

10-20-2005

The Pan American (2005-10-20)

Emma Clark

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.utrgv.edu/panamerican>

Recommended Citation

The Pan American, UTRGV Digital Library, The University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley. Accessed via <https://scholarworks.utrgv.edu/panamerican>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections and Archives at ScholarWorks @ UTRGV. It has been accepted for inclusion in University Newspaper - The Pan American by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks @ UTRGV. For more information, please contact justin.white@utrgv.edu, william.flores01@utrgv.edu.

THE PAN AMERICAN

The Student Newspaper of The University of Texas-Pan American

October 20, 2005

Finder File Edit View Go Window Help

Wed 1:50

UTPA Unveils Wireless Internet Program

By **LUKE KOONG**
The Pan American

Imagine doing Internet research for your term paper sitting outside in the comfort of the Valley's fall weather. No longer something to dream about, as last Friday the University of Texas-Pan American student body now has access to a campus-wide wireless network.

Kelly Smith, the project manager, has been overseeing the development of the new service since it was proposed two years ago. Now that the network is up and fully functioning, he and other project leaders feel relieved the network has materialized without any major problems.

"It's been a long road, but it's been good," said Smith. "Right now, we're in the final stages of making it look nicer. Just cosmetic stuff."

Although the network was officially launched on Oct. 14, it has been up and running since Sept. 1. However, officials did not announce it to the campus to ensure the network was fully operational and free of major issues.

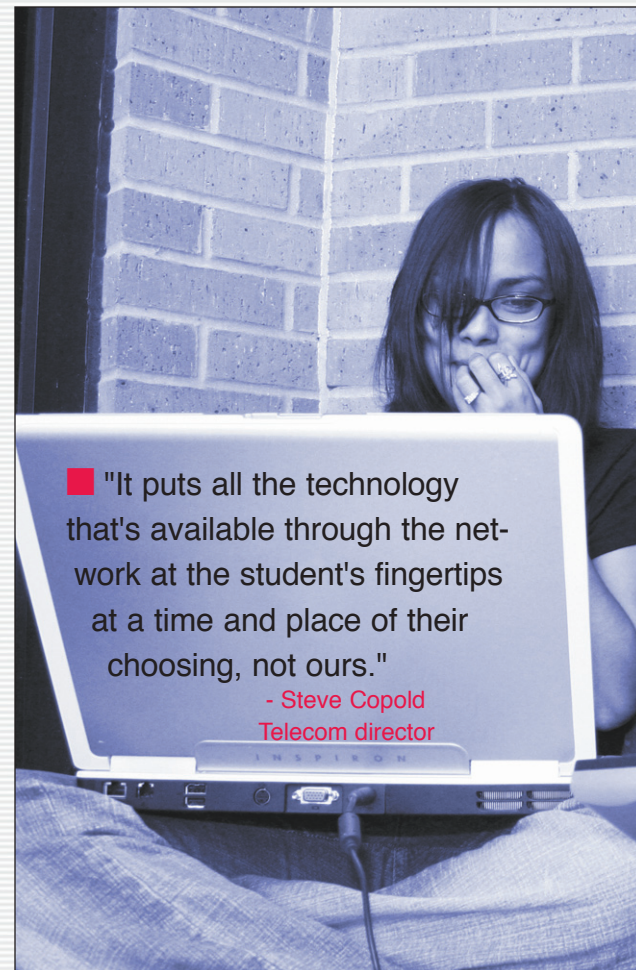
Undertaking a project of this scale has not been easy. Smith says that he and other officials involved did a great deal of research to find out how to create the most effective wireless network for the university.

"We had to educate ourselves," Smith explained. "Several of us may have a home

wireless, but something on this kind of scale - where you want to build in mobility so people can walk freely and seamlessly, with little and hopefully no interruption to their service as they walk into and within a building, and ultimately, just anywhere on campus or any large-scale location - then there's a lot of learning there."

The planners had to consider that when creating the 225 access points, or APs. For example, APs were placed so that users would not lose signal moving from one location in a building to another. Another consideration taken into account was the location of water pipes. Smith and his team discovered running water potentially caused signal loss.

See **WIRELESS** page 11



"It puts all the technology that's available through the network at the student's fingertips at a time and place of their choosing, not ours."

- Steve Copold
Telecom director

Melissa Martinez/The Pan American

NO STRINGS ATTACHED - Lisa Nava, sophomore criminal justice major, sits outside the Student Union while surfing the Web on the wireless Internet launched Oct. 14.



Melissa Martinez/The Pan American
UTPA SPIRIT - UTPA cheerleader Kacey Capelo, a sophomore communication major, performed at Midnight Madness, which took place at the UTPA Field House Oct. 14. Following Spirit week, students will be able to purchase UTPA spirit shirts for \$5 at the University Center today, from 8 a.m. until the shirts are sold out. Sizes range from youth small to 3XL.

Broken plans: New dorms disappoint

By **SANDRA GONZALEZ**
The Pan American

Since the summer, when the university announced plans to build new dorms on campus, anticipation has mounted and students have expressed excitement and curiosity about the plans.

But now, according to Physical Plant Architect Jaime Condit, about 5,400 square feet of the common area, 24 rooms, and many of the lavish things anticipated - such as a convenience store and computer lab - will more than likely be cut from the building plans.

These changes come to the dismay of many. In particular, Director of Residence Life Chad Martin says much thought went into the planning of the dorms, and it's a bit of a letdown.

"As the director for the Residence Life program, it is always my vision to expect grand-scale types of residence halls," Martin said. "We listened to all the students' input and held many forums

and let the students talk to the architects. We really tried to get a building, not just that I wanted, but that the students would be proud of and wanted."

See **DORM** page 11

BROKEN PROMISES - The original plans for the new dorm being built on Sugar Road included amenities such as a convenience store and a computer lab, which are now being cut, disappointing many students.
Joel de la Rosa/
The Pan American



Safety top priority on campus

By **NAYELLY BARRIOS**
The Pan American

Every year the University of Texas-Pan American releases the Campus Safety and Security Report in compliance with the Jeanne Cleary Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Statistics Act.

The Cleary Act, which was passed in 1990, requires universities to compile annual reports concerning security policies, crime statistics, steps to report

See **SAFETY** page 11

Editor
Emma Clark
thepanamericannews-
per@yahoo.com

News Editor
Claudette Gonzalez
claudetteelena@gmail.com

A & E Editor
Jason Chapa
jason.chapa@gmail.com

Sports Editors
Joey Gomez
joegomez23@yahoo.com

Daryl Gonzales
daryl_gonzales2002@yahoo.com

Graphics Editor
Dagoberto Pérez
dagobertoperez@gmail.com

Photography Editor
Joel de la Rosa
delarosa.joel@gmail.com

Layout/Photography
Delisa Guadarrama
delisaegquad@aol.com

Designers
Lylony Cazares
lylony@gmail.com

Web Master
Ed Martinez
ed@inspiredmedia-
works.com

Reporters
Nayelly Barrios
Sandra Gonzalez
David Rodriguez
Joey Hinojosa

Photographers
Joey Cortez
Melissa Martinez

Translator
Silvia Lorenzen

Secretary
Diana Corpus Garza

Adviser
Dr. Greg Selber

Delivery
Anthony Pinal
Thursday at Noon

The PAN AMERICAN is the official student newspaper of The University of Texas-Pan American. Views presented are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the university.

Letters policy

The Pan American gladly accepts letters from students, staff and faculty regarding newspaper content or current issues. The Pan American reserves the right to edit submissions for grammar and length. Please limit submission length to 300 words. The Pan American cannot publish anonymous letters, or submissions containing hate speech or gratuitous personal attacks. Letters are printed at the discretion of the editor and must include the writer's name, class/title and phone number.

Readers with disabilities may request an alternative format of this publication at The Pan American business office. For special assistance to attend any event listed in this publication, contact the coordinator of the event at least one week prior to the advertised date. Articles are written and published at the discretion of The Pan American newspaper. Should readers wish to submit story ideas to the editor, please allow two weeks for processing.

Apocalypse Smurf

I smurf the smell of smurf in the smurfing

By DAVID RODRIGUEZ
The Pan American



A halcyon sky lies lazily over Smurfville. The air is heavy with sunshine and life. A butterfly flaps and falls in frenetic arcs before finally coming to rest on an exotically enchanting flower no one would dare name, much less pick.

But out of the crystal blue sky something entirely unSmurflike appears. Fighter jets. Their cold metallic skin seems almost more jarring than their intent, which they drop with abandon. The birds of prey are gone in the blink of an eye, leaving only their deadly payload as evidence of their existence. The bombs plummet toward Smurfville in terrible, beautiful formation. As they slam into the multicolored metropolis the village is engulfed in destruction. Red and blue mushroom-topped houses are reduced to rubble. The edifices still intact are licked and lapped by flames. The fire turns all into the lifeless grays and browns of annihilation. Smurfs litter the ground. Papa Smurf is nowhere to be found. Brainy Smurf's last thought was no doubt one of horror and confusion at the chaos and violence. Smurfette lies dead, face down in the dirt, her white dress tattered. Baby Smurf, the lone survivor, is left to wail in misery. His cries fall on cold, deaf, blue ears.

This macabre scene is the latest ad campaign by UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund. The twisted cartoon was approved by the family of the Smurfs' late creator, Pierre "Peyo" Culliford,

who attended school in his youth in Belgium. The clip ends with the admonition, "Don't let war destroy the children's world." This is followed by the obligatory call for donations. The campaign began in early August and will run until April of next year.

Obviously meant to shock, the purpose of this cartoon as explained by UNICEF officials is to bring to light the horrors war has on the young. Forgoing their usual fare of horrific scenes of real-life destruction, UNICEF apparently believes bombing the bubbly blue boys will have a greater effect and in turn generate more donations.

Almost more bizarre than the ad itself is its utter irrelevancy given not only the times we live in, but the country UNICEF chose in which to air it. According to a leaked official Belgian dossier in early June 2002, the country has become a recruiting base and launching pad for Islamic terrorist attacks across Europe. The report, as described by Belgian journalist Ambrose Evans-Pritchard in Brussels, went on to say that Belgium has become a "logistical support base" for terrorist groups such as al-Qa'eda, the Algerian Armed Islamic Group (GIA), and the Muslim Brotherhood, which has been linked to Hamas.

It seems a bit strange, given all this, that UNICEF would choose to highlight the plight of children suffering because of war with nary a nod to Islamic terrorism, which seems to use children as a matter of course. In late March 2004 there was an attempt to smuggle a 10-kg bomb into Nablus in the Palestinian Territories, historic home of Jacob's Well. The Fatah Tanzim terrorists asked an 11-year-old boy named Abdullah Quran to carry the bag through the airport checkpoint and hand it

to a woman. Quran was stopped by soldiers who asked to inspect the bags and when the bomb was found, the terrorists unsuccessfully attempted to activate it.

Yet animated commercial airliners did not fly into the buildings of Smurfville. War planes dropped bombs. It would seem that today the biggest threat to children in terms of warfare is posed not by nameless, faceless, warplanes dispatched by what we can only assume is an imperialist aggressor, but by the people who have made it a point to employ the youth in their fight; who strap bombs on their sons.

You don't have to take my word for it. Sheikh Ibrahim Madhi has said enough. In June 2001 he declared on Palestinian television, "Blessings on whoever has put a belt of explosives on his body and plunged into the midst of the Jews."

Speaking of Jews, the choice of Smurfs is also a bit curious given the speculation as to the political intent of their existence to begin with. It has been widely proposed that Smurfs creator Peyo wanted to illustrate a perfect Marxist society replete with classless society members and complete with wizened Karl Marx look-alike Papa Smurf and his antagonist, stereotypically Jewish-looking Gargamel. But then again all this speculation might just be the machinations of stoned teenage neo-McCarthyists.

There are two underlying questions here. What is UNICEF's point and who put the hit on the Smurfs? As for the former, your guess is as good as mine. As for the later, personally, I think the smart money's on Halliburton.

Please smurf all hate-mail to davideric@gmail.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Respectfully to the writer of the article on the Music Department:

The commentary written about our Music Department was so very short-sighted and generalized, that it caused quite a stir among the music students. To allow this caliber of writing about the UTPA Music Program, clearly shows the lack of insight into the corner of our world at the Music Department.

Statements were quoted in the article from a selected few sources, yet did not fully represent the goals, achievements, and challenges of the entire music student population. The writer spoke only to three individuals, including one UTPA professor and two band directors from the same district. It is an insult to assume that marching is the end all to music proficiency and competency. We are not saying that is not important to a music program, it only enhances it.

We can honestly say that the curriculum has evolved, improved, and progressed over the last several years; thus bringing in and putting out stu-

dents of excellent quality. The professors go the extra mile to provide their students with the best resources and up-to-date information pertaining to their respective fields. We can say with full confidence that our Music Education graduates have very high employment rates at schools with the highest expectations; those schools have not been disappointed yet.

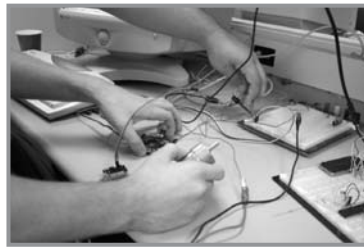
We have many ensemble groups that students have the privilege and prestige of being part of including: University Choir, University Band, Salsa Band, Opera Workshop, Symphony Chorale and Orchestra, and Men's and Women's Chorus, to mention a few. The professors also produce students that not only perform well in a group, but as an individual performer, as well. All students have many opportunities to compete with schools like UTSA, UNT, and Texas A&M at the collegiate level. Many have returned with excellent, if not top ratings in NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing) Competition. Many of our graduates even go on to top universities to study at the graduate level. Others, become members of professional, elite symphonies, orchestras, chorales, and opera companies.

To really appreciate the full spectrum of our department, you would have to sit in at the many instrumental and vocal recitals we have every Thursday afternoons, ensemble concerts, and staff recitals (which are at least 30, a semester.). Not including the rehearsals and courses that we must master in order to accomplish the graduation requirements for the Music Department. Leaving this institution, the music students are well-rounded and versatile individuals. We are confident about what needs to be done whether it be in a professional group or going out and teaching.

To state that the Music Department lacks in excellence simply because there is no marching band, is like stating that UTPA lacks in academic excellence just because we have NO FOOTBALL program; its preposterous.

Sincerely,
Concerned Music Students
Mariana Castillo, Dinah Reedson,
Erica Aldape, Jennifer Brynt,
Erin Holland, Dante Garcia,
Vanessa Villarreal, Evangelina Maldonado,
Crisitna R. Martinez, Marilu Manzano

NEWS



■ Robotics	4
■ TX Rangers Chief	5
■ En Español	6

UTPA prepares for reaccreditation

By **MARIA ALEJANDRA MAZARIEGOS**
The Pan American

The University of Texas-Pan American is currently undergoing re-accreditation by the Southern



Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

For many students and professors, the only noticeable change resulting from the re-accreditation process was the addition to class syllabi

entitled "Student Learning Outcomes" at the beginning of the semester.

"No specific changes in the curriculum were needed," said Ruben Mazariegos, interim chair of the department of physics and geology. "Most changes were done in refining the Student Learning Outcomes for the Natural Science Core Curriculum Courses offered by the department and stating in our syllabi a more detailed list of specific course objectives."

However, the re-accreditation process has a wide scope and purpose encompassing much more than just changing a syllabus.

UTPA, as part of the University of Texas System, was established to serve the higher education needs of South Texas and is committed to excellence in instruction, student performance, scholarly research, and professional service.

In order to fulfill those goals, it is important that the university's education standards be on par with those of top universities across the nation.

Enter SACS, the recognized regional accrediting body in 11 southern states – Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia – as well as in parts of Latin America.

SACS originated in 1895 when six higher education institutions became charter members of the Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools of the Southern States, whose goal was to elevate

See **ACCREDITATION** page 12

Two UTPA classes partner with FBI

By **LUKE KOONG**
The Pan American

Imagine if the Federal Bureau of Investigation approached you and asked you to help them recruit new agents into the organization. That in itself might be considered a large task already. Now imagine getting graded on it. Well, that is what over 60 communication and marketing students face this semester.

Joe Garza, a marketing professor, serves as one of the faculty advisers for the project, along with professor Kimberly Selber of the communication department. Garza and Selber have been guiding the students involved to help them obtain the most out of the experience and to prepare them for their future profession.

"The end of the road is not the degree, but the beginning of a new journey, which is a professional journey that we must understand as faculty and educators," said Garza. "That is our job, our focus, and our mission - to ensure that our students are best prepared to enter that environment and to succeed."

Participants in the project - taken from Garza's

Advertising and Promotions class and Selber's Creative Strategies class - were asked to develop a marketing campaign to aid the FBI in attracting Hispanic students, and to peak their interest in joining the agency. The students so far have had to deal with the stresses that real-world employees face every day. The reality of deadlines, working with other individuals and the overall stress any regular business would face are all present.

"The client expects a specific product to be turned in, which is quite the case in business anywhere today in the United States or anywhere in the world," Garza emphasized.

Students involved in the project actually created an advertising agency to complete the project. Garza said this form of learning focuses student perspective on the intangibles of the course, rather than simply reading about theories from a textbook.

"The benefit to the student is twofold," he explained. "One, they are working with an actual project that is of value to the client. Secondly, it's a benefit to the student because it's a controlled learning environment for that student where they are

applying the skills and the theory that they are learning in a university environment while at the same time working to apply these skills with an actual client."

Obtaining funding and budgeting money received has been a major factor in this project. Only

See **PROJECT** page 12



Joel de la Rosa/*The Pan American*

MARKETING MERGE - Joe Garza discusses FBI marketing project with the Advertising and Promotions class Wednesday afternoon.

Hotmail replaces Oracle as e-mail provider

By **CELINA A. GILPATRICK**
The Pan American

For many students, university e-mails pile up in an account that is never checked and hardly ever thought about. Messages concerning the university are lost, often leaving students in the dark concerning campus news and notices.

All that is about to change. When University of Texas-Pan American students return from the winter break, they will find a completely remodeled, much improved e-mail system waiting for them.

MSN Hotmail is set to replace Oracle Collaboration Suites as the service provider for student e-mail accounts. University personnel believe the switch will be beneficial.

"We are trying to give students an attractive way of getting their e-mail," said Anne Toal, director for Academic Computing.

The new e-mail service will include features such

as an instant messenger, blogging, a calendar, and alert services, some of which are not included in the current service.

"I hope students embrace the new service and use it," said Isabel Infante, assistant director for Internet Services. "There are so many new added benefits for students, and MSN will be improving Hotmail in the future."

The new options and features that will be available should improve the student e-mail experience.

"We are all kind of excited about it," said Gary Wiggins, chief information officer for Information Technology.

According to Wiggins, the switch is a necessary update.

"We have a very antiquated e-mail service due to a number of weaknesses with Oracle," said Wiggins.

Toal agreed that Oracle was not the best choice for the job of student e-mail service provider.

"Oracle has quality issues, and was not a good use

of the university's resources," she stated.

While it will no longer service student e-mail accounts, Oracle will continue to be used for the university's human resources, financial and accounting needs.

Currently students have a basic e-mail account like what they would have if they started their own hotmail account. However, the new MSN Hotmail university account will have an increased capacity of 250 megabytes and a 180-day expiration date for students who do not use their account.

"The new e-mail provider will help in two main ways," said Toal. "It will help students when they forget their password, with security questions, and e-mail activation will be a thing of the past. The e-mail addresses will be ready to use."

Since the accounts will be powered by Hotmail, students will also be able to use their university e-mail after they graduate.

See **HOTMAIL** page 12

FAST PACE - Janel Flowers, rehabilitative in addictions senior, participates in wheelchair race held last week for the Disability Awareness Week. The activities helped students understand difficulties faced by the disabled.



Courtesy of *University Relations*

DAW promotes compassion toward disabled

By **LYLONY CAZARES**
The Pan American

Last Tuesday, students zoomed through campus with wheelchairs in the Cannonball Run for the university's first Disability Awareness Week (DAW) to promote understanding and kindness.

The events of the week were open to all students, not only those with disabilities.

"DAW is an effort on behalf of several departments on campus to help students without disabilities relate better to what it's like to have a disability," said Maureen

McClain, associate director for the Office for Services for Persons with Disabilities.

The wheelchair races helped students understand how difficult it is for students to get from one point to another on campus.

"Some of the comments made by students were how awkward it was to get around on campus," McClain said. "People kept coming at them and getting in their way, even in a wheelchair."

According to McClain, that impolite treatment is exactly what they wanted.

"We want people to find out what it's like to be in a

wheelchair," she said. "That way when they encounter someone in a wheelchair, they know they have to get out of the way."

The week kicked off with a white cane walk in which visually impaired participants and their relatives walked from the Hidalgo County Courthouse to the University of Texas-Pan American Visitor's Center through new accessible routes on University Drive.

The week was not all fun and games. On Wednesday, students had the opportunity to listen to stories presented by the Family Crisis Center on "Violence and People

See **DISABILITY** page 12

HUB and UTPA giving help to underutilized businesses

By ADRIANA GARZA
The Pan American

Local small and minority-owned businesses will be getting some helpful tips on Oct. 27 thanks to a group of Historically Under Utilized Business (HUB) coordinators, Gov. Rick Perry's Office and UTPA as they will be hosting the first Regional Economic Opportunity Forum.

The luncheon and the forum, to be held at the UTPA Annex, will serve a number of purposes.

One of those, according to Alex Valdez, UTPA coordinator, is to teach minority businesses how to begin doing business with the state of Texas.

"The state of Texas is the largest spending group in the states," Valdez said. "We spend Texas residence tax dollars, so we want to make sure it's spent equally amongst all groups, you know, minorities, small business. It's really an education for all the small businesses in South Texas."

A number of agencies, such as the Texas Department of Transportation and the Texas Department of Public Safety, The Chamber of Commerce, The Economic Development Corporation in Edinburg, and the McAllen Hispanic Chamber of Commerce are all coming together at the Annex to accomplish pretty much the same goal, to benefit South Texas.

"All these different agencies, they have spending budgets per year and they're trying to increase the number of minority businesses that they do business with or small businesses that they do business with," Valdez said. "They're all coming down just to network and meet with people in the South Texas region and found out what type of business and try to give them an idea of business opportunities for them."

The forum is specifically meant for businesses, but they are not the only target audience.

"There are any students, future entrepreneurs, any future business people out there, you know,

that plan on starting their own business, it would be something to look into," Valdez said.

According to Valdez, HUB, which consists of 45-50 state agencies, thought South Texas deserved the same education. They came up with the idea, but then they came to the conclusion that the governor's office should be involved and asked them to participate.

Gov. Perry has been hosting business summits and he's bringing speakers from the Regional Small Business Administration (SBA) along with him. While HUB will be offering the courses in minority-owned businesses, the governor's office will focus on the small business aspect.

One of the issues that will be addressed in the small business seminar is the issue of health care for small business employees and owners.

"If you work for a big company, a lot of the times you can get health care but is really hard to do with small businesses," said Johnathan Taylor, director for the office of the governor. "Sometimes small businesses end up getting good people and training them and spending their time and resources training these folks, only to lose them to big businesses because big businesses can offer health care."

Taylor also added that the issues discussed are based, not on an agenda created by the governor's office, but on concerns from the community.

"Every event is different, every agenda is different, every city is different, every region is different," Taylor said. "We change each event and each agenda for the local community."

In addition, a luncheon will follow the event in order to give attendees a platform to speak and voice concerns not addressed.

The last day to register is Oct. 21 and the courses and classes are free. If you want to attend the luncheon, it's \$20. To pick up a registration form, you can stop by the UTPA Program Office or contact Alex Valdez at (956) 316-7105 or at alexv@utpa.edu.

UTPA students design robot for regional competition

By JEANETTE FERRY-GOMEZ
The Pan American

Projected to emerge at a size of only five-by-seven inches, the newest addition to the University of Texas-Pan American family is still in the womb, so to speak.

Aiobot, an autonomous robot that will be able to see, recognize and sort objects based on color and shape, is currently being designed by a group of UTPA students, as part of their senior design course.

The senior design course is a two-semester class that focuses on designing and building a robot. Project Advisor Mounir Ben Ghalia, assistant professor in the department of electrical engineering, is there to provide support.

"What I'm trying to do as their adviser is to get them to work on their design and turn it into something they'll submit to a competition," said Ben Ghalia.

The group will be participating in the technical portion of the 2006 IEEE Region 5 Technical, Professional, and Student Conference in San Antonio in April 2006.

Before competing, the students must design and

build the robot, which they have named Aiobot, an acronym for the names of the students on the design team. The robot must be capable of facing the challenges that will be put before it.

In the first round of the competition, Aiobot must demonstrate its ability to independently recognize different colored containers on one side of a track and sort them according to color on the other side of the track.

The final round is trickier. Not only will the containers be present, but so will Barbie-sized human workers. Aiobot must avoid these and still be able to sort the containers into their designated rooms.

Aiobot is being built by Team #1, whose members include IEEE President Alex Maldonado, senior electrical engineering major, IEEE Web Master Issareeya Anunayaporn, senior electrical engineering major, and Omar Jasso, senior computer science major.

However, another robot is being built by a second team, whose members include Louis Kiphen, Omar Chavez and Waldo Sonnen, all senior electrical engineering majors.

Both teams work four hours a day at the robotics lab in the Engineering Building. The students incorporate their knowledge of robotics from their class curriculum at UTPA, as well as personal research to build the robot. But according to Jasso, there is still much to learn.

"Robot design incorporates many skills outside our discipline, making it important to use to continue learning what is necessary for its development," he said.

Robot design also requires the use of knowledge gained in classes within the electrical engineering department.

"It is a great experience to be able to apply the knowledge we have gained in all the electrical engineering courses in this major project," commented Maldonado. "But one of our obstacles is lack of time.

See **ROBOTS** page 12



Joel de la Rosa/The Pan American

MY, ROBOT - Louis Kiphen and Waldo Sonnen, senior electrical engineering majors, develop the motor control for their robot.

Local students mirror national trend, choose to buckle up

By ANA LEY
The Pan American

When faced with a choice between buckling up and getting pulled over for committing a moving violation, Fidencio Tamez would choose the former in a heartbeat. The 26-year-old sophomore marketing student says his incentive for wearing his seat belt is the fear of getting a ticket, especially if he's driving on the highway.

Tamez isn't the only one buckling up.

Seat belt usage is at a record high of 82 percent, according to the 2005 National Occupant Protection Use Survey conducted by the National Highway Safety Traffic Administration (NHSTA). This number has been steadily increasing from 58 percent in 1994, to 69 percent in 1998, to 73 percent in 2002.

Tamez said that while he tends to forget to strap himself in before he hits the road, he usually remembers once he approaches busy streets - especially if he

spots a police officer en route. Since he lives in Reynosa, Tamez is used to commuting to the University of Texas-Pan American from Mexico on a daily basis.

"There is no seat belt law in Mexico. I don't ever put it on there...but when I cross the border, I always make sure I'm wearing it," he said. "When I'm coming to school, I always see people putting on their seatbelts on the bridge."

Traffic safety specialist Ruby Martinez of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) explained that the organization is currently running a campaign which aims to inform Mexican visitors that Texas, along with most U.S. states, strictly enforces an occupant protection law. This law makes safety belt usage mandatory for everyone.

Introduced to the Rio Grande Valley in 1995, Buckle the Border is a branch of the national Click it or Ticket project, which presents city police departments who have reported low belt usage rates with grants to

help them meet higher standards.

Distributed by the Click it or Ticket project, Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) grants are used to provide police officers the option of working overtime hours solely to enforce the safety belt law.



Joel de la Rosa/The Pan American

CLICK IT OR TICKET - Seatbelt usage has increased from 58 percent in 1994 to 82 percent in 2005, according to a national study.

Sgt. James Loya of the UTPA Police Department says that under regular enforcement, individuals pulled over for

not wearing a seatbelt can sometimes get off with just a warning. However, violators stopped during STEP enforcement are always given traffic tickets.

Texas is one of 20 states with a primary enforcement law, meaning motorists can be ticketed simply for not using their seat belts. Violators must present their case in court, and pay a fine of about \$200.

Since the campus police department is small and doesn't have much manpower, it doesn't receive funding from TxDOT to specifically focus on such violations, Loya said.

Smaller communities, such as the university, have the option of applying for "wave" grants, which are smaller ones given for use on certain holidays and seasons in which a police department might report low belt-use rates.

But Loya says that from the looks of things UTPA police might not even need those grants because students are already using their seat belts.

"Here, it's business as usual," he noted. "For the most part, students have always done a pretty good job. We're often surprised at how many people wear them."

With the construction of parking lots and the expansion of roads around campus, he feels it's important that students keep this up.

"This isn't just a legal issue. It's a safety issue," said Loya. "We try to tell our guys to watch out for University Drive, it gets real real busy there, and accidents are very prone to happen."

Many students, such as Ernesto Banda, agree that their number one motivation to wear their seat belt is safety.

"The fact that I may get a ticket doesn't bother me as much as the possibility of being in a life-threatening accident," said the senior fine arts major.

GETTING THE WORD OUT

Jesus Leal, director of transportation operations for TxDOT's regional office in

See **SEATBELT** page 12

Valley native appointed head of Texas Rangers

By NAYELLY BARRIOS
The Pan American

McAllen native Ray Coffman has been appointed the head of the Texas Rangers after holding the title of assistant chief since May of last year.

"I am confident that Capt. Coffman will do an excellent job of guiding the Texas Rangers," said Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr., director of the Texas Dept. of Public Safety (DPS), in a press release announcing the appointment.

Coffman graduated from McAllen High School and joined the Naval Reserves in 1969.

After joining DPS in October 1975, Coffman was commissioned as a highway patrolman and stationed in Brownsville. In addition to highway patrolling, he had opportunities to work criminal investigations and after a promotion into the narcotics service, he worked as an undercover officer for three years. Later he was stationed in Laredo, and served as lieutenant for Narcotic Services.

"My work included investigations of many major drug rings in the Valley, which enabled me to obtain valuable insight into the drug world," Coffman said. "I was promoted to lieutenant and for the next five years, four of which were in Harlingen, and supervised a group of narcotics investigators."

Fascinated by the investigation of murders,

Coffman was promoted to the Texas Rangers where he started in McAllen and was transferred to Brady in Central Texas after a year. There he spent nine years working on major crimes and murders.



COFFMAN

"I took a tremendous amount of experience with me when I left the Valley, which has served me well in my career," said Coffman.

Sophomore criminal justice major Irasema Silva says having a McAllen native in such a position is great motivation to her.

"It's good to see that somebody that started off here in the Valley can do great things for our state," Silva said. "It shows everybody in Texas and in the nation what we already know, that is that the Valley is big and growing and producing honorable citizens."

Coffman has gone through many promotions and relocations in 29 years of service, but he says the sacrifices are worth it because he loves his job.

"Law enforcement is a great career, but not for everyone," he said. "You make many sacrifices at the expense of your family. Like any career, you have to dedicate yourself to that profession." The McAllen native has two sons with his wife Olivia, whom he met in Los Fresnos in 1979.

"I look forward to meeting a new challenge," said Coffman. "When you get tired of challenges, you should retire and let someone else take the initiative."

Alternative certification gets teachers on the job faster

By DAVID DAVILA
The Pan American

In the 1980s, several alternative certification programs (ACP) were developed to combat the shortage of teachers in Texas. The programs were not only designed to increase the number of educators, but also to get graduate students into salary-based careers as soon as possible.

According to the director of the ACP at the university, Dora Salazar, students must meet several requirements in order to be accepted into the program.

To be eligible for the ACP, you must obtain a four-year degree from an accredited institution, provide an official transcript that certifies the degree, and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. The applicant also must have passed the THEA or TASP with a score of at least a 250 in reading, a 230 in math and a 240 in writing. A letter of recommendation from a professional educator is also required, plus a \$50 dollar application fee, and passing scores on the TExES (Texas Examination for Educator Standards) and the PPR (Pedagogue and Professional Responsibilities) tests.

Once the exams are passed, applicants must have 24 hours in their content area to teach, have the 2.75 GPA they need to teach at high school levels, and the 15 hours of coursework required here at

UTPA to obtain their license.

UTPA refers to the Alternative Certification Program (ACP) as a "earn as you learn" program; meaning that a person that has received a bachelor's degree can attain a teaching certificate while employed as a full-time teacher.

According to Dr. Jose Ruiz-Escalante, associate dean of the College of Education, this method for obtaining a teaching certificate, is gaining popularity.

"Nowadays most people go to college and automatically go into the ACP. They don't want to go through the traditional Teachers Education Program, because it requires student teaching," said Ruiz-Escalante. "Student teaching means that for one whole semester, students are required to teach at local school like a full-time employee without getting paid."

In contrast to the old method, in ACP, participants get a one-year internship in which they teach wherever they choose and are paid a full salary.

During this time, the program keeps an eye on these teachers to make sure they are prepared to teach properly. A mentor evaluates them either by phone or on campus, sometimes sitting in the back of the room assessing the intern's methods in the classroom.

After they pass their evaluation, UTPA recom-



Joey Cortez/The Pan American

CHEMISTRY - Narayan Bhat, a chemistry professor, oversees the work of lab assistants in his research lab. Bhat was recently awarded the Texas Chancellor's Award.

UTPA chemistry professor receives prestigious award

Bhat wins \$5,000 for Chancellor honor

By TREY SERNA
The Pan American

Dr. Narayan Bhat, organic chemistry professor, was recently given the Texas Chancellor's Award and he could not be happier over the honor.

"I've been here for nine years and I'm absolutely delighted that I was able to get this award," said Bhat, whose students sing his praises.

"He's a good professor," said Monica Villanueva, a senior pre-med chemistry major. "He's always so cheerful and very interactive with his students."

The Chancellor's Award program honors any UT System employee who illustrates the organization's vision, values and humanitarian efforts. According to Dr. Hassan Ahmad, chemistry department chair, the Faculty Senate is in charge of selection.

"They sent out an e-mail to all the faculty members asking them to nominate people," Ahmad said. "A committee was then set up of all the different colleges and then five to ten candidates were chosen. From there voting was done to narrow it down to two candidates and whoever got the most votes won."

mends them for a probationary certificate, which is a temporary one that can be renewed for only three years until all requirements are met.

Despite the benefits of the program, however, Ruiz-Escalante prefers the conventional method.

"I think that the traditional way is better, you need to know how to address the different learning styles of the students," he said. "I don't think ACP gives students enough experience working within the schools. In our traditional program they spend six weeks out of the semester working in schools one day a week with the kids."

According to Salazar, research, however, shows the benefits of these programs.

Students are not the only ones with positive words to describe Bhat and his pedagogy.

"He has his own style of teaching and he works very well with the students," said Ahmad. "In order to be a good instructor, you have to accommodate the students. Knowledge-wise, we're at a different level than the students, so we have to get to that level where we feel comfortable with the students and Dr. Bhat is able to do that."

Besides having the prestigious title of this award, Bhat was also awarded \$5,000.

"This isn't money I have to use for a research project or anything. This is a personal check that I can use for anything I need," he said.

The chemistry department has been lucky enough to have award winners twice within the past three years for the yearly honors which cover teaching, research or service.

"Our department was pushing for Dr. Bhat to receive this award. He's a very accomplished faculty member," said Ahmad.

Bhat currently has 16 students working for him, and he supports their beginning careers with research grants he's been able to obtain.

"This is an award I'd like to dedicate to all my students," he said.

"What the research is showing right now is the Alternative Certification teachers tend to stay in their careers," she said. "The other research that we are seeing...is that they [teachers who obtain a certificate the traditional way] only teach for an average of five years. Researchers are determining that some people had just spontaneously chosen that as their major and ending up just wanting to change careers."

She also notes that UTPA students in this program are benefiting.

"To be honest UTPA has one of the best teacher preparation programs in the whole nation because we're field-based."

Cambios en los planes para los dormitorios nuevos desilusionan a estudiantes

Por SANDRA GONZALEZ
The Pan American

Desde el verano pasado, cuando la universidad anunció planes para construir los nuevos dormitorios en el campus, la expectación ha aumentado y los estudiantes han expresado emoción y curiosidad sobre los planes.

Pero ahora, de acuerdo al Arquitecto Jaime Condit, de Planta Física, como 5,400 pies cuadrados de área común, 24 dormitorios y muchas de las cosas anticipadas —tales como una tienda de auto-servicio y laboratorio de computación probablemente se eliminarán de los planes de construcción.

Estos planes han causado desánimo en muchos, en particular del Director de Vida Residencial Chad Martín, quien dice que se hizo mucho en la planeación de los dormitorios y por ello ha causado desilusión.

“Como director del programa Vida Residencial, es siempre mi visión esperar proyectos residenciales a gran escala” dijo Martín. “Escuchamos la opinión de todos los estudiantes, llevamos a cabo muchos foros de consulta y permitimos que los estudiantes hablaran con los arquitectos. Realmente tratamos de obtener un edificio, no solamente que yo deseara, sino que los estudiantes estuvieran orgullosos y desearan”.

El Decano de Estudiantes Jerry Price, expresa que aunque las ideas estuvieron ahí, no estaban escritas en piedra.

“Por ejemplo, cuando mostramos a los estudiantes los planes iniciales, lo hicimos como una promesa, ese fue un error de nuestra parte”. Dijo Price. “Debido a que cuando llevas a cabo proyectos de construcción, siempre se diseñan y luego las realidades del presupuesto casi siempre te hacen cambiar ese plan”.

Todas las tribulaciones encontradas en la solicitud por nuevos dormitorios se vino abajo en una sola palabra de once letras PRESUPUESTO. En este caso, existen dos factores principales en que nos debemos enfocar para la distribución de \$10.5 millones de presupuesto, dijo Condit.

DINERO CUENTA

Mientras que el incremento en el precio de los combustibles es un recordatorio constante para el público sobre los efectos de los huracanes Katrina y Rita, los efectos se sienten también a nivel comercial, incluyendo los planes para dormitorios.

“El costo de la energía continúa en aumento, lo cual afecta al precio de todo” explico Price.

Agregó que mientras que algunos materiales para proyectos grandes como este son suministrados localmente, otros, como el concreto, acero y vidrio se deben conseguir fuera del Valle. De manera tal que los contratistas tienen que conseguir este material y transportarlo hasta aquí y eso incrementa mucho los costos” agregó Price.

De acuerdo a Condit, otra razón es simplemente los materiales por sí mismos. Ahora los costos de construcción se fueron a las nubes” expreso Condit. “En promedio, los costos y materiales de construcción aumentan alrededor de un cuatro por ciento por año. A partir del año pasado, han aumentado diez por ciento”.

Michael Boland, Director de Planificación y Construcción, dijo que los inesperados costos de construcción no son las únicas razones para las modificaciones.

“Los cambios se hicieron para acomodar el Sistema de Enfriamiento de Agua de Aire Acondicionado que tiene el resto del campus” dijo Boland.

El único problema con ello era que ampliar el sistema por la calle Sugar requería esa parte del campos para instalar tubería de enfriamiento de agua para bombear agua helada al sistema. Como por el momento no se hace, se tuvo que tomar la decisión.

“Se tomó la decisión, ya que sabemos que en el futuro construiremos más y más ahí, que vamos a ampliar las líneas de enfriamiento de agua a esa parte del campus de manera que podamos enfriar esos edificios así como futuros edificios” expreso Price. “Eso fue costoso”.

De hecho, dijo Condit es un proyecto de \$1.2 millones. Cerca de la mitad de ese gasto es compartido entre

los presupuestos de los nuevos dormitorios, el Centro de Recreación y Bienestar y el Proyecto de Centro de Salud (actualmente en planeación). La universidad cubre la otra mitad.

Price está de acuerdo con la decisión de la universidad, a pesar del costo.

“La universidad tiene que ver más ampliamente en términos de necesidad no solamente para este proyecto inmediato, sino a largo plazo, de manera que puedo comprender por qué lo hicieron” dijo.

Pero algunos, incluyendo Martín, no supieron sobre el predicamento hasta que la decisión fue anunciada.

“No estaba muy seguro sobre cómo se iba a construir o quien iba a cubrir el costo” dijo Martín “Entiendo que alguien tiene que hacerlo; tiene que venir de alguna parte. Actualmente existe un número de edificios para residencia planeados para esta área, en donde estamos construyendo la nueva. Es sólo cómo lo decidieron”.

Price agrega que entiende cómo algunos pueden estar molestos sobre el predicamento.

“Si hay algo o que la gente piensa que no es justo, es que fue decisión de la universidad y no de las personas que planearon la decisión del proyecto” agregó Price.

De acuerdo a Boland, los planificadores hicieron todo lo que pudieron para evitar el dilema.

“Hemos visto otros tipos de aire acondicionado, sin embargo, nuestro sistema actual es superior a los otros que fueron revisados” dijo

De hecho, pueden explorar la posibilidad de utilizar unidades de ventana, pero ello también tiene sus inconvenientes.

“La unidad de enfriamiento de ventana es más cara de operar pero más barata de instalar” dijo Price. “Y la mayoría de los ingenieros te dirán que no es un sistema tan bueno como uno central, pero son más costosos de instalar”. Al final, la universidad tomó su decisión final.

“El pagar por el nuevo sistema de enfriamiento fue un gran gasto”

declara Price. “Se podía haber hecho más barato en el presupuesto original, pero la universidad tomo su decisión que a largo plazo era en el mejor interés el tener este mejor sistema”.

Además, dice Condit, aunque muchos creen que fue simplemente una decisión de la universidad, existe otra fuente menos conocida. “Esto es un proyecto OFBC, Oficina de Instalaciones y Construcción en Austin, y tienen requisitos muy estrictos sobre aire acondicionado y para todo realmente” dijo.

Mientras que para algunos los cambios los tomaron por sorpresa, Price expresa que no fueron tan repentinos.

“Algunos de los involucrados no se sorprendieron de que tuvimos que hacer cortes significativos” dice. “Pienso por esa ente para quienes los cambios no fueron tan bruscos”.

Explicó que mientras este grupo trabajaba en cambiar el edificio para ajustarlo al presupuesto, otro grupo trabajaba en tratar de hacer que el presupuesto se ajustara a los planes de construcción.

“Quizá otras personas estaban más optimistas en que aquellas realidades presupuestales no tendrían un gran impacto” agregó. “De manera que

cuando ocurrió, fue para ellos una gran sorpresa”.

Price agregó que el pronóstico para la inclusión de todas las habitaciones planeadas inicialmente son inflexibles.

“Creo que en las últimas semanas, nos hemos dado cuenta que hemos agotado todas las oportunidades y todas nuestras otras opciones para considerar el aumento al presupuesto” dijo.

Sin embargo, algunos incluyendo Condit permanecen optimistas hasta el último minuto.

“Nuestra intención es construirlos, porque sabemos que los necesitamos” expresó. “Solo queremos asegurarnos que tenemos el presupuesto. Una vez que se desarrolle el proyecto, podríamos hacer lo que llamamos “recuperar” las habitaciones”.

Por ahora, Condit agrega que probablemente echarán concreto en donde saben que estarán las habitaciones, porque siempre podrán vaciar más para agregar habitaciones extras si el presupuesto lo permite.

Martín, “expresa esperanzas” pero tiene sentimientos encontrados.

“Tendremos un buen edificio” declara. “¿Todos lo querrán? No lo sé. Pero de todas formas será un gran edificio”.



Melissa Martinez/The Pan American

BAILANDO - Maria Bulicaria baila mientras vende los periódicos en la esquina de Universidad y McCall en Ediburgo

The Pan American esta disponible
en el sitio:

www.panam.edu/dept/panamerican



- Music in the Valley. . . . 8 & 9
- Jazz club 10
- Folk music 10

Cult classic brought to campus theatre

By **MEREDITH LAGRONE**
The Pan American

A cult classic is making its way to The University of Texas-Pan American, with the impending performance of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show." The production runs in the Albert Jeffers Theatre, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.

"Rocky Horror" has been a favorite since the '70s when it escalated from a small experiment on a London stage to a full-blown major motion picture starring famous actors such as Tim Curry, Susan Sarandon and Meatloaf.

The story centers around Dr. Frank N. Furter, a transvestite from a planet called Transylvania situated in the galaxy of Transylvania. An average American couple finds themselves trapped in the domicile of Furter and experience an outrageous sexual adventure.

Director Joel Lamar Cruz is a graduate of UTPA with a degree in theatre. He has been involved in productions all over the Valley and has done about 30 shows.

"I've done everything for the show, the musical direction, the costume designing, most of it has come from ideas I've had," said Cruz. "The cast is really wonderful; they all seem so excited about the

show, and I'm thrilled to be doing it."

Adriana Lopez is one of those cast members. She is not a student at UTPA, but is a native of the Valley. Lopez earned her bachelor's degree in anthropology from Brown University and has been involved in theatre and dance her whole life.

"I play the usherette, and I'm also in the phantom group," she said. "I really like what we're doing, and I think Joel is a great director. He really knows what he wants, and that's important as a director. You want someone to lead and guide you, and Joel does that."

Playing the lead role of Furter is Johnathan Torres, a sophomore performance major at UTPA, who also enjoys working with Cruz.

"He has a really good idea of his vision of this performance," he said. "I've worked with him before, and he has a way of getting the best musically that I haven't really seen with any other directors."

Torres said he enjoys the role but had the interesting challenge of learning to walk in stilettos.

"Recently when we've been performing with the crazy outfits, I've had a blast," he said. "We're dressing up in corsets and we're wearing stilettos. My

legs are a lot more defined now, and I've been wearing high heels the whole time to stay used to it."

Torres added that while some men might feel threatened by wearing lingerie, he is secure enough in his masculinity to get past that and enjoy it. Men wearing stilettos is just one theme in the play that might make older faculty members uneasy, he said.

"I think it's great we're doing it at Pan Am right now," he said. "This is not a main stage production. The main stage plays don't have a record of anything too risqué. I hope this will open the door for future main stage productions with a twist."

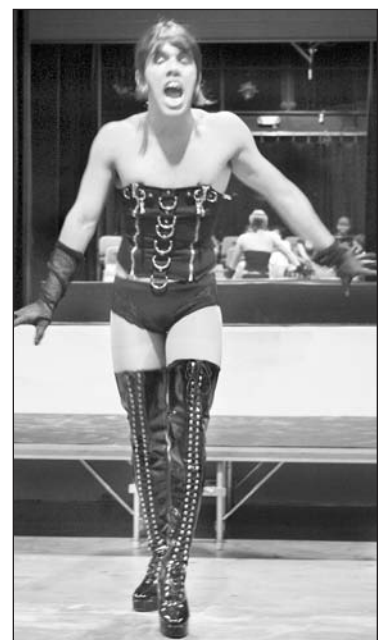
HOW WILL IT PLAY IN PEORIA?

Since the main character is a lacy lingerie-clad transvestite, a question posed is, Will the Valley accept a production of this nature?

"I don't think the transsexual or gender issues will have a major effect on the students," said Cruz. "It's just a fun show to watch and take part in. People who are familiar with the cultish environment are really going to appreciate it."

Torres, however, has a different take on the way people will react to "Rocky Horror."

"I think there is a transsexual sector here in the Valley. I've been kind of researching stuff like that," he said. "I've found out there is a small group of people cross-dressing, there's a small lesbian/gay community that's really close. There are a few clubs here in the Valley where people



Melissa Martinez/*The Pan American*
SCREAMER - Johnathan Torres, theater performance sophomore, takes his stance in "The Rocky Horror Picture Show."

will meet and have runway shows. It should be fun for those people to have something to come and see."

Lopez believes the show will bring a bit of diversity to the Valley.

"I do think that this show is something that the Valley rarely sees," she said. "I think it's good because it's bringing another perspective. As many people as can should come to see the show just to see something different."

She added that the age difference in Valley residents might make a difference in whether the play is accepted.

"I feel the younger population in the Valley has grown up with a little more diverse perspective," she said. "I think they would be more open than the older population, but I think you're still going to find controversy coming from all scopes."

Cruz wants to make sure the audience knows how racy his production is going to be.

"We want people to dress up like the play is done traditionally," he said. "We haven't asked anyone to, but we expect people to. We want everyone to know that the show is rated MA-17. If you're under 17, you're welcome as long as you come with a parent. The show is going to be really hot."

RGV gaining popularity for butterfly watchers

By **MARK LAGUNEZ**
The Pan American

Students walking between classes, focusing on school, trying to remember what distant corner of Edinburg their cars are parked, don't often take a minute to stop and appreciate the beauty of our natural surroundings. However, those who do briefly divert attention away from their studies can see why the Rio Grande Valley is gaining worldwide notoriety as a hotspot for rare and beautiful butterflies.

According to an editorial in this month's Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine, the Valley is home to more than 300 butterfly species out of 700 in the United States, with at least 75 unique to the area. This fall's butterfly boom will be celebrated by the 10th annual Texas Butterfly Festival (TBF) hosted by the Greater Mission Chamber of Commerce. The festival will be held Oct. 20-23 at the Mission Parks and Recreation Building on 8th and Bryan.

Farwa Naqvi, tourism director for the Mission Chamber of Commerce, expects TBF to draw at least 2,000 tourists and local attendees. The festival includes seminars, fieldtrips, children's activities and other events that appeal to a wide audience.

"We have self-guided tours and fieldtrips," Naqvi said. "As far as the bigger places like NABA

[International Butterfly Park], we have close arrangements with them. We've also partnered with the STC department of biology for some really cool activities that are educational and fun."

Among the special events is a BBQ dinner Saturday 6 p.m. at Rancho El Charco featuring John Acorn, host of Animal Planet's "Acorn, The Nature Nut," who will speak on the origins of butterfly study and its spread from Europe to the rest of the world. The fee is \$25 and transportation will be provided.

Another major attraction, especially for kids, is the Butterfly Conservatory.

"The Conservatory is a large tent with butterflies inside," Naqvi said. "Kids go in and get to touch and play with them. My favorite part [of TBF] is the children's activities and costume parade."

The Conservatory offers a rare opportunity for people to feed butterflies by hand and examine them up close. Tickets can be purchased on site.

For those who want to get out and see butterflies in the wild, TBF has a host of field trips that extend through nearly every part of the Valley. Special Events Coordinator Betty Muro ranks the Rio Grande canoe fieldtrip as her top pick.

"[The trip] is just a real neat experience," said Muro. "You get to go on the Rio Grande, find bodies - just kidding - you just go back and forth between the

U.S. and Mexico. It's so cool. There are no barriers."

Muro also suggests the coastal butterflies fieldtrip on Thursday and Sunday, which is well-recommended by butterfly experts. A \$50 fee will take visitors to several sites such as the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, Laguna Madre Nature Trail and other pre-scouted areas. Considering the fuel cost of driving to the beach it's a good deal, and a snack lunch is included.

One of the best locations to see butterflies is the NABA International Butterfly Park, west of Mission near Bentsen State Park. Over the course of the festival, guided trips through the park will be available and a behind-the-scenes tour on Thursday, \$40 each. Self-guided tours are free of charge, though.

"The park is open six days a week, every day except Monday," said park director Sue Sill. "There's no admission charge, but donations are welcome. We're here for people to enjoy nature."

NABA International Butterfly Park currently spans five acres, but a full 100 acres under the park's ownership will be developed in the months and years to come.

"We've seen well over 150 different butterfly species [in the park]," Sill said. "We've planted nectar and host plants so that butterflies will lay eggs, and it's been successful so far. Almost 100 percent of

the plants here are native plants."

TBF's butterfly of the year, the thick-tipped greta, never before seen in the United States, was spotted just outside the park during last year's festival. It also graces the cover of this year's TBF brochure.

"It's very eye-catching," said Naqvi. "When people see it, they go 'Wow!' You won't find it anywhere else, not even in the Valley."

Although it's likely the greta won't be spotted for another 100 years, 10 butterfly species previously undocumented in the United States have been recorded in the area since 2003. So there's always the chance for a new discovery.

Regardless of which events captivate your interest, Naqvi and Muro both urge attendees to make reservations and buy tickets in advance. Last year, 90 percent of the events sold out. This year's turnout is anticipated to be even greater.

Students and organizations from the University of Texas-Pan American are also invited to take part in the festivities and volunteer.

Volunteers will receive complimentary meals and a souvenir T-shirt. Anyone interested in volunteering and/or attending the festival, seminars or fieldtrips, may contact Betty Muro at 1-800-580-2700 or visit the festival's Web site at www.texasbutterfly.com.

Last weekend a variety of artists and organizers put together the Ninth Annual Latin Jazz Festival.

Sponsored by the Brownsville Society for the Performing Arts (BSPA), and to benefit in part the Capitol Street Theater Restoration Project, attendees experienced a plethora of sights and sounds throughout the four-day event.

George Ramirez, president of the BSPA, was in charge of organizing the festival, and explained the purpose of the society and festival.

"There are 14 of us on the board, we don't really have a membership campaign," he said. "We're all volunteers. We all get together every year and do the festival. The mission is to present, as best we can, what is not already commercially offered to the public...[And] we raise money to survive to the next show."

"The idea was to create an event that would be attractive to all Latin Americans, not just *mexicanos* like myself or [roughly] 90 percent of the people here in the Valley. As the Valley grows, there are more and more residents."

"[These] are the roots of our music...Afro-Cuban music. What didn't come from these roots is so contagious, no matter where you come from you can be the biggest Anglo in town and you still want to dance."

This year featured acts ranging from "King of the Congas," Giovanni Hidalgo, Chuchito Valdes with Rosalia de Cuba - performing together for the first time ever in the Valley - and a variety of local Latin Jazz ensembles, including the University of Texas-Brownsville's One and Two O'Clock Bands.

The UTB jazz bands have performed every year since the festival's inception, when they performed with the late Tito Puente Sr., with the one exception being last year when they had to drop out due to scheduling conflicts.

Tommy Fraga, a music professor at UTB and the director of the Two O'Clock Band, believes that the festival is important to performer and patron alike.

"It gives [the students in the UTB jazz bands] a chance to perform," Fraga said. "Which is wildly important. Getting nervous, playing nervous, all that stuff. If it brings people out, it's worth it. I've seen



Joel de la Rosa/The Pan American

there's not a lot to do here. People like this who are putting on this event are trying very hard to bring culture and make things happen here."

These are the sounds:

By JASON CHAPA/The Pan American



Joel de la Rosa/The Pan American

Others agreed with this assessment.

"They're fine young musicians, it's an honor to play with them," said Matt Johnson, an assistant professor of psychology at UTB who played bass with the One O'Clock Band. "The band has come a long way in the last month. They started out shaky, but after this last week we're starting to sound like a really strong band. That's good, that's the way I wanted it to be."

Alejandra Gutierrez-Borja is a sophomore music education major at UTB who performed with the Two O'Clock Band. She played at the third festival and has played jazz across the country.

"The festival is great," she said. "It's grown a lot over the years. They actually have barricades, where the last time we didn't even have a stage. 'I'm actually glad to see we have taco stands,' she added, about the variety of vendors new to the festival.

"The first year there were five, six hundred people," said Ramirez. "Up to the last year it could have been an easy three or four thousand.

And when you look at all the people that come and go throughout the day, there must be 10,000. It's a very popular event. It's really my favorite because this is the one where the entire demographics show up."

"Last night's event, 'A Night at the Copa with Giovanni,' underwrote this free event," he said. "People who could afford to pay a little more did last night, and this is their gift to everyone that's out here, enjoying the concert for free."

Putting on or performing in the event has its own woes, however. The UTB jazz bands could not attend any of the previous events, as they were hard at work practicing for the opening performance of Sunday's free performances. Almost all the other performers were frantically trying to keep up to schedule. But Ramirez feels it is well worth it.

"My favorite part of the festival is when it's over," he said. "The event is a very difficult and complicated thing to put together, but I love to see the first acts and I love to see the last acts."

"Our first event was real successful, we had a more than a thousand people there and it was also a free event. We had another called 'Latin Dance Night'...and that was...probably the first time we've ever sold out anything."

"It's kind of ironic the premiere dance event is in Brownsville, but the salsa dance clubs are up in McAllen, Mission, Edinburg. [But] we're super happy to have all from the Upper Valley

come down."

What it all comes down to is the music itself. At first, there was one couple dancing, much to the bemusement of the crowd. By the end of the night, when the major acts took the stage, hundreds, if not a thousand, according to Ramirez, joined in, doing their part to make the Brownsville Latin Jazz Festival successful.



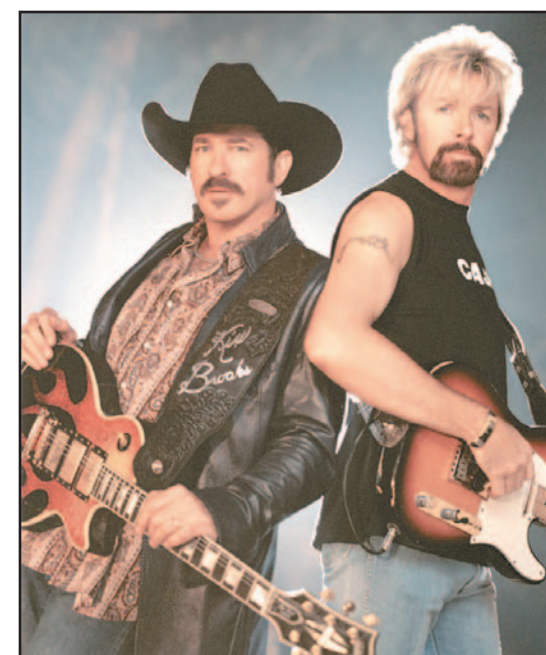
Joel de la Rosa/The Pan American
BOOM BOOM BOOM - Melena performs with her Afro-Cuban band Sunday night at the Latin Jazz Festival.

a look at the Valley's diverse music scenes

Get into Dodge: More acts to the Arena this season

By JEANETTE FERRY-GOMEZ
The Pan American

The Dodge Arena is well known for its ability to reel in big acts for South Texas audiences. Past performers that have made their way into the Arena include Jesse McCartney, Juan Gabriel, Alan Jackson, The Gypsy Kings and Thalia. Upcoming artists Hootie and the Blowfish and Brooks



Brooks and Dunn/William Morris Agency

and Dunn will appear in November.

But despite the fame of performers, a lot of work other than star power goes into putting on a show. Technical production, public relations and marketing are all vital components to making sure a performance goes off without a hitch.

"The production that goes behind the shows is incredible and not only the artists are talented but the whole production team that makes everything possible," said Yajaira Flores, the new director of marketing at the arena. Flores used to work with Nano Ramirez for the La Villa Real Special Events Center in McAllen and has racked up three years in the industry working in promotion and marketing.

Another key player behind the scenes is Louis F. Rivera II, acting general manager of the Dodge Arena, commented on his favorite performer to come to the Dodge Arena.

"My favorite performer to come to the arena thus far has been Santana," said Rivera, of the classic guitar rocker who played Oct. 5. "I would love to have Shakira, George Strait and Elton John perform here at the Dodge Arena."

Rivera hails all the way from Rutgers University in New Jersey. In addition to booking acts he is also in charge of marketing and sales, group sales, corporate sponsorships, club seats and suites and ticket sales.

"Last night was the second of two shows in a row that we had Luis Miguel," said Flores of the Latin Pop star. "Luis Miguel was one of our first performers at the Dodge Arena. He performed two nights in a row about two years ago, and he came back and did it again. Over 10,000 people attended. You know we have something special when in two years we have the huge artists coming back."

Miguel has won four Grammy awards and three world music awards; his CDs have sold over 60 million copies worldwide. Flores and

his crew can count on big crowds for his shows.

The most important component of any concert is the fans. Without people to fill the seats performances usually go bust.

"We will continue to bring in amazing shows as long as our community wants to see them," commented Flores. "There is nothing as fulfilling as a full house. The thing I enjoy the most about my job is to see the fan's reactions." For more information about the Dodge Arena and upcoming acts click www.dodgearena.com.



Hootie and the Blowfish/Welk Music Group

Heart from the heartless: Bands break the silence

By JOEY GOMEZ
The Pan American

There is no doubt that there is a healthy music culture in the Valley, and it doesn't always sport an accordion.

But anyone willing to take in the RGV's best has to look beyond the club circuit. Apparently, one finds the best music where it is least expected. A prime example is the most recent showcase for heavy music coming from within the confines of a Tejano bar.

Last week 14 bands, indicative of the many varieties of music found in the Rio Grande Valley and beyond, converged beneath the radar at the Tejano Saloon in Pharr.

Organized by Rick Manzo of Break the Silence Productions along with the Red Cross, the Helping Hands Benefit Concert was booked to support victims of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

"We want to show that the rock scene in the Valley cares about something," Manzo said. "The bands playing here are amazing, they play their hearts out."

Bands had only 15 minutes to perform. The result was a screaming wall of sound that only offered a small taste of the region's best performers.

Manzo himself fronts the band Faultered State from Weslaco, playing a music he describes on the band's Web site as "melodic hard rock," citing Ill Nino and 12 Stones as influences.

Well-known rock outfits like Driving the Nails performed early. The South Texas band has opened for Tantric and Austin-based Powderburn in the past.

Pending Fate brought their fusion of tough American metal and new Euro metal to the stage, bringing their influences like Pantera and Killswitch Engage with them in their music.

One band had different motives for playing the benefit gig. "A lot of people died," said member TranceLegion of the black metal band Of Forsaken Divinity. "We're the funeral

music for those people who died in Hurricane Katrina as they transcend into something better...we're the elegy for it.

"It's mournful music," TranceLegion added. "It has a lot to do with death...we try to put as much dark emotion as we can

■ "We're the funeral music for those people who died in Hurricane Katrina as they transcend into something better."

-TranceLegion, Of Forsaken Divinity

into it."

Members of the band said they try to support the region's local metal scene which they describe as a growing entity, "very tight, very united" in an incredible Texas metal music scene.

San Antonio-based band Broken Down finished the evening.

"Our basic purpose is the benefit (concert)," drummer Roland Savedra said. "This allows us to participate in something



Pepe Cavitt, Drummer of Horny Frog Joey Gomez/The Pan American

very positive...I've seen hands on how bad it [Katrina] is. "In San Antonio we have refugees so we met people just like that on the street, This is something we can basically release ourselves in and do something positive."

Break the Silence Productions made a splash earlier this year with Rock Relief, a benefit concert that raised \$4,000 for victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster in 2004. That time, 20 bands performed on two separate stages.

"We still get good response," Savedra said. "Here, everyone's real open minded, everybody's really into music, not actually of what you are or what you stand for...we get real good positive feedback in this area."



Seraphace, Of Forsaken Divinity Joey Gomez/The Pan American

Folk songs gain new audience

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

If you grew up in the Valley, chances are that you've heard a corrido. A *corrido* is a song sung in Spanish that tells a story. *Corridos* date back many years and for a while seemed to have dropped from circulation.

Until a few years ago, corridos were something of the past, but Univision Radio and KGBT 98.5 FM have brought these Mexican folk songs back into the mainstream with Ramiro Olvera and his show "Corridos Perrones," which is aired Monday thru Friday from 10:00p.m. to 12:00 midnight. The unbelievable thing is that this music is not only being enjoyed by older adults, but young adults as well.

"My boyfriend and my brother-in-law listen to *corridos* while hanging out with friends," said Melissa Solis, a student here at UTPA. "To me it seems like more of a guy thing than a cultural thing."

While out at a local night spot, Brenda Huerta, News Community Relations Director for Univision Radio heard the loud base of the sound systems of cars passing and realized that the youngsters inside the cars were listening to *corridos*.

"It's really funny because you'll hear the cars with sixteen, seventeen, eighteen year olds listening to *corridos*, and *corridos* are old school," said Huerta.

Because corridos are a part of the Mexican and Mexican-American heritage, it is only right that it is preserved among the younger generations. But for *Corridos Perrones* to have as much of an impact as it has is amazing.

"I was parking my car at a football game and

this kid came up and said, "You're with KGBT, and I said yes sir and he says I love *Corridos Perrones*. You don't play enough of them, there's not enough of them. A little kid, about sixteen. I said, you listen to *corridos*? Yeah, especially Friday nights man, there's nothing better," said Joe Morales general manager at Univision Radio. "It's an incredible concept that we have with *corridos*. We've never done it before and it's a very special showcase or a special feature that we have and yet it's got a very strong penetration of listeners."

Corridos Perrones not only plays *corridos*, but takes calls from the public as well. You can hear song or birthday dedications, shout outs, and requests throughout the show. Listeners of the show are not only calling in from the Valley, but from across the border also.

"We're basically heard everywhere (in the Valley) including in Mexico, because we have the reach into Mexico," said Huerta.

When you hear the *corridos*, it's like listening to country songs. *Corridos* have real feeling and emotion that is matched with a beat. These folk songs are legendary and it is a shame that many young people today have never even heard of a *corrido*. There is no comparison among the music today and the *corridos* of the past. The words of the *corrido* are real and tell stories that have been past down for generations.

And to add to the success of *Corridos Perrones* is the recent change of 96.1 "The Beat," Univision's only hip-hop station, to 96.1 "Recuerdos." With this change comes a variety of Spanish music that will add to what Univision Radio already has to offer. To those at Univision Radio this is definitely a step in the right direction.

Recital hall becomes jazz club

By **ANGELA SALAZAR**
The Pan American

When people think of jazz, they may think of a dark back room in a club filled with smoke, and people clapping their hands and tapping their feet to music. Last week Mark J. Ramirez turned the university music department's recital hall into a downtown jazz club when he performed his faculty recital.

The Brownsville native and assistant professor of percussion studies said that the recital is to celebrate jazz music. Ramirez was banging on the drums while his guest artists Daniel Hidalgo, Joe Chapa and Santiago Castillo rounded out the quartet on piano, tenor saxophone and bass.

"We will be performing music from different artists and different time periods out of the history of jazz. Such as 'The Matrix' by Chick Corea, 'Song for my Father,' by Horace Silver, 'Nothing Personal,' by Michael Brecker, 'Lament,' by J.J. Johnson, and 'Mr. PC,' by John Coltrane," he said before the show.

The quartet opened with "Song for my Father," which seemed to fill the room with a light and airy sound. Each instrument seemed like a piece to a puzzle, which when put together made for fantastic music.

Ramirez has attended the University of Texas in Austin, the University of New Mexico and the University of North Texas. According to his biography, he has performed and collaborated under the direction of some of the leading musical authorities including Pulitzer Prize-winning composers John

Corigliano, David Del Tredici and William Bolcom, and Prix de Rome recipient Kevin Puts.

After being away from the Valley for 14 years, Ramirez decided it was time to come back to his family and to his home state.

"When this position opened up it offered me the opportunity to return to the Valley and to contribute something to a community that I was basically born and raised in," said Ramirez

"How great the opportunity, to come back not only to the Valley, but to an institution where both my mother and father had come to school, and be a professor. To me it's part of a cycle that will hopefully contribute to our community here as a whole."

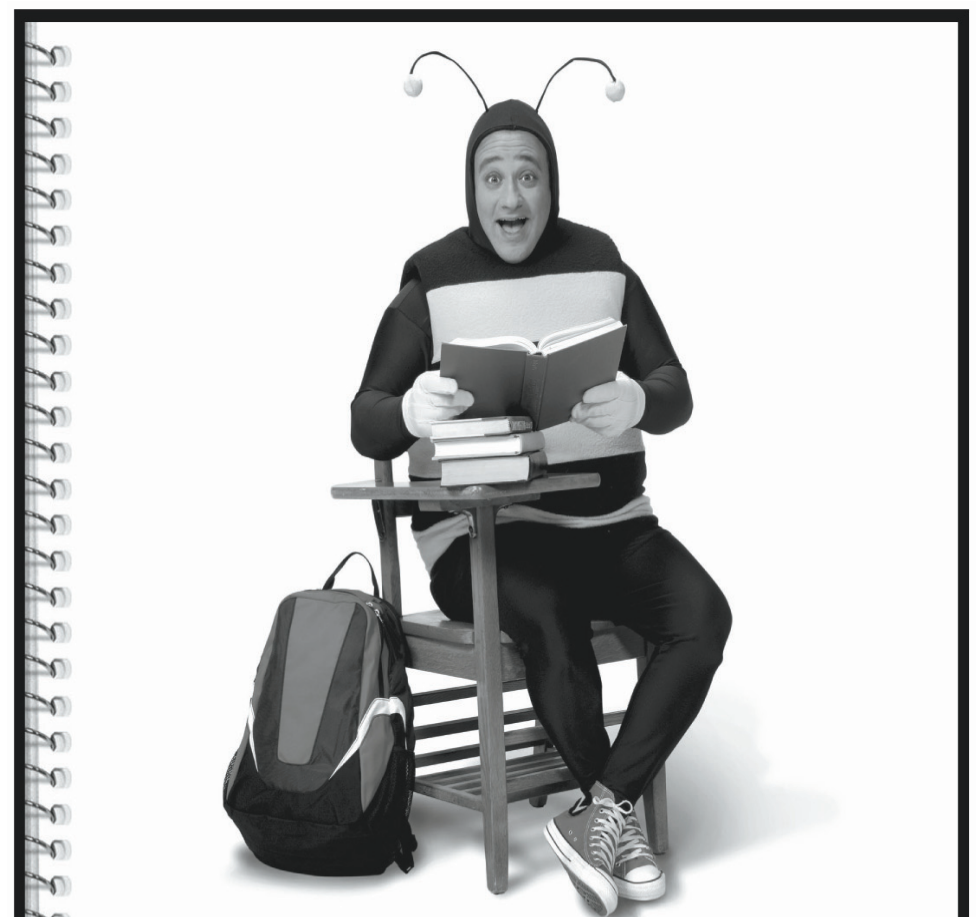
The performance was invigorating. Usually the music heard around campus is the typical radio hip-hop or pop music that students enjoy. Rarely do students have the opportunity to hear music that has influenced almost all genres.

"I don't usually listen to much jazz," said Michael Cruthirds, a music education major. "I came here to be exposed to good jazz music."

Cruthirds is also a percussion student of Ramirez and says that every semester the music becomes more and more challenging.

"He [Ramirez] raises the bar quite a bit, but with good results," said Cruthirds.

Sometimes people need to take breaks from the everyday mainstream pop music that is fed to us, and explore something different. Jazz is not a staple here at UTPA, but it is apparent that it is becoming more popular and visible in the music department.



Get to class

with an IBC Student Loan.

Whether it's your first college loan or your last, IBC can help you get to class. In fact, consolidate your student loans at IBC and we'll lock in today's low interest rates for the duration of your loan. Plus, there's no penalty for early repayment – which makes an IBC Student Loan a no-brainer. For your convenience IBC also offers:

- **FREE** Checking with *Overdraft Courtesy*®
- **FREE** Bank Online
- **FREE** Online Bill Pay
- **ATM** banking at over 300 locations
- **Now 23** area branches with 13, 7-day locations

956-686-0263
www.ibc.com

* Effective 30 days after account is opened and qualified. Insufficient funds charges apply.
** Up to 15 items per month, \$0.50 each thereafter.
MEMBER FDIC/INTERNATIONAL BANCSHARES CORPORATION

IBC
BANK
We Do More

EL BOSQUE APARTMENTS

- New look in our 1, 2, 3 Bd floor plans
- Walk to UTPA
- Two Pools
- BBQ Grills
- On site courtesy officer
- Two Laundry Centers
- Designer Interiors
- Lots of closet space
- Tennis court

"Manager Special"
Sign a 9 or 12 mo. lease and get 1/2 month free!

(956) 383-8382
(956) 383-6162

Lisa Ramsey,
Manager
1609 W. Schunior
Edinburg, TX 78539

PROUD TO SERVE UTPA!

SAFETY continued from page 1

crimes, important telephone numbers, and other information.

The report, which is a federal regulation, is compiled by Office of the Dean of Students and the University Police Department and students are informed about it through their campus e-mail account and by mail.

"The main thing is to let students and anyone else who is interested know the occurrence of crime on and around campus," Dean of Students Dr. Jerry Price said. "The purpose of the report is to inform current students, prospective students and families about what kind of crimes have happened on campus and the frequency of occurrence."

The report includes telephone numbers for emergencies, non-emergencies, crime stoppers, alcohol and drug abuse programs, hospital, fire department, student health center and others. It also includes information on reporting crimes, on maintenance, standards of conduct, on sexual assault, and hazing.

It also provides students with a chart of crime statistics that show offenses committed on campus, off campus, in residential facilities and on public property surrounding the campus. It also breaks down crime frequency and occurrence by year.

According to the chart, on-campus theft was the biggest problem in 2004 with 85 incidents. Burglary came in second with 23 occurrences on

■ "The main thing is to let students and anyone else who is interested know the occurrence of crime on and around campus."

- Jerry Price
Dean of students

public property in 2004.

"The nice thing about the reporting requirements is if something endangers the health and safety of the students, faculty, or staff, a crime alert goes out," said Christine Carruthers, assistant director of the Office of Student Life and Transition Services,

Carruthers works alongside the University Police Department to prepare this report. If a crime alert has to be released, it would be done through campus e-mail.

Sophomore kinesiology major Daisy Hinojosa agrees that the Cleary Act is helpful and reassuring when it comes to feeling secure on campus.

"It makes me feel safe knowing that there is a report on campus safety," she said. "Compared to other universities I feel that it is safe because I have friends at other universities and it's not as safe, according to the stories that I have heard."

The Campus Safety Report is available to the public at www.panam.edu/campussafety

Contacts that keep you safe

Emergencies: Police/Fire Medical	9-1-1
Non-Emergencies (General Assistance)	381-2737
Edinburg Police Department	383-7411
Edinburg Fire Department	383-2323
Crime Stoppers	381-2666
Edinburg Hospital	388-6000
Office of the Dean of Students	381-2260
Student Health Center	381-2511
Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program	381-2659
Counseling Center	381-2527

WIRELESS continued from page 1

Over 1,000 users accessed the network before it came on officially. It is expected that up to 2,000 students will utilize the wireless network, including those using laptops, PDAs and other wireless capable equipment.

Steve Copold, UTPA director of telecommunication services, believes the possible uses of the new wireless network will go a long way toward promoting a better learning environment.

"It puts all the technology that's available through the network at the student's fingertips at a time and place of their choosing, not ours," Copold said. "I think that really promotes study habits and work groups because you're no longer dependent on reserving a lab and having 'x' number of wall outlets."

Copold also noted that the wireless network could also be used to track university equipment, provide security personnel with a means to monitor expensive equipment and allow for wireless telephone communication.

UTPA did not complete this massive feat alone.

In fact, the university had consultation assistance for the creation of the wireless network from a high-profile company, Lockwood Greene. Founded in 1832, it is the oldest company in the United States aiding in industrial and technological designing. It's the same firm that helped with engineering consultation on the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.

Sophomore Rick Gamez, a computer science major, has welcomed the new wireless network with open arms. One of the first things he did upon learning about the wireless network was use it to research for one of his essays during lunch.

"It was pretty cool. I bought my lunch at the Union and then I went to one of the study rooms to get some work done," Gamez said. "I can finally eat and do work at the same time, since we can't eat in the computer labs."

Apart from his homework, Gamez is really looking forward to being able to use it for leisure.

"At least I know I can get online and chat during class if the professor starts rambling on," said Gamez.

DORM continued from page 1

According to Dean of Students Jerry Price, though the ideas were there and put into the plans, they were never set in stone.

"If, somehow, when we showed students the initial plans, we conveyed that as a promise, that was a mistake on our part," Price said. "Because whenever you do construction projects, you always design it and then the realities of the budget almost always cause you to have to change that plan."

All the tribulations encountered in the quest for new dorms come down to one six-letter word. BUDGET. In this case, there are two main factors that have put a strain on the allocated \$10.5 million budget, said Condit.

MONEY MATTERS

While rising gas prices remain a constant reminder to the public of the effects of the Hurricane Katrina and Rita, the effects are also felt on a business level, including dorm planning.

"The energy costs continue to go up, which affects the price of everything," Price said.

He added that while some materials for big projects like this one are supplied locally, others, such as concrete, steel, and glass, have to be obtained from outside the Valley.

"So the contractors have to get that material and transport it all the way down here and that adds a ton of money to the costs," Price added.

According to Condit, another reason is simply the materials themselves.

"Right now building costs are through the roof," Condit said. "On average, building costs and materials rise about 4 percent per year. From last year to this year, they have risen 10 percent."

Michael Boland, director of planning and construction, said unexpected building costs aren't the only reason for the modifications.

"The changes were made to accommodate the Chilled Water Air Conditioning System that the rest of the campus has," Boland said.

The only problem with this was that expanding the system across Sugar Road would require that side of campus to have chilled water pipes to pump cool water into the system. Since they don't at the moment, decisions had to be made.

"The decision was made, since we know in the future we're going to build more and more over there, that we're going to extend the chilled water line to that part of campus so that we can cool these buildings as well as future buildings," Price said. "That was expensive."

In fact, Condit said it is a \$1.2 million project. About half of that expense is shared between the budgets of the new dorms, the Recreation and Wellness Center and the Health Center Project (currently in planning). The university covers the other half.

Price agrees with the university's decision, despite the cost.

"The university has to look at the big picture in terms of the needs not just for this immediate project but down the road, so I can understand why they did that," he said.

But some, including Martin, were left in the dark about the predicament until after the decision was announced.

"I wasn't really sure how that was going to get built or who was going to cover the cost," Martin said. "I understand that somebody has to do that; it has to come from somewhere. Currently, there is a number of residence life

buildings planned for this area, where we're building the new one. It's just kind of how they decided on that."

Price adds that he understands how some might be upset over the predicament.

"If there's something that people think is unfair, it's that it was a university decision and not the people who planned the projects' decision," Price said.

And planners did all they could to avoid the dilemma, according to Boland.

"We had looked at other types of A/C systems, however, our present system is superior to the other types which were reviewed," he said.

In fact, they even explored the possibility of using window units, but that also had its drawbacks.

"The window-cool unit is more expensive to operate but cheaper to install," Price said. "And most engineers will tell you it's not as good of a system as the central system, but they are more expensive to put in."

In the end, the university made the final judgment.

"Paying for that new cooling system was a big expense," Price said. "It could have been done cheaper in the original budget, but the university made the decision that it was better for the long-term interests of the university to have this better system."

In addition, Condit says that, though many believe it was simply a university decision, there was also a lesser known source also calling shots.

"This is an OFBC project, Office of Facility Building and Construction out of Austin, and they have very stringent requirements for air conditioning and for everything, really," he said.

While some were shocked by the changes, Price says they weren't that sudden.

"Some people involved weren't surprised that we had to make significant cuts," he said. "I think for those people the changes didn't seem so sudden."

He went on to explain that while that a group of people was working on changing the building to fit the budget, another group was working on trying to get the budget to match the building plans.

"Maybe other people were more optimistic that those budget realities wouldn't have that big of an impact," he added. "So when that happened it was shocking to them."

Price added that the prognosis for the inclusion of all the initially planned rooms is grim.

"I think in the last few weeks, we have come to the realization that we've exhausted all of our opportunities and all of our other options to consider raising the budget," he said.

However, some including Condit, remain optimists to the last minute.

"It is our full intention to build them, because we know we need them," he said. "We just want to make sure the budget is there. Once the project develops, we may be able to, what we call, 'buy back' the rooms."

For now, Condit adds, that they will probably pour concrete where they know rooms will be, because they can always pour more to add on extra rooms if the budget permits.

Martin, however, is "still hopeful," but has mixed feelings.

"We will get a good building," he said. "Will it be all I wanted? I don't know. But it will still be a great building

ACCREDITATION

continued from page 3

the standard of education at the university level.

While there have been many refinements to the process in the past 110 years, developing standards for accreditation which identify and encourage quality improvement continues to be the principal role of SACS.

Although accreditation is not mandatory, UTPA chooses to be a member of SACS, and as such must undergo revision every 10 years. SACS Coordinator and Liaison William Turk of the political science department said the hassle is worth it.

"Knowing an institution is 'accredited' gives credibility to the classes being taught, professors who teach, and degrees awarded," said Turk. "Without accreditation, classes and degrees are worthless."

Mazariegos agrees with Turk on the utility of UTPA securing its accreditation once more.

"The process of re-accreditation is very important because it will reaffirm that UTPA is in compliance with the most important accrediting commission in the southern states," said Mazariegos.

The reaccreditation of an institution is a long and time-consuming project. While only a select group will be directly involved in the process, the entire university community will be affected in some way or another.

"Approximately 150-200 faculty, staff and students will be directly involved," said Turk. "However, every person associated with the university will have been contacted in some manner, will have responded to a survey, answered questions, furnished data or other information and/or attended a meeting. This process, ultimately, will involve everyone."

The university has formed three teams of faculty and staff who will work on compiling the

documents, records, and all sources of information relevant to re-accreditation. The leadership team will oversee the process.

"The leadership team will manage and validate the internal UTPA assessment of compliance with all Core Requirements and Comprehensive Standards," said Turk. "The team includes members with the skills, knowledge, and authority to lead this total institutional effort."

The other two groups are the compliance certification and quality enhancement teams.

There are 76 standards, criteria and/or principles to comply with; the compliance certification team will present evidence that UTPA has indeed met those terms.

While that team is busy compiling evidence from previous years, the quality enhancement team will be forming a plan for UTPA's future by designing a Quality Enhancement Plan.

"The Quality Enhancement Team will select a topic and design a plan which addresses an issue(s) that contributes to institutional improvement related to enhancing student learning at UTPA and describe a course of action for implementing, assessing, and institutionalizing the plan," said Turk. "The team's efforts will be directed toward fulfilling the forward-focusing aspect of the institution's application for renewal of accreditation."

The combination of the work done by the three teams will be presented to the SACS by early fall 2007 and the university will receive its response in December 2007.

With accreditation, SACS affirms that UTPA is in compliance with the basic standards and principles established for the 786 institutions of higher education in its region.

For more information on UTPA's re-accreditation process, visit <http://sacs.panam.edu>.

PROJECT

continued from page 3

\$2,500 was provided by Edventure Partners to the students to perform this project. Any other funding needed had to be sought out and obtained through donations. Last year, over \$10,000 worth of equipment was donated for a project with the CIA.

One of the largest struggles that project members have had to deal with is finding time to meet up to work. According to senior Christina Capetillo, a kinesiology major, coordinating a time that is convenient for all group members to meet and discuss the project has been one of the toughest things for them to do.

The work that has been completed so far by the students has caught the attention of many companies. Through word of mouth, new companies have approached UTPA in the hopes that the two classes would be able to work with them.

"One of the things that I believe has already happened is companies are hearing about the projects that have taken place and the projects that are taking place. During HESTEC, we were approached by a couple of Fortune 500 companies," Garza said.

NO ROOM AT THE INN

Unfortunately, they have had to turn those companies away. At the present time, there are not enough classes/students to take on all that work. In the future however, Garza hopes to extend the project to include more people. The addition of new students brings the possibility of fresh ideas and new perspec-

tives for future projects.

The students taking part in the project have received a small taste of what it is like to work for an advertising agency. Garza believes the benefits to the student are more than just real-life experience. It is also a chance to showcase their skills to the business world.

"As these companies see and are able to interact with our students through projects, it opens the door or at least allows these people to consider our students as capable as any student in the United States," stressed Garza. "We're looking for a joining of mutual interests where both sides win. The client wins and sees what we have to offer, and our students win because they get to actually experience what it is to be in that kind of work environment, and to work and meet deadlines and the challenge of what these companies are expecting of them."

Students who participated in the program in the past have said it was quite an experience. Alejandra Diaz, a graduate from May 2005, admitted that she picked up a lot of experiences being a part of the project with the CIA.

"It's a very good class. You'll learn a lot. It's not just learning what's in the book. It's actually applying everything you've learned in your career for somebody out there," said Diaz. "It actually gives you experience that you are going to be able to use in your future job."

HOTMAIL

continued from page 3

"The new account will allow students to keep their UTPA e-mail address forever, just like any other account," said Infante.

CLOCK TICKING

The change of service will happen, but it will take time. The university plans to make the transition with as little trauma as possible.

University personnel have to ease the UTPA community into the new e-mail accounts, while at the same time ensuring that messages are not lost in the process. For this reason, students will still be able to use UTPA Webmail, Pipeline, and Bronc Central until these servers fade away.

"We're switching over slowly," said Toal. "Students will still be able to read and access their current mail for up to two years."

Still, eventually, Oracle will be a thing of the past in terms of e-mail.

"At some point the old hardware will be taken out of commission," said Wiggins.

Employees at the university will also find their e-mail service changed as they move from Oracle to Microsoft Exchange 2003 by either the spring or the summer 2006 semesters.

"We will be going department to department to update the faculty and staff on the new server," said Wiggins.

Academic Computing will soon be notifying students by mail of the changes in e-mail providers.

"We are going to phase in the new system by working with the Student Government Association and our staff," said Wiggins.

DISABILITY

continued from page 3

with Hearing Loss," sponsored by the End Violence Against Women with Disabilities Project (EVAWD).

Jose Juan Lara, director of legal services for the Family Crisis Center, was one of the presenters at the event and explained that the mission of his organization is to create community awareness.

"People with a disability are at a high risk of being abused. Research indicates that it is usually a family member that is causing the abuse, whether it be domestic violence or child abuse," he said. "We need to educate the community, not only women but also men, that it is not acceptable behavior."

Jillian Romero, a senior majoring in rehabilitative services, attended the event and was surprised to learn how common it is for people with hearing impairments and other disabilities to be abused or ignored.

"What bothered me most was the way the deaf are so easily dismissed or disregarded by 'hearing' people as being incompetent," Romero said.

She also felt the event would help people become aware of domestic violence against individuals with disabilities.

"The number of people with disabilities is ever-growing," Romero said. "I can't think of one person I know who does not have a relative or a friend with some type of impairment. This conference could make people better aware of the warning signs and what to look for in victims of domestic violence."

The week ended with a technology fair on Thursday in the Ballroom where vendors displayed new technologies and equipment available to individuals with disabilities.

ROBOTS

continued from page 4

It's extremely difficult to build an autonomous robot and we only have six months to develop it."

The project receives money from sponsors such as Intel Corp. and the robotics lab.

While most of the students working on the robots are members of the student branch of IEEE, which was established at UTPA in 1999, membership in the organization is not mandatory for participation in the project. However, the IEEE's purpose complements the design course's expectations.

"Our main purpose is to promote the engineering process of creating, developing and applying knowl-

edge about electronic and information technologies," said senior electrical engineering major Sergio Roche, vice president of IEEE.

IEEE advisor, Edward Banatoski, says he is very pleased with all the work the students have done.

"I am proud to be affiliated with the Pan Am Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers student chapter," said Banatoski, a professor in the electrical engineering department. "The IEEE student members are highly motivated and have made the student chapter a success in terms of participation in local activities at UT- Pan Am."

SEATBELT

continued from page 4

Pharr, feels that the issue of occupant protection has become very popular with Americans over the past few years.

He also thinks that a recent increase in belt usage has a lot to do with how effective its endorsement has been.

"We try to hit it from all angles," said Leal. "TV, radio, you name it."

Students like Banda say they have noticed the public service announcements promoting seat belt usage.

"I've seen a TV commercial, but really when I notice it is in those big screens on the highways, like on the way to the beach," Banda said. "I also tend to hear about it on the radio, when they play those public service announcement jingles."

Leal has been working with the Click it or Ticket campaign for about six years, and he says it has been a great success thus far. He emphasizes that the goal of police departments participating in the campaign is not simply to "meet quotas."

"The officers aren't just out looking for seatbelts—they're doing their job," he explained. "If they find drugs on a person pulled over for not wearing their seatbelt, for example, they take it into account."

Eduardo Casas, a sophomore English major, doesn't let anyone ride in his car if they don't abide by his own seat belt regulation.

"If you get into my car, I make it a rule that you wear it. I care about my friends, my family, and their safety," he said.

SPORTS CLIPBOARD

Bronc moves to greener pastures Mancias currently an NBA trainer

A college education opens doors to many different possibilities, leading the committed to an infinite amount of opportunities. No one knows that more than Mike Mancias, who is a product of The University of Texas-Pan American system.

The Brownsville native is currently an assistant athletic trainer with the Cleveland Cavaliers of the NBA. His primary role with the organization is to assist the head athletic trainer with all daily treatments, rehabs, organizational and administrative duties as well as aid their strength and conditioning staff if the situation calls for it.

"A typical practice day has me in the office by 8:15 a.m., where I begin to set up our training room," Mancias commented. "Depending on the day's events, the head athletic trainer and I will usually be out of the arena by six or seven in the evening."

The Bronc alumnus was enrolled at UTPA from the spring of 1996-2000 pursuing a degree in athletic training. He then served as graduate assistant the following year with the university. After a year away, Mancias returned for another year as the assistant athletic trainer.

"I believe that UTPA gave me the initial opportunity to explore and test athletic training as a possible long-term career," Mancias said. "The experience and confidence the program gave me helped develop a passion for my job as an athletic trainer."

He worked as a volunteer athletic trainer during the 2003 and 2004 summer leagues with the Cavaliers, and said that he then became the team's season assistant athletic trainer during 2004-05 and was just recently hired full-time as the assistant athletic trainer.

"UTPA provided me with the experience and knowledge to succeed at this level," Mancias continued, adding that he enjoys what he does very much and where he is in his life, but he misses the Valley. "I also miss hanging out with my circle of close knit friends that I have had for several years," he continued.

Broncs improve in South Central Cross Country Poll Seniors lead way toward Independent Championships

In the latest South Central Cross Country poll, The University of Texas-Pan American men's cross country team was ranked seventh, which bettered its ranking by one spot from earlier in the season.

The Broncs finished in the poll standings behind Arkansas, Texas, Texas A&M, Rice, Stephen F. Austin and LSU. The only other notable institution that will be competing at the National Independent Championships on Oct. 29 that also appeared on the poll was Texas A&M-Corpus Christi at 10th.

Influencing the voting of the polls was the Broncs' performance at the very competitive Pre-Nationals meet in Terre Haute, Ind., where they team finished 28th overall.

The Broncs were led by senior Westly Keating who finished third with a time of 23:43 in the 8K race. It was his third straight top-four finish this season. Rounding the corner was Hector Gandara, who crossed the finish line in 76th place.

The regional rankings are voted on by cross country coaches at NCAA institutions included in the South Central Region.

Lady Bronc trio earns weekly Independent honors All three are repeat winners.

For the second consecutive week, three members of The University of Texas-Pan American women's volleyball team were selected to the Independent Player of the Week teams announced on Wednesday.

Freshman Kellie Phillips captured Independent Newcomer of the Week laurels for the second straight week and third time this season as she finished with 43 kills in three matches, averaging 3.58 kills per game to go along with 39 total digs.

Newcomer Chelsea Blakely earned Setter of the Week honors for the second consecutive week as she recorded 153 assists, averaging 12.75 assists per game, while collecting a pair of matches of 60 or more assists. The UTPA setter also notched a pair of double-doubles (assists-digs) and upped her total to six on the season.

Junior Chrissie Carrigan was another repeat award winner as she was selected with Defensive Player of the Week honors for the second time this season. The Lady Broncs' libero finished with 56 digs in three matches, averaging 4.67 digs per game as UTPA went 2-1 during the week.

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

UTPA Sports Information

FOR THE RECORD

UTPA SPORTS

Cross Country

Men's
Pre-Nationals
Oct. 15

- Stanford
- Brigham Young
- Georgetown
- Kansas
- Dartmouth
- Virginia
- Florida State
- Indiana
- Oklahoma State
- Ohio State
- Cal Poly-Slo
- Tennessee
- UCLA
- Northern Arizona
- Butler
- Weber State
- North Carolina State
- Oregon
- Louisville
- California-Santa Barbara
- Georgia
- Miami-Ohio
- Ohio
- Loyola
- Wake Forest
- Villanova
- Rice
- 28. UT-Pan American**
- Purdue
- Oakland
- Texas Christian
- Cincinnati
- North Carolina Charlotte

Individual stats:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------|
| 3. Westly Keating | 23:43 |
| 76. Hector Gandara | 24:52 |
| 191. Luis Nava | 26:12 |
| 196. J.J. Hernandez | 26:18 |
| 209. Alex Moncivais | 27:02 |
| 215. Juan Davila | 28:01 |

2005 Cross Country schedule and results

- | | | |
|----------|----------------------------|------|
| Sept. 17 | Rice Invitational | 2nd |
| Oct. 1 | Cowboy Jamboree | 6th |
| Oct. 15 | Pre-Nationals Meet | 28th |
| Oct. 29 | Independent Championships | |
| Nov. 12 | NCAA South Central Champs. | |
| Nov. 22 | NCAA Championships | |

Women's

Texas Lutheran Invitational
Oct. 15

- Texas
- UT-Pan American**
- Trinity
- Southwestern Univ.
- St. Mary's
- Texas Lutheran
- Univ. of Dallas
- Sul Ross State Univ.

Individual stats:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------|
| 4. Ashley Perez | 24:01 |
| 7. Karla Hernandez | 24:13 |
| 12. Rose Escovedo | 24:47 |
| 16. Sara Rodriguez | 25:01 |
| 20. Sharon Torotich | 25:14 |
| 24. Lorraine Garcia | 25:26 |

2005 Cross Country schedule and results

- | | | |
|----------|----------------------------|------|
| Sept. 17 | Rice Invitational | 6th |
| Oct. 1 | Cowboy Jamboree | 14th |
| Oct. 15 | Texas Lutheran Invit. | 2nd |
| Oct. 29 | Independent Championships | |
| Nov. 12 | NCAA South Central Champs. | |
| Nov. 22 | NCAA Championships | |

Tennis

Men's
UTSA Tennis Invitational
Oct. 11

Singles

Consolation Championship

Rehman Esmail, UT-Pan American, def. Mike Phillips, Tyler Junior College, 7-5, 6-4.

Consolation semi-finals

Mike Phillips, Tyler Junior College, def. Nik Porter, UT-Pan American, 6-4, 6-3.

Doubles

Consolation Championship

Oliver Steil/Andrew Bost, UT-Pan American, def. Serekeberhan/Johnson, Tyler Junior College, 8-6.

Consolation semi-finals

Steil/Bost, UT-Pan American, def. Alberto Gomez/Enrique Montemayor, UT-Pan American, 8-3.

2005 Men's Tennis schedule

- | | |
|---------|------------------|
| Oct. 21 | ITA Invitational |
| Oct. 22 | ITA Invitational |
| Oct. 23 | ITA Invitational |

2005 Women's Tennis schedule

- | | |
|---------|----------------------|
| Oct. 21 | ITA Invitational |
| Oct. 22 | ITA Invitational |
| Oct. 23 | ITA Invitational |
| Oct. 28 | UTSA Fall Tournament |
| Oct. 29 | UTSA Fall Tournament |

VOLLEYBALL

South Dakota State Match

Saturday, Oct. 15
Frost Arena

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE DEF. UTPA
30-20, 30-18, 30-20

UTPA: Kills, Heather Bravo 11; assists, Chelsea Blakely 29; digs, Kellie Phillips 10; aces, Chelsea Blakely 2, Kellie Phillips 2.

Record: (5-13)

SDSU: Kills, Minette Ridenour 16; assists, Kristie Klusaw 42; digs, Minette Ridenour 11; aces, Minette Ridenour 2.

Record: (11-13)

North Dakota State Match

Friday, Oct. 14

Bentson Bunker Field House
UTPA DEF. NORTH DAKOTA STATE
24-30, 28-30, 30-22, 30-28, 15-12

UTPA: Kills, Danielle Holthe 21; assists, Chelsea Blakely 64; digs, Chrissie Carrigan 22; aces, Chelsea Blakely 2, Kellie Phillips 2, Danielle Holthe 2, Heather Bravo 2.

Record: (5-12)

NDSU: Kills, Minette Ridenour 16; assists, Kristie Klusaw 42; digs, Minette Ridenour 11; aces, Minette Ridenour 2.

Record: (1-23)

2005 Volleyball schedule and results

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Aug. 26 | Fordham | L 3-0 |
| Aug. 26 | Tulsa | L 3-0 |
| Aug. 27 | Lamar | W 3-2 |
| Aug. 27 | Utah State | L 3-1 |
| Sept. 2 | Cincinnati | L 3-0 |
| Sept. 2 | New Mexico | L 3-0 |
| Sept. 3 | Tulsa | L 3-1 |
| Sept. 6 | Texas A&M-Kingsville | W 3-0 |
| Sept. 9 | Iowa | L 3-0 |
| Sept. 10 | Wake Forest | L 3-0 |
| Sept. 10 | UT-Arlington | L 3-2 |
| Sept. 20 | Texas A&M-Internat'l | W 3-2 |
| Sept. 23 | Texas A&M-CC | Canceled |
| Sept. 24 | San Francisco | Canceled |
| Sept. 24 | Prairie View A&M | Canceled |
| Sept. 27 | Texas A&M-CC | L 3-1 |
| Oct. 4 | Texas State | L 3-1 |
| Oct. 8 | Utah Valley State | L 3-0 |

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Oct. 11 | Texas A&M-CC | W 3-1 |
| Oct. 14 | North Dakota State | L 3-2 |
| Oct. 15 | South Dakota State | L 3-0 |
| Oct. 21 | Prairie View A&M | |
| Oct. 22 | Prairie View A&M | |
| Oct. 22 | TCU | |
| Oct. 28 | Utah Valley State | |
| Nov. 3 | Texas A&M-Kingsville | |
| Nov. 5 | Texas A&M-Internat'l | |
| Nov. 10 | IPFW (Nat'l Indie Tournament) | |
| Nov. 10 | Northern Colorado (NIT) | |
| Nov. 11 | Texas A&M-Corpus Christi (NIT) | |
| Nov. 11 | TBA (Nat'l Indie Tournament) | |
| Nov. 11 | TBA (Nat'l Indie Tournament) | |

RGV Football

Week 8

Thursday, Oct. 20
District 30-5A

La Joya at McAllen Rowe

District 32-5A

Browns. Rivera at Browns. Hanna

District 32-4A

Brownsville Lopez at PSJA Memorial

Friday, Oct. 21

District 30-5A

Rio Grande City at Sharyland
McAllen at McAllen Memorial

District 31-5A

Edinburg at PSJA
Weslaco at Edinburg Economedes

District 32-5A

Harlingen at Brownsville Porter
Brownsville Pace at Harlingen South
Los Fresnos at San Benito

District 32-4A

Weslaco East at Edcouch-Elsa
Mercedes at Mission
Mission Veterans at Roma

District 32-3A

Hidalgo at Progreso
Port Isabel at La Feria
Rio Hondo at Lyford

Saturday, Oct. 22

District 31-5A

PSJA North at Edinburg North

Week 7

Thursday, Oct. 13

District 31-5A

PSJA 45, Weslaco 37

District 32-4A

Mission 41, Brownsville Lopez 13

Friday, Oct. 14

District 30-5A

Rio Grande City 17, McAllen Rowe 16
La Joya 48, McAllen Memorial 27
Sharyland 22, McAllen High 0

District 31-5A

Edinburg 14, Edinburg North 3
Edinburg Economedes 28, Donna 20

District 32-5A

Brownsville Pace 14, San Benito 10
Harlingen 36, Brownsville Hanna 0
Los Fresnos 42, Brownsville Porter 7

District 32-4A

PSJA Memorial 27, Weslaco East 13
Mercedes 27, Roma 0
Edcouch-Elsa 42, Mission Veterans 21

District 32-3A

Port Isabel 48, Raymondville 13
Lyford 39, Progreso 0
Rio Hondo 12, La Feria 6

SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF STUDENTS

If It's Happening to You...

WHAT IS IT?

The first thing students should know about sexual harassment is that it is a serious matter. In fact, sexual harassment is illegal and The University of Texas-Pan American has a specific policy on this issue. According to our policy, sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

1. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or education; or
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for academic or employment decisions affecting that individual; or
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's academic or professional performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive employment, educational, or living environment.

WHAT IS THE UNIVERSITY'S POLICY?

Sexual harassment is against the law. It is prohibited by University policy, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the 1972, Educational Amendments to the Civil Rights Act. The University of Texas-Pan American condemns sexual harassment of the students, staff, and faculty of the University of Texas-Pan American. Any form of sexual harassment will be considered a serious matter to be dealt with accordingly.

It is the policy of the University of Texas-Pan American that supervisors and faculty shall not enter into any type of romantic or sexual relationship with staff under their supervision or with students enrolled in their courses. Such relationships will be looked upon as potentially detrimental to the working and learning environment, considered inappropriate and unacceptable, and grounds for disciplinary action including termination of all appropriate parties involved.

In short, students at The University are entitled to study and work free from the threat of sexual intimidation and discrimination from other students at The University and University employees.

WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sometimes victims of sexual harassment try to ignore the behavior in hopes that it will go away. Sometimes victims of sexual harassment might even blame themselves. These are mistakes. It is important for victims to know that there are actions they can take to stop such unacceptable behavior:

- 1. Speak up at the time. Say "NO," clearly and firmly.** Tell the harasser that his or her advances are unwelcome and you want them stopped. There is a small chance that the harasser did not realize that his or her behavior was offensive to you. Don't delay. Pay attention to cues or comments indicating harassment. If a person's behavior makes you uncomfortable, say so.
- 2. Seek advice.** Most victims find themselves confused by sexual harassment and reluctant to discuss it with anyone. Victims usually fear reprisals. Harassers count on their victims' silence. It is important to seek counsel to protect not only yourself but others from unwanted sexual attention and sexual advances that are known to interfere with academic or job performance. To determine whether your discomfort is really sexual harassment, seek help - the earlier, the better. The campus office designated to assist with student complaints (or faculty or staff complaints against students) is the Office of the Dean of Students.
- 3. Tell someone, such as fellow students or co-workers.** Sharing your concern helps to avoid isolation and the tendency to blame yourself. Sexual harassers tend to be "repeaters"; they are likely to have harassed others, too. This may also mean that there are other individuals who have been harassed by the same person and will support you if you file a formal complaint.
- 4. Keep Records.** Keep a journal and any letters or notes received. Note the dates, times, places, witnesses and the nature of the harassment - what was said, the tone and how you responded.

HOW TO REPORT IT

Charges of sexual harassment within the University community are sensitive and complex. The University recognizes the complexities of complaints related to sexual harassment and has asked the Office of the Dean of Students (University Center 104, 381-2262) to review complaints of this nature. (Complaints that do not involve students are handled by the Office of the President). The process usually begins with an informal, confidential conversation with the Dean of Students or his designee. After discussing the situation, students will be provided with options on how to deal with harassment. These options will include receiving suggestions on how to discourage the harasser, and informal approaches such as reporting in confidence your concerns to the harasser's supervisor to ask him or her to talk with the harasser, or asking that the supervisor provide a general policy making statement to the entire staff or faculty of the department where the harasser works to remind them of the University policy against sexual harassment. The Dean or his designee may suggest other actions less formal than filing a written complaint.

Filing a formal written complaint is also an option and follows these steps:

Step One: The student writes, signs and submits a formal complaint to the Dean of Students. The signed statement must include the name of the harasser and a detailed narrative of the sexually harassing incident or incidents.

Step Two: Investigation and resolution of the complaint will be through the Office of the Dean of Students. Every effort is made to protect the rights of individuals involved, both the complainant and the alleged harasser, which includes hearing from both sides and maintaining confidentiality to the extent permitted by the law.

Step Three: Upon completion of the investigation, the University will take appropriate administrative and/or disciplinary action. If the investigation demonstrates reasonable cause that the harassment occurred, the Dean of Students will notify the complainant and begin conciliation efforts. If the investigation does not find reasonable cause that the harassment occurred, the Dean of Students will notify the complainant of such finding. The Dean of Students Office's policy is to seek full and effective relief for victims of sexual harassment. Remedies are tailored to the circumstances and may include:

- > Corrective, curative or preventive actions taken to cure or correct the source of the identified harassment and minimize the chance of its recurrence;
- > Stopping the specific discriminatory practices involved in the case;
- > Severe discipline for proven violations, including discharge, if warranted.

IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS BEING HARASSED

- > Support those having harassment problems. Help him or her cope with it.
- > Encourage anyone having harassment problems to take action, either informally or formally.
- > Remind them that it is not their fault they are being harassed.
- > Don't accept sexual harassment as "the way things are" or treat it as a joke.

PREPARED BY

THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDENTS
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY CENTER 104
381-2262

Adapted from sexual harassment policies, information and materials from The University of Texas-Pan American, The University of Texas at Austin, The University of Texas at El Paso, and the Center for Women Policy Studies Washington, D.C.

Tennis tournaments wrap up fall season

By ANNALISA LIMAS
The Pan American

In the blink of an eye, the men and women's tennis seasons have come to close as quickly as they began.

After competing in one tournament this fall, the Broncos will head to College Station, to compete in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) tournament to wrap up the fall season. While a new head coach has yet to be hired, the athletes have prepared themselves both mentally and physically for the regional tournament.

Representing the men's team at ITA will be seniors Oliver Steil, Rehman Esmail and Nik Porter along with freshman Andrew Bost. Esmail won the singles consolation championship at the UTSA Invitational, while Steil and Bost teamed up in doubles play to win the consolation title in their division. While managing the team without a coach has been difficult for the trio of seniors, Porter feels that the team will fare well in College Station.

"UTSA was great for us to get some match play and get back into the feel of things," said Porter. "Andrew got some good match experience and did really well. As long as we all win a few matches, we'll be fine."

Porter will team up with Esmail to compete in doubles play for only the second time this season. While the pair

are in their fourth year with UTPA, they are still new to teaming up on the court. Steil and Bost will team up once more, to try and build on the success they had together at UTSA.

On the women's side, Silke Buksik and Elysia Sloan will represent the Lady Broncos at the ITA tournament along with newcomers Sheila Mabulac and Maria de Bourqueny. Buksik feels that although the team still does not have a coach, the team is still strong and confident.

"We're not letting that get to us right now," said Buksik. "We're just going out there to play the best we

can."

The Lady Broncos have also had only one showing this fall season, as they had a rough finish at the Bearkat Fall Invitational at Sam Houston State University.

"We did okay at Sam Houston, we could have done better," said Buksik. "I still think we're a lot stronger than last year though."

Buksik teamed up with de Bourqueny at the Bearkat Fall Invitational and finished seventh overall in the competition. The two will again compete in doubles play at ITA.



Mario Orta/The Pan American

SMASH - Alberto Gomez, of the UTPA tennis team, returns a shot in a recent practice. The men's team faces its last match of the fall season this weekend.

Men's golf on the fairway at last

By JOEY GOMEZ
The Pan American

The UTPA men's golf team has had the better part of a month to soak in its last performance at the Fairway Club Invitational in Lincoln, Neb.

The team finished 10th out of 13 teams at the tournament on Sept. 13, and due to one cancelled tournament in late September, have not competed since then.

Next week, the Broncos head out to the Shangri La Shootout at Monkey Island, Okla., hosted by Oral Roberts University Oct. 24-25.

The team is coming off a three-round performance at Fairway that steadily improved with each round (314-310-303). Senior Craig Berger finished in 34th at that tournament shooting 231 (79-76-76). Junior Colin Norris finished in 49th place shooting a 237 (81-81-75).

The tournament also revealed some promising young talent in freshman Shane Pearce, who placed highest on the team in their last tourney tied for 24th. Pearce shot a three-round total of 227 (75-78-74).

The Shangri La course is actually composed of two courses. Other golfers have stressed the importance of men's golfers being able to carry 150 yards over water on the newer Gold Course. Five par-fives, along with seven par-threes, will require golfers to utilize most of the clubs in their bags.

The more difficult Blue Course measures at about 7,012 yards from the

back tees, making necessary the use of irons on most men's teams. The former home to the Mickey Mantle Golf Classic sports five par-fives along with five par-threes. The course itself bears a monument to baseball Hall of Famer Mantle, a native of Commerce, Okla., on the 14th green.

Pros have mentioned the need to shoot long and straight to try and land on the greens to putt out.

Monkey Island Shangri-La Golf Course BLUE COURSE:

Men's Rating:

Women's Rating:

Men's Yardage: 7,123

Women's Yardage: 5,892

Men's Slope: 132

Women's Slope: 126

Men's Par: 72

Women's Par: 73

Private

GOLD COURSE:

Men's Rating:

Women's Rating:

Men's Yardage: 7,123

Women's Yardage: 5,932

Men's Slope: 123

Women's Slope: 112

Men's Par: 70

Women's Par: 71

Lacing up shoes for one last shot

By DARYL GONZALES
The Pan American

Never give up, never give up, never give up. In that order.

-Jim Hite, Valley football coach

The Rio Grande Valley has one of the lowest per capita incomes in the country, so for most teenagers coming out of high school, substantial financial aid is needed if they want to continue in higher education. The same sort of assistance is usually required in order for Valley athletes to continue their passion for sports.

Then there are the vast majority of high school athletes who don't get offered athletic scholarships. At The University of Texas-Pan American, many such players will get another chance to be a part of college sports at last Saturday's men's and women's basketball teams try-out session.

Walk-ons have always been a part of the collegiate scene. Many UTPA basketball athletics have traveled down this path, like La Joya's Eric Montalavo, who finished his eligibility last year after a productive Bronc career. He earned a scholarship after proving himself.

Current Bronc Ryan Buck from Harlingen is one those passionate few that didn't let their dreams come to an

end. Buck was scouted out of Harlingen High School by many other colleges in the state, but chose to pass up on those guaranteed scholarships for a chance to play for UTPA.

"I was talking to a few Division II schools and most of the Division III schools in Texas and Louisiana, but I gave up a lot of scholarships because I wanted to be here," Buck said. "It seems that a lot of people [other players] have

"Never give up, never give up, never give up. In that order."

-Jim Hite
Valley football coach

more given to them, it just gives me a bigger incentive to play harder."

Coach Robert Davenport recognizes the importance of every player on the roster.

"You got to have some guys that are backups and guys that are going to make the starters work hard in practice," Davenport said. "So he [Buck] realizes that, but he works hard everyday like he's going to start."

Like Buck before them, 10 turned out to this year's try-out session for a chance to grasp that last hurrah. Davenport said that he was really

pleased with this year's turn-out and enthusiasm.

"I was real happy with the number that showed up and the effort that they showed as they played hard," Davenport commented.

The coach is not ready to announce the results of the event, though he said he would like to keep a handful of the walk-ons.

"I would love to keep seven or eight of them, but logistically we can do it due to Title IX. We are going to keep some, we just don't know exactly how many right now."

The presence of walk-ons keeps the starters on their toes, by working them hard to improve during practice, Davenport said. If one of the backups earns a scholarship, they're going to get one.

"Just because somebody gets a scholarship doesn't entitle them to get minutes on the court, we're going to put the best guys on the court to help us win. If that's five walk-ons, then that's who we're going to put on the floor," he said.

If walk-ons make the team, they are going to have plenty of time to bond with new teammates. The Broncos play their first game Nov. 18 against Sul Ross State at the UTPA Field House.



Melissa Martinez/The Pan American

BOO YA - Dexter Shankle participates in the slam dunk contest as part of the Midnight Madness festivities as Derrick East, in white, looks on. The men's team officially begins their season on Nov. 18 when the Broncos host Sul Ross State. East won the competition.

SPORTS



Clipboard	13
Tennis advance	15
Hoops Walk-ons.	15

Pierce fired up for regular season

By **JOEY HINOJOSA**
The Pan American

Sophomore Tynesha Pierce had a great year during her freshman campaign with the Lady Broncs basketball team, averaging nine points and 4.5 rebounds a game, and she is looking to continue to make an impact with the squad in 2005-2006.

The Houston native says she remembers always enjoying playing the game when she was young.

"I was in the fourth grade when I started," said Pierce. "Basketball has always attracted me. Being on the court is another world for me."

When Pierce arrived at UTPA last fall she was excited to be a part of the basketball program, and found that the coaching philosophy was something she hadn't had before.

"The coaches surprised me because here they are so down to earth and they work with me. I just love the way they coach," said the UTPA forward. "They're not the kind of coaches who just yell at you. When they yell it is more constructive, and it is more of a teaching environment when you're out there on the court, so I really enjoy it."

The 2004-2005 Independent Newcomer of the Year says that she considers making the transition from high school basketball to the collegiate level to be an accomplishment in itself.

"High school and college are totally different levels. Some people come to college and they just think 'I'm just going to fly right through it,'" said Pierce. "But once you hit the court it is another world. From

high school to college you have to step your game up ten times as much."

With one year of college basketball under her belt, Pierce says she has learned a lot from the other Lady Broncs.

"Stacey Gooden influences me a lot because she is a leader. Devin Reed is awesome in every aspect," said



Ruben Guadarrama

TAKE IT TO THE HOOP - Tynesha Pierce drives to the basket last season against Prairie View A&M.

Pierce. "Every time you turn around Devin is talking to somebody. She is being constructive. She is everywhere on the court all the time."

The 6-foot-1 sophomore also says that she applies

some of the things she has learned from basketball to her everyday life.

"If you're not mentally tough then you're not going to make it anywhere," said Pierce. "Also, you can always learn."

Pierce believes the 2005-2006 squad is ready to go and is optimistic about the team's abilities on the court.

"I think the team is going to be good. Athleticism, leadership, defense, we have everything," said Pierce. "Everyone is going to want to come and watch us. We are going to be that good."

"I'm so happy with the squad that we have and there is so much chemistry with the freshmen and everyone else. There is so much talent on both ends, so it can't go wrong there. Everybody has the drive," added Pierce.

During the first portion of the UTPA women's basketball season the team will face some tough competition at Auburn, Arkansas, and Kansas State. Pierce is intrigued by the matchups. The Lady Broncs seek to build on last year's record-setting 14-win season.

"Those are some challenges, and I like challenges because they only make us better," said Pierce.

According to Coach DeAnn Craft, the second-year player will have another challenge ahead of her and she expects her to succeed.

"I think that Ty should be able to have a very good year for us, but now she isn't an unknown," said Craft. "Last year she kind of had that going for her because she was a freshman. This year everybody will be prepared for her."

The opportunity to show that she can follow up with another solid year is something the Houston native is looking forward to.

"I don't see it as pressure. I'm just going to go out and play my game and make my opponents adjust to me," said Pierce. "I can only get better, so just be ready for me."



Delisa Guadarrama/The Pan American

JUMPER - Tynesha Pierce takes a shot last season against Texas-Permian Basin. The women's season officially begins Nov. 12 when UTPA takes on Texas A&M-Kingsville at the Field House.

Lady Bronc volleyball comes home

By **JOEY GOMEZ**
The Pan American

A four-game homestand begins this weekend for the Lady Bronc volleyball team. The series ends a season spent almost exclusively on the road where the team has notched a 1-6 record. The team is 5-13 overall.

These next four games will be the last home ones of the season. What follows are two more games on the road against Texas A&M-Kingsville Nov. 3, and Texas A&M-International Nov. 5, before the National Independent Tournament in Greeley, Col., Nov. 10-11.

Coach Dave Thorn said that attendance and support for the team have really picked up heading into the homestretch of the season

"It feels great coming home," Thorn said. "There's an advantage, when you sleep in your own bed."

The Lady Broncs have emerged as a potential power on their home court with a 3-2 record. This weekend UTPA takes on Prairie View A&M for the first time this season after their first encounter at the Islander Invitational in Corpus Christi was canceled due to Hurricane Rita. The Panthers are 1-3 overall.

One major obstacle facing the Broncs on Saturday could be the arrival of the TCU Horned Frogs coming

off a four-match loss to San Diego on Oct. 16. The Frogs are 12-9 in match play, and 2-5 in the Midwestern Conference. UTPA tallied a .486 hitting average for a game high in their third match then plummeted to -.071 in the final with 12 total errors.

"The morale is good," Thorn said. "We're starting to bring it together as a team...starting to gain momentum by getting some more wins at home."

"TCU, on Saturday, will be a tough match," Thorn added. "Then Utah Valley State will be our revenge game."

The Utah Valley State match Oct. 28 is a rematch from their first encounter earlier this month. The Lady Broncs lost in four matches to the Wolverines Oct. 8.

UTPA will be led by the team's veterans, along with some promising freshman. Offensively this season, Heather Bravo leads the team in kills with 212 (3.12 per game) and receptions (0.43 per game).

Defensively, freshman Deanna Schneyer leads the team in blocks with 55 on the season. Junior Chrissie Carrigan leads the team in digs with 328, and digs per game (4.82).

The setting tandem of Karen Lyons and newcomer Chelsea Blakely have accounted for 775 total sets averaging a combined 11.57 sets a game.

The team ranks behind their opponents in most categories but outmatches rivals defensively in total digs (1071-1064), and digs per game (15.8-15.6). They

fall behind slightly in solo blocking (37-41), and blocks per game (1.9-2.5).



Delisa Guadarrama/The Pan American

REJOICE - The Lady Bronc volleyball team celebrates after winning a match in last Tuesday's game against Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. The team comes home for a four-game homestand in the homestretch of their season. The National Independent Tournament begins Nov. 10 at Greeley, Col.