is designed to one day bring the sport back to the college level. That possibility is keeping players motivated.

"We have over 25 women practicing every day, and there continues to be more interest and equal involvement from them," said Intramural Rec-Sports coordinator Jerome Osborne.

The women's team continues to seek fresh talent, and organizers have sent out fliers to all the local high schools for tryouts for incoming freshman during the fall semester. These tryouts will take place a week or two before the semester begins. This approach is to increase the arsenal on both teams.

"Our goal is to put UTPA on the map, so that everyone can see that we can also compete," team member Anahi Mata said. "We have so much talent in the valley that never gets the chance to go up north to play after high school, and it would be a waste not to have a soccer team in this region."

Osborne is also very pleased with the results of the women's interest.

"It's been a really big turnaround; they will also have six home games and six away games," Osborne said.

Mata said that she is really excited to be part of something like this. Two of her uncles had once played soccer at UTPA in the mid-1990s. She said that it is a great opportunity for all

the girls on the team that love the sport.

The men's team, led by former college player Oscar "Chivas" Coronado, has had just as much success bringing in players. Teamwork and practice are essential. Coronado says that the players bring a lot of different styles, and his goal is to have them playing as a "Unidad de cipo" or a team united.

"We have 98 guys on the team, but there are a solid group of 40 that practice regularly," said Osborne.

Coronado said that there are going to be some difficult times ahead for the season. He said that he will find out what kind of team he has after they lose one or maybe even two games, and if they are able to digest a loss and learn from it, then they will be successful.

"It is a challenge to motivate a team, trying to build the team confidence. It is a responsibility you have to carry, you have to mature with the team and you have to prepare them for the season because it isn't going to be easy," Coronado said. "My main goal is to have them playing as a team."

The men will play four home and four away games in the Texas Soccer Club League, and are looking to add one more team to the schedule.

"We are working very hard and concentrating on practicing as a uniform team to represent the university, especially when we travel," Osborne said.

Both teams will be competing against UTSA, UTB and Texas A&M-

Kingsville during the upcoming year; 25 players will travel.

Real Sociedad, the student organization that helped create The Broncs Soccer Club in the spring semester, will continue to work closely with the team.

"Real Sociedad is still involved; they work hand in hand with the members of the Broncs Soccer Club," Osborne said.

If anyone is interested in watching UTPA's newest club practice, the girls practice from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The men's team hit the field from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Both squads practice Monday through Thursday at the Intramural Rec-sports fields.



Daryl Gonzales/ The Pan American

THE WALL - Pablo Aguilar defends a goal at practice on Tuesday evening. The Bronc soccer club is in preparation for his upcoming season this fall.

Some Valley natives shine on semi-pro level

By DARYL GONZALES
The Pan American

Millions of young boys dream of becoming professional athletes when they get older but the vast majority never get the chance. The harsh reality is that most will have to either get an education or a job to take care of themselves and family, permanently ending dreams of athletic glory beyond high school.

But there are a few lucky ones.

Valley sons Eric Gonzalez (La Feria) and Julio Ruiz (Brownsville) have not let reality upstage their dreams. Unlike a majority that only have high school days to look back on; they have a chance to continue doing something they love. They are regular contributors on the defending Central Baseball League champion Edinburg Roadrunners baseball team.

"Everyone dreams of one day playing in the big leagues," said Ruiz, a pitcher. "Hopefully one day I can make it there."

Gonzalez is a small-town kid who just wanted to keep doing what he found fun; in this case, baseball. After completing La Feria High School, he was able to get a scholarship to play baseball at The University of Texas-Brownsville. Even though it is only a small

junior college, the chance at UTB meant he would be able to continue his passion.



Courtesy of Julio Gonzalez

AT THE PLATE - Eric Gonzalez jumps on a pitch during a game against Jackson last month.

"Half the crowd at the games are people I know or are friends," said the outfielder. "I look forward every day to playing because my family and friends come to see me, but mainly because I love this sport."

Gonzalez said that he started playing when he was 12, which can be a bit late when it comes to baseball. He said his dad played Mexican League ball and so did his brother, so it "just basically runs in the family."

Even some of the greatest baseball players get their start at junior colleges; San Jacinto Junior College was the first stop for "The Rocket," future Major League Baseball Hall of Famer Roger Clemens, before he made it to The Show.

After two years at UTB, Gonzalez played in the Mexican softball league and then tried out for the Roadrunners. He's been with the organization ever since.

Ruiz also found his chance to continue playing baseball at UT-Brownsville after high school before jumping on board with the Roadrunners. He is currently 5-3 on the season; with a 3.49 earned-run average, and has been one of the team's most successful starters.

"It is a great honor to play in the Valley and on a championship team with all these great guys," Ruiz said.

His manager says that he can always count on Ruiz to compete.

"Julio is Julio, and he is going to go out there and give you everything he's got every day," said Vince Moore, the former outfielder who is in his first season as coach.

While Ruiz is dominating from the mound, when third-year Roadrunner Gonzalez is not in the outfield on defense he is lending a helping hand on offense. He leads the team with eight home runs and 48 runs scored, and his batting average is fourth on the team, at .271.

"Eric has been here since the beginning and I have sat there and watched him grow, and now managed him," Moore said.

The Roadrunners currently sit tied for third in the league with Shreveport. They would either have to win the second round or fall third or fourth overall in the standings to make to the playoffs, where they hope to make it back-to-back championships.

"They're both competitors," Moore said of the Valley pair.

The future may draw something new for Gonzalez as he said that he is strongly considering ending his baseball career to chase another profession, a career in the Border Patrol.