

9-1-2005

The Pan American (2005-09-01)

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THE PAN AMERICAN

The Student Newspaper of The University of Texas-Pan American

September 1, 2005

Experts prevent major computer glitch on campus

By **LUKE KOONG**
The Pan American

Zotob?

The worm which plagued many individuals, including major media outlet ABC and Caterpillar Inc. was virtually non-existent on the University of Texas-Pan American campus. Quick response time and improved network security measures initiated by Academic Computing helped to prevent the major headaches experienced by many others across the country.

"We didn't get touched by [Zotob] and the reason was we got the patch out before the first instance of it got out. We got the patch out on all the managed machines on the network," Anne Toal

See **TECHNOLOGY** page 11

Unexpected houseguests

By **CLAUDETTE GONZALEZ**
The Pan American

The skies were clear and sunny when Dr. Edna Doyle was awakened at 6 in the morning on Sunday while sleeping in her New Orleans condo overlooking the Mississippi River.

"Our condo owner called over the intercom and said that the governor had issued a mandatory evacuation and everybody had to leave," said Doyle. "I threw a few things together. We got in the car with just a little carry-on each."

An hour and a half later, Doyle's cousin, Dr. Marian Monta, associate professor of theater and performing arts at the University of Texas Pan American, called her with an invitation.

"Dr. Monta phoned me at 7:30 and said 'get out of dodge and come down here' and I realized I had to go somewhere," said Doyle, a retired physician. "I'm so grateful to Dr. Monta. Otherwise I'd have to be in a hotel somewhere."

Hurricane Katrina began its devastation of New Orleans on Sunday, resulting in 80 percent of the city being underwater, and a death toll estimated to be in the thousands.

Now safe at Monta's house in Edinburg, Doyle is one of two houseguests. Playwright Milcha Sanchez, UTPA's artist in residence, is also staying with Monta.

"It's a little girls' club. It's kind of like running a bed and breakfast," said Monta. "Fortunately, I have two bedrooms and two bathrooms."



Photos courtesy of Jorge Cruz

SAVING THE WORLD - (above) Cpl. Jorge Cruz and Sgt. Gerardo Longoria remember home at an ammunition supply point in Iraq. Cruz (left) on the Euphrates River.

Double Duty



Returning officers serve in UTPA Police Dept.

By **NAYELLY BARRIOS**
The Pan American

The life of a college student is filled with worry. Between classes and studying, working to get all the bills paid, dealing with increasing tuition prices and the cost of gas, not to mention having a personal life, students have a lot on their minds.

Now how about throwing in serving in Iraq? Makes it all just a bit more challenging, doesn't it?

The war in Iraq has caused much talk and controversy, but what students don't often stop to think about is that sometimes they are our own classmates.

Meet three University of Texas-Pan American students who did just that. The bonds they formed now extend further than the campus walls.

"Camaraderie is one thing that I will never forget. We got so close

while we were out there. We'll probably be friends for the rest of our lives," Sergeant Daniel Longoria said.

Longoria works for the University Police Department and is a senior criminal justice major, who enlisted with the Marines in 1999.

Officer Jorge Cruz, a junior history major, who also works for the University Police Department, is a Corporal in the Marines. He has served for six years and has just finished his contract.

Gerardo Longoria is a Corporal with the Marines, and is a senior criminal justice major.

These three students are in the Charlie Company 1st Battalion 23rd Marines and returned to the campus from fighting the war in Iraq in April.

The three agreed that leaving their families was the hardest thing

See **MILITARY** page 11

Corruption threatens Mexico's integrity

By **JOSUE ESPARZA**
The Pan American

As Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (AMLO) and others are already campaigning to win the 2006 Mexican presidential election, they are attempting to convince people to vote for them. But many oppressed merchants and *puesteros* (stand owners) on the international border don't have a real choice: they are being coerced into promising their votes or face the end of their economic viability. This situation has been going on for as long as anyone can recall.

Throughout the Mexican border region many families scratch out a living through *puestos* (stands) on the streets, selling what they can to

U.S. tourists, who supply roughly 90 percent of the profit merchants make, according to a 2003 survey made by The Reform Journal.

But corrupt officials make a profit at the local entrepreneurs' expense, and influence every election as well. In order for *puesteros* to have a stand in the streets, they are required to pay a quota that ranges from \$30 to \$50 a week, depending on the space they take. They are also required to get a license and claim their merchandise to the Mexican government. Since most *puesteros* do not know if their products are legal, corrupt officers in Mexico blackmail them. The *puesteros* end up paying from \$100 to \$500 more to the corrupt cops because they're

afraid of losing their small business. As with the American Mafia and its "hush money" and "protection" fees, everything is done discreetly.

"When cops come to pick up what we call *la mordida* [the bribe] they give a signal so that I would follow them to an isolated place," said an anonymous "*puestero*," in Spanish.

"This keeps other *puesteros* or tourists from seeing that I am giving money to the officials. If we don't give them exactly what they are asking, we get in trouble. Sometimes they beat us up, but usually they just



Illustration by Laura Gomez

confiscate our merchandise."

Paying bribes to corrupt cops is not the only problem that *puesteros* on the border face. Some Mexican officials are dictating who street merchants must vote for during elections. But coercion also affects

See **MEXICO** page 11

THE PAN AMERICAN

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55th Year - No. 2

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Comerciantes locales afectados por la corrupción en la frontera

Por JOSUÉ ESPARZA
Traducción por ELIZABETH GARCÍA
The Pan American

Mientras que Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) y otros están haciendo campaña política para ganar la elección presidencial del 2006, todos están intentando convencer al pueblo para que vote por ellos. Pero muchos de los comerciantes oprimidos y puesteros en la frontera internacional no tienen una verdadera opción: están siendo forzados a prometer sus votos o enfrentar el fin de su viabilidad económica. Todos recuerdan que esta situación ha estado sucediendo por mucho tiempo.

A través de la región fronteriza Mexicana muchas familias difícilmente pueden ganarse la vida con sus puestos en las calles, vendiendo lo que pueden a los turistas americanos, quienes generan aproximadamente el 90 por ciento de sus utilidades según una encuesta de la revista The Reform Journal.

Pero los funcionarios corruptos se enriquecen a expensas de los empresarios locales y además ejercen su influencia en todas las elecciones. Para que los puesteros puedan tener su negocio en la calle, se les pide pagar una cuota que va desde \$30 a \$50 por semana, dependiendo en el espacio que ocupen. También se les pide tener una licencia y reclamar su mercancía al gobierno Mexicano. Ya que la mayoría de los puesteros no saben si sus productos son legales, los funcionarios corruptos en México los chantajea. Los puesteros terminan pagando entre \$100 y \$500 mas a los policías corruptos porque temen perder su pequeño negocio. Como pasa con la mafia Americana y su "dinero por silencio" y cuotas de "protección" todo se hace discretamente.

"Cuando viene la policía a recoger lo que llamamos "la mordida", dan una señal para que yo los siga a un lugar aislado", dijo en Español y en forma anónima un puestero.

"Esto hace que otros puesteros o los turistas no vean que les estoy dando dinero a los oficiales. Si no les damos exactamente lo que piden, nos metemos en problemas. Algunas veces nos golpean, pero regularmente solo confiscan nuestra mercancía".

El pago de mordidas a los policías corruptos no es el único problema que enfrentan los puesteros de la frontera. Algunos funcionarios Mexicanos dictan por quien deben votar los comerciantes durante las elecciones. Pero la coerción también se refleja en los propietarios de pequeñas tiendas.

"En México no tenemos una democracia. Se nos impone la democracia", dijo en forma anónima un comerciante de Progreso. "Cuando es tiempo de elecciones, los funcionarios vienen a nuestros negocios para darnos el nombre del candidato por quien supuestamente debemos votar".

Hasta el día de hoy, estos puesteros y propietarios de tiendas todavía no tienen el nombre del candidato por el cual deben votar en las elecciones mexicanas del 2006 debido a la falta de certeza que rodea a varios partidos políticos.

"No podemos decirles quien va a ser nuestro candidato presidencial en las elecciones del 2006. Todavía no sabemos", dijo el propietario de una tienda en Matamoros. "Los funcionarios de alto nivel tienen problemas entre ellos; ni ellos saben quien estará gobernando el país".

De acuerdo a estos comerciantes, hay dos guerras en la frontera Mexicana, una entre los carteles de la droga que ha dejado

800 muertos y la otra es la lucha entre los partidos políticos. Y como siempre, el débil queda en medio del fuego cruzado.

"Parece que estamos en medio de dos guerras," dijo el propietario de una licorería en Matamoros. "Como decimos aquí en México, 'el hueso esta muy sabroso.' Por ese motivo todos se los quieren comer".

Los funcionarios corruptos han estado intimidando a estos comerciantes hasta el punto en que tienen miedo de decir quien podría ser el siguiente presidente de México cuando Vicente Fox deje la presidencia el próximo año.

"Desearía poder darles una opinión de mi candidato favorito, pero mejor no se la doy," dijo un puestero en Matamoros. "No deseo meterme en problemas con la ley. Si le doy una opinión, podría perder mi puesto y luego ¿como voy a mantener a mi familia"?

Si los comerciantes se rehúsan a votar por el candidato "sugerido", frecuentemente se les golpea y los meten a la cárcel. La piratería y la venta de productos ilegales son muy comunes en la frontera. La mayoría de los funcionarios de gobierno usan la amenaza de acusación de estos crímenes para oprimir a los comerciantes.

"Los policías se aprovechan de nosotros y no podemos hacer nada al respecto. Nos dicen que si no hacemos lo que nos instruyen, nos acusarán de vender mercancía ilegal", dijo un comerciante de Progreso. "Y aunque sepamos que nuestra mercancía es legal, estos funcionarios siempre encuentran la forma de manipularnos".

Los comerciantes de las calles declaran que este problema abarca toda la nación, pero es peor en la frontera, lejos de las agencias del gobierno central quien pudiera ayudar si así lo deciden.

"Estas cosas no solo pasan en la frontera" dijo un puestero de Progreso. Antiguamente vivía en Monterrey, y los policías nos trataban igual. Pero el motivo por el que me vine a Progreso es porque pensé que iba a ganar más de los Americanos que vienen aquí".

Aunque el Partido Revolucionario

Institucional (PRI) controla la mayor parte de la frontera, los comerciantes dicen que hay otros partidos corruptos en el país que son conocidos por su historia política "colorida".

"El PRI no es el único partido corrupto. Todos los partidos políticos son iguales", nos comentó un propietario de tienda de Matamoros. "Los nombres de los partidos son solo la tapadera. Todos los partidos tienen la misma posición solo para hacer creer a la gente que hay democracia".

Sin embargo, a la gente que vive en la pobreza extrema y que no trabajan en puestos ni tiendas, parece ser menor afectada. Tienen tan poco poder político y están tan excluidos que su sola preocupación es encontrar la manera de poder comer diariamente. Muchos ni siquiera saben quien esta en el poder.

"Ni siquiera nos interesa quien será el siguiente presidente. La gente en el poder cambia, pero nosotros seguimos en la misma miseria", dijo Carlos Mendez, de Reynosa. "No, no estamos obligados a votar por alguien en particular. Yo pienso que es porque no tenemos nada de valor que puedan quitarnos".

La policía en la frontera no quiso hacer comentarios sobre este asunto. Junto con los funcionarios policíacos, los periodistas en México han sido tratados en forma violenta durante la lucha turbulenta en la sociedad Mexicana fronteriza.

"Como funcionarios de gobierno, no se nos permite hablar acerca de alguna cosa que trate con la política. La ley nos lo niega", dijo un Oficial de Seguridad Privada. "Puedo decir que mi candidato para las elecciones es Obrador, pero no le puedo decir mi nombre porque pudieran despedirme de mi puesto".

Cuando los oficiales rehúsan hablar, hace que el público tenga sospechas. Muchas veces son parte del problema, pero no la solución. El promedio de dueños de pequeños negocios continúan siendo abusados por las autoridades locales, al continuar la larga y triste tradición de coerción política en México.



Melissa Martinez/The Pan American

VENDIENDO - Un puestero de Reynosa vende helado en la calle.

NEWS



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Student receives national recognition

By CELINE A. GILPATRICK
The Pan American

Students at the University of Texas-Pan American are finding their own way to success beyond the Valley's borders.

Carlos Gomez, a computer science senior, has won national recognition through the Hispanic Engineering Achievement Award Conference (HENAAC), as well as a \$1,500 scholarship and an all-expense-paid trip to Anaheim.

"I never expected to get [the scholarship], and I didn't realize it was such a big deal," said



Joel de la Rosa/*The Pan American*

THE WINNER - Carlos Gomez won an exclusive award from HENAAC, an Hispanic education outreach organization. He was the only winner from UTPA to win the honor.

Gomez.

Only a select few have ever received a HENAAC scholarship at UTPA, and Gomez is the only one this year.

"Our students are standing up against many name-brand universities around the nation, and this proves yet again that UTPA is a very capable university," said Dr. Edwin LeMaster, dean of the College of Science and Engineering.

The application process included an essay explaining personal goals and accomplishments, as well as an application, letters of recommendation, and a GPA

See **HENAAC** page 12

GEAR UP for \$81 million in program funds

By NAOMI ALANNA MISON
The Pan American

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded the University of Texas-Pan American's Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Program (GEAR UP) and Region One Education Service Center with a federal grant totaling \$81 million.

This grant will be used by both agencies to provide students and parents with comprehensive services in hopes of increasing college enrollment rates.

Cindy Valdez, Interim Director of the GEAR UP program, has attributed the awarding of this federal grant to an assortment of people and corporations.

"Under the leadership of Dr. John Edwards and UT-Pan American's President Blandina Cardenas this grant was renewed once more....the new GEAR UP program involves partnerships with corporations. Ford, Dell, and Texas Instruments are just a few of the businesses that wanted to get involved with GEAR UP. They will offer curriculum internships to students

interested in pursuing careers in those industries," Valdez said.

The Rio Grande Valley GEAR UP Alliance, which includes UTPA, the University of Texas-Brownsville, and the Region One Education Service received the second highest amount in program funds in the nation after submitting their proposals in April. The decision was made based on the need in the area, which includes four of the poorest counties in the U.S. The grant will assist more than 9,000 students in the South Texas school districts by providing them access to higher education.

The GEAR UP program assists students that are interested in pursuing a higher education. The GEAR UP staff follows them through high school, making sure that as a senior the student completes their ACT test, applies to at least three universities, and fills out the FAFSA application. If the student chooses to attend UTPA, there is a possibility that he or she will be awarded with a GEAR UP scholarship.

A GEAR UP counselor and a family outreach specialist will be placed in

28 middle schools in the Valley as a result of the grant, creating 16 new positions available at UTPA and 55 new positions at school based sites.

U.S. representative Lloyd Doggett is a big supporter of the GEAR UP program, and has actively lobbied to Congress for the funds.

"I have consistently petitioned the Appropriations Committee to adequately fund the program. I was pleased to write a letter of support for the UTPA grant application this spring. UTPA GEAR UP is an excellent example of how federal resources can be used in our communities to provide opportunities for anyone interested in pursuing higher education," said Doggett.

Region One Education Service Center also submitted a proposal to the U.S. Department of Education for a grant.

Elva Garcia, GEAR UP education specialist, explained that this grant was competitive and separate from the GEAR UP program.

"Although Region One is a part of the GEAR UP Rio Grande Alliance,



we have different initiatives than they do. Our services will be placed in different schools than the ones outlined for GEAR UP in the grant."

Out of this \$81 million grant, GEAR UP will receive \$7 million per year over a six year period, whereas Region One Education Service Center will receive approximately \$6 million per year. Either way, both programs have the ultimate goal of assisting students that come from low-income families with their dreams of pursuing a college education.

New Look

Marketing team forms new UTPA brand image

By OMAR RODRIGUEZ
The Pan American

Historically, the Native Americans met in tribal council when there was an issue to resolve. The elder patriarchs discussed the issues the tribe was facing and resolved them with a clear solution. The matriarchs would sit in and listen to what transpired. The council would end and the position of the council would be passed on to the families by the matriarchs. The vision and goal of the tribe would be made clearer to all.

The University of Texas-Pan American is currently in a situation that calls for council. The image of the university is the issue at hand, and a solution is being sought out by one Dallas based marketing business.

Richards Group will work to find out what people think of UTPA outside of campus as well as within. Their job is then to find the position of the university, a mar-

keting term used to describe the image of the university as it is seen by the general public.

UTPA's executive director of Development, Candi Roxas, is head of the marketing group overseeing the process. Roxas is fervently involved with UTPA's marketing venture. She has been put in charge of a process that she says will "...put into perspective the vision or image that the university would like to convey to the general public."

UTPA hopes to gain a clear focus and part of that is stretching the aspirations of the university.

"We would like to move forward and become a doctoral research university. Right now UTPA is considered a public masters university," Roxas said.

There are just over 100 doctoral research universities in the country, with 11 in Texas alone.

UTPA has conducted research conducive to the marketing group

See **MARKETING** page 12



Melissa Martinez/*The Pan American*

CHILD'S PLAY - Kathy Ortiz, sophomore business major, plays with her daughter Cortney Rae Ortiz, 4, in the playground at the university's new child care center.

Lucile Hendricks: A Community Pillar

95-year old 'living legend' still going strong in community affairs

By SANDRA GONZALEZ
The Pan American

Nestled away in a modest South McAllen house covered by native plants, Lucile Hendricks sits, seeming like any other nearly 96-year-old great-grandmother. However, unbeknownst to passers-by, what lies inside the wooden walls is a spirit as wild and untouched as the plants that surround the house.

Though she talks modestly of her accomplishments, they are not to be taken lightly.

In her 78 years in McAllen, Hendricks has led the Mother's March for Polio, acted as chairman and co-founder of the RGV International Music Festival, been named McAllen's "Woman of the Year," spent 14 years on the Housing Authority Board, seven years on the Zoning Board, and six years on the McAllen Adjustments and Appeals Board.

However, one of her most noted accomplishments was being the first woman elected to the McAllen School Board.

"She's such a legend, she is the first woman everything in McAllen," said Dr. Marian Monta, associate professor of theatre and performing arts at the University of Texas-Pan American.

At the time, many of her ideas were criticized by others. Nonetheless, Hendricks never let it faze her.

"I don't mind criticism," Hendricks said, "When they criticize, you know they're listening, you know they heard you."

One of her biggest rivals was former McAllen mayor Othal Brand. They disagreed on "most everything," she says. One day, he expressed his disdain publicly at a City Commission meeting.

"I was sitting there, and he pointed his finger at me and said 'You have intimidated me for 41 years, and I'm tired of it,'" Hendricks said with a laugh.

While a normal person might have found his display offensive, Hendricks speaks of the experience surprisingly fondly.

"I thought it was delightful," Hendricks said. "We actually ended up very close friends."

With her fiery attitude, it's hard to believe that Hendricks comes from a humble background. Her family came to the Valley by train in 1927 after her father was asked by Sharyland's namesake, John Shary, to come down and work with him.

On her way to the family's new home in Mission, Hendricks remembers passing through a very different McAllen.

"There were no more than three

paved blocks and five or six buildings," Hendricks said.

Unbelievable as it sounds, she has pictures to prove it. In fact, a walk through her home is like a tour of history. The walls are decorated with antiques from her ancestors, and she has a guest book signed by everyone who has been to her house.

Started in the '50s, the book

■ **"I don't mind criticism. When they criticize, you know they're listening, you know they heard you."**

- Lucile Hendricks

serves as its own piece of history. Over the years, she has had everyone from authors to a Romanian princess stay with her.

However, her guest book isn't the only thing Hendricks started in the Fifties.

In 1951, Hendricks and friend Leonel Gonzalez went to the local school board and asked them to fund classes to teach English to school-bound Spanish-speaking children. Because the state wouldn't fund it, the school board declined the proposal, but Hendricks wouldn't give up.

"We kept on bedeviling them, I mean bedeviling, until the district paid for it," Hendricks said.

The first year, the school had 120 students participate; these students were tracked in the following years and all of them graduated from high school. The program continued for eight years until the federal government funded HeadStart in the 1960s.

Over the years, Hendricks has done several things to aid children. She went with other PTA mothers, went to the Health Department and asked them to fund TB testing for school children. They agreed, as long as the parents did the leg-work.

"We handled getting parents' permission, getting the kids there, and taking them home," Hendricks said.

But being the one with the idea came with a price.

"I'd been the one promoting it, and don't ever promote anything because they'll always make you chairman," Hendricks said jokingly.

So, as new chairman, she went to all the principals and asked how many permission slips each school needed. Up to that point, the ques-



Joel de la Rosa/The Pan American

LIVING LEGACY - Lucile Hendricks has played an influential role in the Rio Grande Valley for the last 78 years.

tion of the event's success was still up in the air. That came to an end when Hendricks met with Sacred Heart's Father Killday.

"I went to him and said 'How many do you need, Father?' and he said 'None. All my children will take it.'" Hendricks related.

Hendricks was also very generous with her time and money giving local high school students scholarships and convincing others to do so as well.

"Lucile was tireless in promoting educational opportunities. She is a tireless community worker and

badgers everyone," said Dr. James Hawley, a retired professor who continues to teach in the UTPA theater department.

Though she has trouble keeping straight what she's already done so far, Hendricks hasn't completely thrown in the towel yet. Her dining room table is topped not with vases of flowers or center-pieces, but with piles of newspaper clippings pertaining to Valley issues.

After commenting on them, she sends them to the head of the Associated Republicans of Texas, Norman Newman, who then sends them to associates at the White House, the governor's office, and the ambassador to Mexico, Tony Garza. This assures that officials know the issues facing the Valley.

She also does work with Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). On Sept. 1, she will be giving a speech on the importance of reading and knowing the U.S. constitution.

"You hear people say, 'That's not constitutional,' and they haven't even read it," Hendricks said.

For Hendricks, continuing to work is a priority.

"I think when you're busy, your mind keeps better," Hendricks said. "That's why at 95, almost 96, I can keep active."

She also urges young people to remain active as well.

"Take an interest in government. Take an interest in not just voting, but knowing why you are voting," Hendricks said. "Do something for the community that is worthwhile."

So how does she sum up all of her work over the years?

"Well, I've had an interesting life," Hendricks said. "No one can ever say I'm boring."

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Football: Television's Only Hope

By **DAVID RODRIGUEZ**
The Pan American

Far be it from me to denigrate television. It has been my mother, father, and secret lover all my life. As a child, Saturdays were a blur of channels and Cheetos. Morning cartoons segued into vinyl siding-sponsored movies featuring Jean-Claude Van Dam which then promptly led into the Disney Sunday movie. Now, as a childish adult I still can't get enough of TV.

With that being said, I must admit television is crap now. According to the Bible, Ecclesiastes for anybody wanting to check my references, there is nothing new under the sun. That couldn't be more true when it comes to television. Will and Grace is essentially Friends but with a gay dude. Frasier was Cheers without Cliff and Norm. Reality television,

beyond just being a glut of base behavior and immature attention-hounds, is all basically operating on the same premise. Don't even get me started with CSI and all its sister programs.

I know what you are saying. "But what about all the original shows on HBO and Showtime"? Please, on premium cable networks, "original programming" only means lazy dialogue whitewashed with profanity.

With the opening kickoff just a few weeks away, I humbly submit football as the alternative to all the derivative, rehashed trash on television. I'm not talking about Economedes vs. Mercedes either. I'm talking about the pros, the big show, the NFL.

Football is truly the last bastion of original, quality entertainment. It is everything we love about televi-

sion all rolled into one 2-hour battle. You want drama? Sipowicz doesn't look so tough when compared to a 300-pound defensive lineman who eats steak dinners and quarterbacks in his sleep. There is absolutely nothing more dramatic than a nail-biting ending to a game. It's like being in labor without all the life-changing ramifications, err... I mean blessings. You want reality?

UNPROTECTED TEXT

Nothing is more real than watching a grown man writhe in pain as his team huddles around in support. The stretchers are called from the sidelines, the stadium is hushed, and you know somewhere in America that man's mother is praying for him. You want something lighter? How about the pure, righteous joy you get when some hotdog is stutter-step-

ping down the sideline for what he thinks is a sure touchdown only to be caught from behind by a defensive player about to unload all the frustrations of living in the inner-city on poor, showboating, number 81? Everybody Loves Raymond has got nothing on that.

There are also more times and ways to watch football than ever before. Sure it's going to be a little weird watching Monday Night Football on ESPN for the first time starting this year, but personally I think it's long overdue. You now have football on Sunday afternoon, Sunday night, and Monday night.

That's just the pros. The college games on Saturday and Thursday night are just as good. So much money is put into big-time college football that most of these schools are simply farm teams for the NFL anyway. Last year ESPN did a complete-

ly revolutionary thing with its Thursday night college football. They showed the game as you would normally see it on ESPN. However, simultaneously, on ESPN2, they showed the game as the producers and graphics nerds saw it. You could actually watch a producer scream to no one in particular about how the scores and stats weren't being generated and broadcast promptly enough. It is truly scintillating television to watch an editor patch together a montage, featuring hip, inoffensive, current music, in less than three minutes to air right before a commercial break.

This isn't simply one man's opinion either. Monday Night Football, after 36 years, still remains one of the top ten rated programs on television. I hate to say it, but even Seinfeld would have gotten pretty annoying after only about 20.

T

By **AMELIA GARCIA**
The Pan American

Tuan is a 17-year-old Vietnamese student who has a passion for learning. His interests include chemistry, math, listening to music, playing sports like soccer and learning English. While he lives the typical life of a teenager a million miles away, he dreams of more.

Tuan is hoping to find a host family so that he can become a foreign exchange student and experience the American way of life and most importantly receive a quality education.

"I always want to know many things," Tuan said in his letter to potential families interested in hosting him. "I want to discover the world. I am really curious and eager when I think I will contact with new society absolutely different from here? I think it is not only an opportunity for me to exchange cultural but also to study and increase my ability."

His profile among many other students can found on Aspect Foundation's Web site at www.aspectfoundation.org. The non-profit organization unites foreign exchange high school and college students and family hosts in an attempt to non-profit organization provide affordable study-abroad opportunities to students from around the world.

"There's a lot of students from poorer countries who are bright and want to come to the United States for the better opportunities to study and get an education," said Gay Victoriano, a local Aspect Foundation Coordinator.

"You can really help them by taking them in and providing room and board."

Host families can be single or married and with or without children, who want to provide a home for an exchange student, complete with family meals. Each family is required to fill out an application, with information about family members, pets, daily routines, interests, lifestyle, two family photos and three personal references.

The experience offers the family a unique experience where they can help a student with a promising future to become educated. Victoriano explains that in return they will learn about their student's culture.

"The families will also better understand other cultures by having an exchange student in their home." Victoriano said. "Sometimes if someone is not in your ethnic group you feel different from them. But people are more alike than they realize and nowadays cultural diversity is everywhere."

For more information on how to become a host family email Victoriano at gayghing@hotmail.com.

Home Away from Home



AROUND THE WORLD - Seong-Yeol Ryu from South Korea (upper left) studies Wednesday in his dorm room. Chris Teske (upper right), international exchange student, plays ping pong against friend Sascha Hansen on Wednesday in the Student Union. Marilu Salazar, Office of International Programs director, welcomes new international exchange students last week.





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Awakening the art in the Rio Grande Valley

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

After celebrating its fifth anniversary, Art Awakenings and its director, Monica Maria Ramirez, are looking forward to many more years of highlighting local artists and augmenting the community's cultural activities.

"I believe the future of Art Awakenings is growing and I can see that we are really doing a lot better than five years ago," Ramirez said. "And I really hope that Art Awakenings in fact will get a bigger place."

The accomplished artist and poet began Art Awakenings as a gallery because she wanted a place to display and share her artwork. Soon after opening, Ramirez was contacted by other local and international artists who wanted a place to do so as well.

Since then, Art Awakenings has been host to many different forms of art. Ramirez has joined forces with Peter Garcia, now co-owner and manager, and a bar and coffee shop have been added.

"We have so much talent in the Valley, and we are just trying to express that," said Ramirez.

Not only do artists from the Valley want to show off their talents, but people from across the United States and Mexico do, too. Now the venue is welcoming anyone willing to share their talent.

"Art Awakenings is a cultural center," said Ramirez. "It's for the Valley, it's not for me. Art Awakenings is for the community."

Nicole Martinez, a local artist, has had the opportunity to work closely with Ramirez and has had her art displayed at Art Awakenings.

"The center and more like it are necessary for growth, support, and expansion concerning the



Melissa Martinez/*The Pan American*

VALLEY GROOVE - Taylor Cameron's performance was one of the many held at Art Awakenings.

various forms of art here in the Valley. Many artists have few venues for their creations," said Martinez. "I enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of the center, and respect the goal it is trying to obtain."

Art Awakenings hosts art exhibits on a regular basis, and the work displayed changes monthly in order to give more people the chance to show and sell their work.

"There is always something fresh," Ramirez said.

Events are held throughout the week and vary between art exhibits, poetry readings, book signings, dancing, or music. There is a constant

flow of creative work.

Art Awakenings also hosts many art classes, for those who are interested in music, dance, writing and painting, etc. Schedules vary to suit the artists who teach, but Ramirez said other artists teach classes, providing students with differing techniques and forms.

When artists are ready to show off their work, they are asked to bring a demo of their music or a portfolio of their artwork. If music is their form, they are to contact Garcia; art is Ramirez's area of expertise.

For those who do wish to showcase their music at Art Awakenings, there is another requirement.

"We require at least eighty percent of original songs, of course, and that is in everything we show here," said Ramirez. "Bands are always researching where they can play their own music and Art Awakenings is about that."

Originality and talent is exactly what any visitor at Art Awakenings will find. A place to look at great art, hear excellent music, listen to poetry, and meet the artists who create it all.

Bird rescue and care club soars on Labor Day

By **MERIDITH LAGRONE**
The Pan American

The Coastal Bend Companion Bird Club and Rescue Mission is getting ready to take flight as the group flies north for the Labor Day Weekend Bird Mart in Corpus Christi.

The club has been around for many years and focuses on the care, health and happiness of exotic birds, explained the director of the fair, Cheryl Scott.

"Our bird club does try to give out plenty of information to its members and anyone who is willing to come and learn," she said. "We try to help someone who is trying to look for a bird for the first time. We try to have fun, too. We try to make it as educational as possible, but we do have the occasional, 'let's everybody gather together and brag about our birds.'"

The organization is run strictly by volunteers whose responsibilities lie in providing a foster home for many birds. Currently, there are four foster families hosting birds.

Kay Ursprung's home is the club's first and foremost foster home for incoming birds. She is generally the person who takes care of the animals first when they rescue a bird from a bad situation.

"If Kay can't take a bird," Scott said, "if she's not comfortable with it because of size or something, they foster out to other members of the club, anyone who's available. Generally they all go through her for the first forty-five days."

The homes are spread throughout the Coastal Bend area.

Tina Patterson is another bird club member, and adopted a Malaccan cockatoo one year ago. She agreed to foster the bird when it wasn't working out for anyone else, and she ended up keeping it for good.

"It's working out fantastic," Patterson said. "Several people had it for a while, and it wasn't working too good for them, and they had put it back up for adoption. I told them I would adopt it. It went real well for me."

The bird's name is Pinkie, and Patterson says he fits right into the family of pets in her home. The 14-year old cockatoo was surrendered to the club when his previous owner died. Pinkie suffered some major trauma as a result.

"My bird was a mutilator," Patterson said. "He started mutilating himself after that. He would pick at himself and had a hole in his chest. Since I'm home all the time, every time we caught him picking at himself, we would scold him and pay attention to him. He went to several club members that couldn't get him to stop, and then he came to me. I wouldn't give him up for anything."

Scott agrees that it's hard not to become sweet on the birds.

"The foster families are usually the ones who end up adopting the birds," Scott said. "It happens that way. You get real attached."

When someone wishes to adopt a bird, the new owner is asked to pay the incurred vet bills. There is also a screening process for adoption. The club is presently working out a set of bylaws for adoption. The home has to be inspected to make sure that there is room to accommodate the

large cages the birds require for their wingspans. There is also a one-page set of questions that needs to be filled out as a preliminary measure.

In addition to handling adoptions, the club also gets involved in the welfare of wild birds.

Debbie Prevratil, president of the organization and curator of marine mammals and birds at the Texas State Aquarium, is involved in this effort.

"We work with the club to rehabilitate rescued wild birds," Prevratil said. "The club provides financial support towards these efforts."

Prevratil has been acting president of the club for the last year. Before that, she was president of the Companion Bird Club and Rescue Mission for a year and a half. She has owned birds for the

last 24 years and currently owns eight.

All of these efforts will be outlined and highlighted at The Coastal Bend Companion Bird Club and Rescue Mission's Bird Mart, which is arranged around educating people about adoption and care of birds.

Scott says the event is mainly a fundraiser.

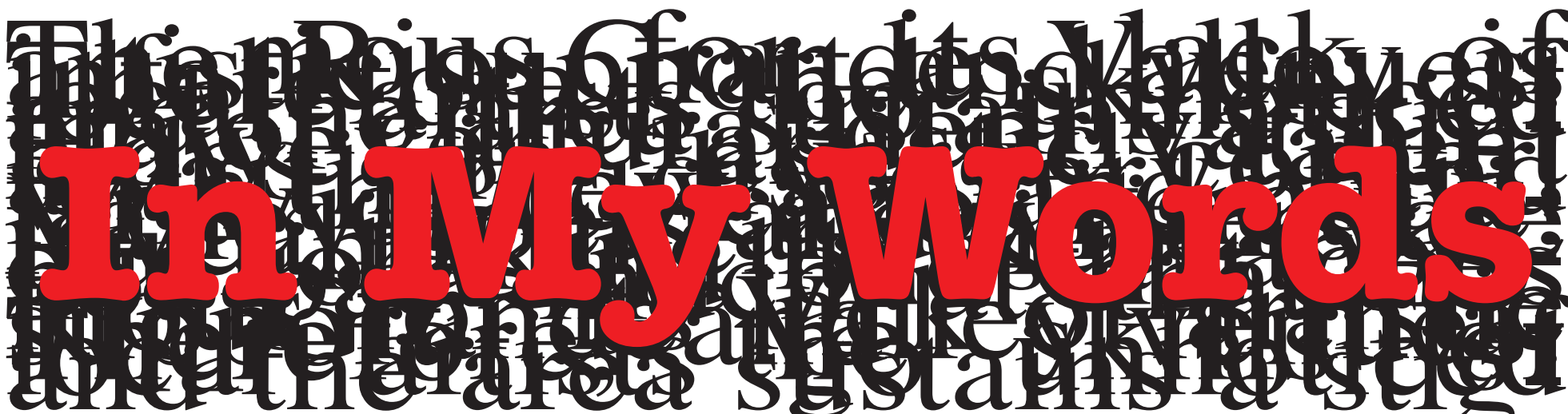
"People are more than welcome to come in and ask questions," Scott said. "It's an information event mostly to raise funds. There will be vendors there selling bird supplies, and breeders will be there selling their birds."

Admission to the event is two dollars for adults, and children under 12 get in free.



Photo courtesy of Cheryl Scott

TO THE RESCUE - CBCBC members (from left) Belinda Wait, Joan Latham, Phillip & Denise Martin and Bebe Greathouse show a few of the birds in their care.



In My Words

by Amelia Garcia

The Rio Grande Valley is infamous for its lack of artistic support and venues. Therefore, the skills of local artists go unnoticed and the area suffers a stigma of cultural deprivation.

However, artistic talent hides in every corner, awaiting discovery and with the new age and popularity of Chicano literature, Valley poets and writers are revealing their voices.

But "making it" is a laborious job, and one that does not pay much at that.

For Valley poets writing and performing their art is something that is not likely to be compensated

sated with much more than the feeling of gratification and accomplishment.

Valley poets Erika M. Garza, known in the poetry society of the Valley as "La Erika," and Veronica Sandoval, known as "Lady Mariposa," know the experience well.

Garza and Sandoval both began writing as children but in the last decade, there passion for poetry has developed into a true art as they

matured in their craft.

But because of the struggle to make it in the Valley as poets they both hold day jobs to pay the bills. Garza, a recent graduate of The University of Texas-Pan American, is a full-time bookseller at Barnes and Noble. Sandoval is a licensed Texas realtor, where she, as she puts it, "packages the American dream for couples who can afford it."

For the last two to three years on their spare time they have not only written but performed their poetry around the Valley, creating paths for others poets who will follow.

Opening Eyes and Venues

In the Valley, performing art venues are still a rare gem and poets struggle to find places to share their work. As young aspiring poets, Sandoval and Garza did not let this serve as an obstacle and set out to places to share their work with the public.

They met with local business owners and asked if they could perform their art at their venues and were naturally more successful in some places than others.

"At some places it was real easy because the area is up and coming," said Sandoval, who is responsible for events like open mic nights held weekly at Jitterz Coffee Bar in Mission. "The area is hungry for anything artistic like poetry because it's been starved for so long."

"Some places though did-

n't even understand what poetry really was," she added. "And I've had to deal with the 'whatever' look from lots of people. I had to explain to them what poetry is and what I wanted to do. They thought poets only existed in movies. And since poetry is not mainstream I definitely have to fight to open up eyes."

On top of creating opportunities for themselves, Sandoval and Garza also have to publicize their performances.

"You have to be your own marketing person," Sandoval explained. "You have to run the events in the newspapers, send out e-mails, make and pass out flyers. It's a lot of work. If you're the staving poet trying to make it, when are you going to find time to write?"

Because of local pioneers like Sandoval and Garza there are now more venues available. Art Awakenings Gallery and Barnes and Noble in McAllen, Jitterz in Mission, along with other coffeehouses, local museums, universities and colleges, all offer opportunities to Valley poets by hosting open mic events and featuring local artists.

Sandoval and Garza encourage poets to get out and perform their work to help develop themselves as artists and help further develop the poetry scene in the Valley.

"Now if you're a poet there's venues out there for you to perform at," Sandoval said. "Anything is something. Hey, I've had a poetry reading at a taqueria."

Garza was also optimistic, saying, "You can make your own way with your own readings. Open mic nights get you out there and the best way to know if a poem is any good is to read it aloud to an audience. Performing at readings

has really helped me as an artist."

At first, both Sandoval and Garza began their spoken-word performances to try it out and share their work with others, but now they have become addicted to the rush.

"There's nothing like getting on stage behind a mic," Sandoval said. "Sure you're nervous, but once the works start coming out of your mouth and flowing and you know their hitting...it's amazing."

Choosing the Chicano Voice

As Chicanas and Valley natives, both womens' work reflects the Mexican-American culture.

"This area is very unique," Sandoval said. "Our traditions are very poignant because we're so close to Mexico.

I like that I grew up here because it's a unique experience that influences my writing."

Despite being surrounded by the culture or perhaps because of that, Garza was reluctant to create Chicano-themed poetry in her early years as a writer. Her education changed that.

"I used to think Mexican-American, I don't want to be associated with that, and I didn't even want to speak Spanish," said Garza, who even went as far as falsely claiming Puerto Rican roots. "But I was studying anthropology and thought, well I might as well study my own culture."

She soon grew to be a proud Chicana and her poetry began revolving around Mexican-American themes as most works by Valley writers do.

"I think I owe it to myself and my family to understand and write about my culture," said Garza, who uses the literary technique of code-switching between Spanish and English in her poetry.

Although Sandoval admits her culture and experience in the Valley affect her work, she does not like for her work to be strictly marginalized as Chicano literature.

"I respect the Chicano voice but I think it has become stereotypical," she said. "I think my poetry has that flavor and style and shows the Valley experience, but I make sure it doesn't sound forced."

"Besides we're not the same generation from before," she added. "There's been an evolution in the Chicano culture but not in the poetry."

Because of this Sandoval is careful about how she expresses her Chicano culture in her work.

"I don't talk about frijoles or the

struggle, or put in Spanish words just to make it sound Mexican," she added. "I do write about my grandma's tortillas because that's my experience and it makes my poetry real."

Realizing the market for Chicano literature, Sandoval said, "The poems I usually get asked to read are the ones that have a stronger Chicano voice."

While she enjoys her culture and writing about it she feels it can also be restricting and would like to explore other genres and themes.

"Writing strictly Chicano poetry limits you," she explained. "But that's

is now pursuing publication of her work in larger national literary magazines.

The most unique obstacle for Valley poets is that to make a name for themselves they have to not only perfect their art, but also create their own paths.

"You have to be

creative and innovative," Garza said.

"Find places to share your poetry.

It's there but you have to really look for it and be proactive. Meet people and make connections. Make your own poetry readings if you have to. Be persistent and just keep writing."

Sandoval published her own works in a collection titled "The Answer" and is now looking to produce her own CD.

"You can always do self-publication and use the Internet to get your poetry out there," she suggested. "I keep hearing rumors that things are coming, that maybe we're going to get a publishing company down here. That would be great but until then we're on our own."

"Sometimes I think, 'You don't have a book deal yet, girl.' But then I remember why I started writing," she added. "I remember wanting to share myself with others and I remember that I started doin' this because God gave me a gift and if I don't use it, God will take it away from me."

Staying Home

While there is more opportunity in bigger cities like San Antonio and Los Angeles for Chicano poets, many like Garza and Sandoval have chosen to stay here and create their own opportunities.

"I could very easily just go somewhere else," she said. "But I've dedicated myself to the community and the writers in the Valley trying to make it."

It is because of the lack of artistic support that both Garza and Sandoval have decided to stay in the Valley and make their talents useful.

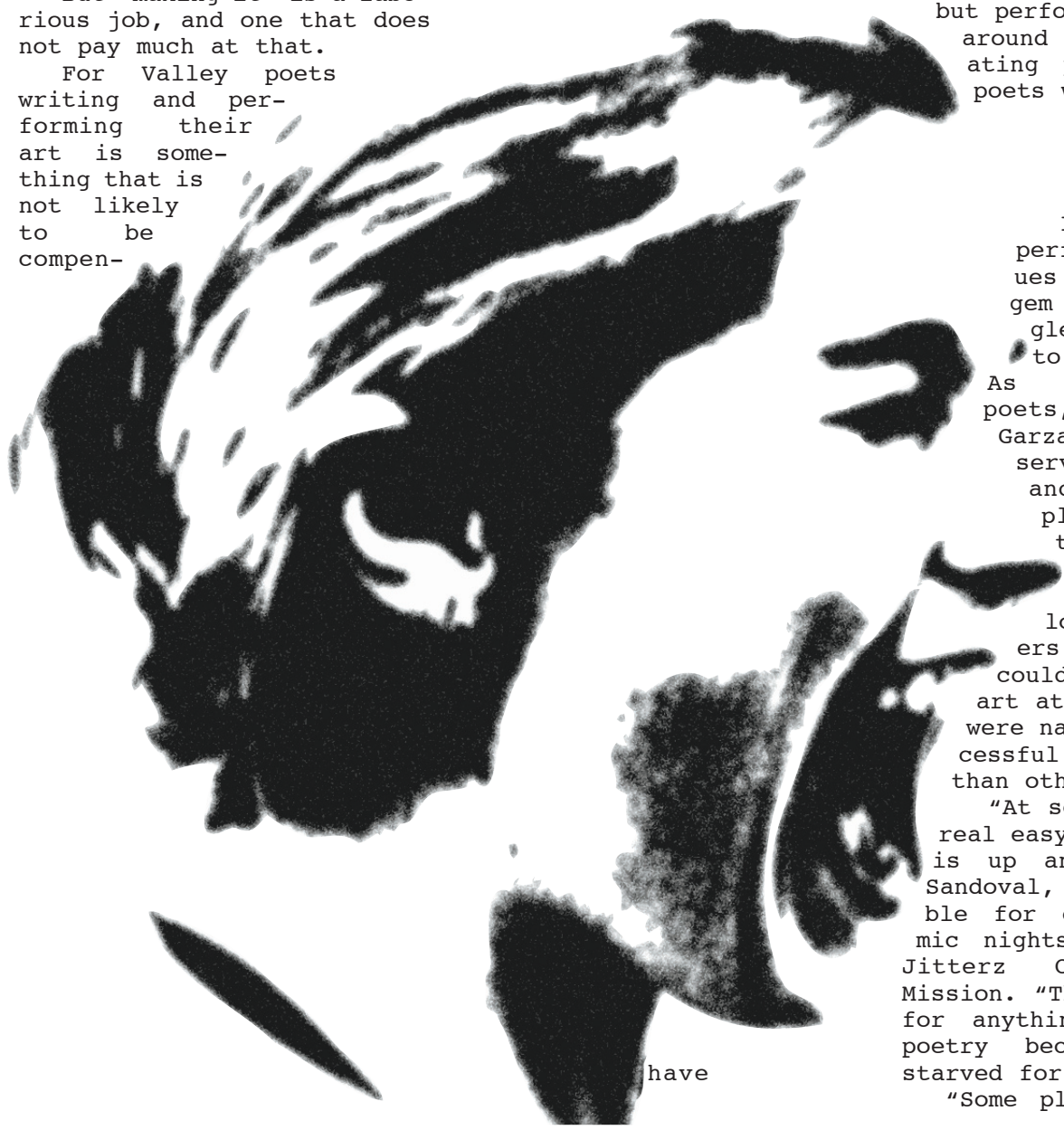
"If you want to make a difference than do it here where it's needed, where the roads need to be paved," Sandoval said. "Sure sometimes I get this hunger for something bigger, but I'm not seeking to leave because I love this place."

"Everywhere else the poetry scene has been established," she added. "They have their La Erikas and Lady Mariposas. Where we need to be is right here."

They hope their efforts along with the growth of the Valley will make the area known for its artistic contributions.

"I think this place is going to be a place artists have to hit," Sandoval said. "Now they say 'you have to go to Austin if you're in Texas.'

Later they're going to be saying 'you have to go to the RGV if you're in Texas.'"



"There's tons of talent in the Valley but there's not enough encouragement. It's a new age...I think there's a movement going on and there's a lot of writers coming and there's a lot of students, hey, if you have something to say, let's say it."

New record label seeks to make next country stars

By JEANETTE FERRY-GOMEZ
The Pan American

Texas is welcoming a new record label into the eclectic music scene. Green Filly Records has recently released a request for demos and open mic nights to preview artists in the Valley. Starting Sept. 9 Green Filly Records will begin a six-month search for talented artists in the area and Texas wide.

The "Show Us Your Stuff Campaign" will encompass California, Tennessee and Texas. Ball caps, long sleeve T-shirts and tank tops will be sold at these events with a portion of the profits going to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

The label is also looking for talented songwriters in addition to singers, and officials are interested in helping locals build a career in the music business.

If you're wondering where the name comes from, it's a quote about horse riding by J. Hayes.

"There's no better horse than a green filly," Hayes wrote. "Why, you ask? Because when she quiets down, looks you in the eye, and lets you get back on and go for a ride, you'll know you made a partner and a friend...a friend for life...a friend for the entire ride."

Lauren Garland, CEO and President of Wildflower Industries Incorporated, owns Green Filly Records. She explained why she

chose the name for the label.

"I've grown up with horses and have had a lot of fillies and mares, some un-broken or 'green' fillies," Garland said. "The 'green' fillies were always the most fun because it was something different every time I got on. I've always had a bit of an untamed spirit myself, so the name Green Filly just seemed to fit."

Green Filly Records is a division of Wildflower Industries, which also owns Wildflower Publishing Company. While based in Austin, the corporate offices are located in California. Launched in September 2005, Green Filly Records is a new country music record label whose main areas of interest span from Texas to Los Angeles.

Headlining the label are aspiring future country music superstars Miss Hunter James & J.R. Starch. Hunter James has an album that will be released next summer.

As for interns, Green Filly is in need of dedicated and responsible college students with experience in marketing, public relations, and graphic design. Students can participate as long as they have a working phone and Internet connection as well as transportation to and from events. This work-from-home type of internship increases the flexibility of work schedules and widens the pool of available interns.

Visit www.greenfillyrecords.com for more information.

Comedian Dane Cook scores big on latest, 'Retaliation'

By BRIAN CARR
The Pan American

Since the 2003 release of his CD/DVD combo "Harmful If Swallowed," Dane Cook has been taking the comedy world by storm with his ranting stand-up routines, which focus on everything from a child-hood fear of the Kool Aid Man to pregnant sex.

But now the comic, who made Rolling Stones' Hot List in 2004, has forged a spot in hilarity history with his newest release "Retaliation" – the highest debuting comedy album since Steve Martin's 1978 release, "A Wild and Crazy Guy."

Back with his trade mark SuperFinger fully extended, the young comic does not deviate from the formula which made "Harmful" a success on the college circuit. Cook's approach to comedy is conversational, despite the fact that his albums are recorded in front of large audiences, with his listeners essentially taking an audio tour of the estranged mind of the 33-year-old.

And apparently the formula works, as fans rewarded Cook with a fourth place debut on the Billboard charts, and subsequent appearances on the 2005 MTV Video Awards, have helped to keep "Retaliation" on the top 40 chart since its release.

From social-circle observations such as "The Friend Nobody Likes," to a personal realization of dreams as in "Struck by a Vehicle,"

"Retaliation" finds Cook transforming his obvious attention deficit into a panorama of filth and arrogance, with himself playing a god figure among throw away characters surrounding his own life. In Cook's "Superbleeder," the comic addresses his own love of violence, "When you see someone walking down the street in a Super Man T-shirt, don't you want to just shoot them in the chest?"

Morbid? Perhaps for the everyman. But in Cook's mind there is a clear reason for reprimanding a comic-hero imposter through death, and his rationale harkens upon a blunt and honest analysis of the human condition.

Speaking to the lowest common denominator within us all, Cook is destined to be compared to blue-comic greats such as Lenny Bruce and George Carlin. But whereas most noteworthy comics in history have attacked larger issues such as race, politics and gender relations, Cook is content to address random everyday events with an almost childlike affinity. The result is a comic experience free of downers.

This youthful predisposition to comic hi-jinx is most clearly illustrated in the semi-self gratifying "Legacy," wherein the ADHD poster boy diagrams a deviant scheme for daily infamy.

"The other day I saw a young boy eating an ice cream cone, I ran up and I smashed into his face, and I leaned in and said, 'You remember me forever!'"

And we probably will.

Storytelling captivates area audiences for third year

By CLARALEXIS RIOS
The Pan American

Nearly 200 literary lovers were enlivened by words at the International Museum of Art and Science's third annual South Texas Literary Festival on Aug. 27.

This year's featured author was Carmen Lomas Garza, a Kingsville native who has expressed her experiences in South Texas through her artwork.

She is the author of several works, including "Making Magic Windows: Creating 'Papal Picado,' 'Family Pictures' and 'In My Family.'"

Lomas Garza explained why she simply had to participate in the event.

"Evana kept insisting me," she said. "It has been a long time since I came down here. I wish they had this for the Chicanos when I was a kid."

Evana Vleck, education coordinator at IMAS, came up with the idea three years ago with a friend. It began as a workshop at the museum and has rapidly caught on throughout the Valley.

"We ended up meeting, and within that meeting, we came to the conclusion that the Valley had a large amount of talent, and that an all-day event dedicated to the written word would be the perfect thing to bring to the community," Vleck said.

The University of Texas-Pan American had one representative at the festival. English professor Rene Saldaña Jr., author of "Finding Our Way" and "The Jumping Tree," took the stage.

Saldaña critiques himself on his performance during his presentation.

"I had fun," he said. "I didn't make any major mistakes and I practiced last night."

While Saldaña was reading "Jump Away," a story from the book "Guys Read," a cell phone rang in the audience at the moment he read the words, "As the phone rang." After that first ring, another cell phone rang and Saldaña made it seem that it was part of the story as he read, "And then another phone rang."

When another cell phone rang a third time, he said, "There it goes again." With that comment, the audience roared with laughter.

Roberto L. Gómez, a pastor at El Mesias United Methodist Church in Mission, explained his family ties to the literary festival.

"My daughter and I came here last year and we enjoyed it," he said. "This year, I also liked Arturo Longoria's story and I could see it as he read it."

Longoria is a former lecturer at the university – and former adviser to The Pan American – who has written on the area's native brushlands, among other topics.

From Aug. 23 to Aug. 29, Barnes & Noble bookstore in McAllen held a book fair

fundraiser to raise money for the museum's education programs, events, and exhibitions. The bookstore donated a percentage of their total sales.

Martha Cantú, a Mission High School English teacher, said that she was delighted with both the fair and the museum event.

"That was a wonderful and great idea," Cantú said. "I'm from McAllen and I have seen this museum grow and it is still continuing to grow after several private businesses

have donated over the years."

Master of Ceremonies David Champion suggested that the museum should consider expanding the festival in years to come, due to its great success.

"It wasn't long enough," he said. "Other than Valley authors, authors from across the nation and region should be invited as well. This could easily be a two- or three-day event. I would also like to see more young people attend these kinds of events."



THE SHAPE OF THINGS - Fred Spaulding shows Julie McKee, a junior fine arts major, the dynamics of throwing clay in his ceramics class. Joel de la Roa/The Pan American

MILITARY

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they had to do. They had limited phone and Internet access to contact their families at home.

"It was a scary feeling; I knew it was going to happen, it was just a matter of time. I was scared but you had to hide the fear for your fellow Marines," Officer Cruz said. "What came to my mind mainly was my family, especially my mother."

Sgt. Longoria said they were prepared and well-trained for whatever lay ahead of them.

"It was something that we had to do, not only for us but for our fellow Marines out there. It was just a job that we had to do," Sgt. Longoria said. "That's what we enlisted for when we joined the Marines. We knew what to expect."

He explained that the way of life he saw in Iraq was very different.

"A lot of times we take for granted what we have here. Like for one, school. They were off because they were in a combat zone. We were fighting the war, so a lot of the kids weren't going to school," said Sgt. Longoria.

"Here a lot of people drop out and they don't care. People over there, on the other hand, want to be over here because we have a better way of life."

Officer Cruz's main culture shock was the language barrier he experienced. He was able to catch a couple of words.

"It's good for us to know because sometimes we have to stop these people," he said.

"We'd do a lot of vehicle checkpoints. Monitor the traffic flow, look for insurgents or weapons," Sgt. Longoria added.

They also had to be very cautious at not offending Iraqis in simple ways that may seem common to us. For example, showing them the bottom of the feet, even pointing at them, could trigger a misunderstanding.

"It's hard to get used to their customs because any little thing can [show disrespect]. For us it's nothing but for them it's a lot," Longoria said.

He added that knowing about other cultures is very important to avoid offending anyone.

They had many close calls for improvised explosive devices, also known as roadside bombs, and were chased by "motor rounds," bombs which shot out of motor tubes.

"It was cool," Longoria said. "We were out there running, they were shooting the land right behind us. You could hear us on the radios yelling, 'We're getting shot! We're getting shot!'"

He laughs now, but admits it was scary at the time.

The three local students talked

about fellow Marines who did not make it back. On January 13 of this year, they lost two Marines from their unit and seven were wounded in action.

"It was about 9:30 in the morning, it was just a regular day for us and then we found out that some fellow Marines had been killed from our company," Sgt. Longoria said.

"That really opened up our eyes," said Officer Cruz. "This could really happen to anybody at any time."

As for their future plans, Longoria looks forward to graduating from the university with a degree in criminal justice and starting a career with a federal agency. Officer Cruz would like to obtain a degree in history with a minor in special education to become a special education teacher. He would also like to open a special education center and Sgt. Longoria wants to pursue a law enforcement career. A three Marines would also like to start a family in the future.



Photo courtesy of Jorge Cruz

GUN CONTROL – Cruz on duty at a post during the Iraqi elections. The three Marines now laugh about the fear they experienced in combat.

TECHNOLOGY

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said.

Toal, who is the director of Academic Computing, praised the efforts of the university in improving security.

"I think that we are significantly better prepared to defend the campus, to react swiftly if a threat breaks out, and I think that just proactively we've got our game together. Just the performance of the whole network during the Zotob outbreak, the one that was so heavily played up by the media outlets, the fact that we weren't even affected by it speaks for itself," Toal said.

Another recent security concern was the zero day exploit bug. An unsuspecting Internet user would need to visit a website with malicious coding to be hit. The bug, which takes advantage of a flaw in one of the files that comes with Microsoft Office and Visual Studio, has not become widespread. In fact, only computers with the Msdds.dll file are vulnerable. However, for any computer with the file installed, someone outside of campus could potentially take control of any computer or cause it to crash.

According to Victor Gonzalez, a software systems support specialist, users can elevate the security of their browser and try not to run anything from a Web site automatically to reduce the chances of getting it.

With new security measures such as Lightspeed and Systems Management Server [SMS], support staff can instantaneously block outside threats and patch a computer. With the addition of a widespread wireless network across campus, additional measures have been imple-

mented to keep the university's network safe.

SMS, which is almost a year old, is like a biofeedback system. A computer under management sends its information to a central server where it is monitored. If any abnormalities appear, technicians can take immediate action by sending patches directly to the computer or blocking access to the affected machine. Steve Copold, Director of Telecommunication Services and the Interim Chief Information Security Officer, is hoping to spread awareness across campus to help protect users from exposing themselves to the threat of viruses and worms.

Although many protection measures are in place, following the simple computer management policy can save computer users from a lot of headache.

"It's a requirement that everyone have anti-virus software on their machines and that they have the most current definitions in place. The same thing with the operating systems, which is mostly where the exploits come in, like in Explorer. It's a requirement that they keep the patches current on the operating system," said Copold.

Concerned computer users can contact Academic Computing for assistance in preparing their desktops against future threats. For those not on SMS, all that's required is the installation of a client to begin receiving constant system surveillance and protection.

Students and faculty can receive a free version of McAfee VirusScan from the Information Security Office at the Computer Center.

MEXICO

continued from page 1

small-store owners.

"In Mexico we do not have a democracy. The democracy is imposed on us," said an anonymous merchant in Progreso. "When it is time for elections, the officials come inside our business to give us the name of the candidate that we are supposed to vote for."

As of today, *puesteros* and store owners do not yet have a candidate in the 2006 Mexican elections because of the uncertainty surrounding various political parties.

"We cannot tell you who is going to be our presidential candidate in the 2006 elections. We do not yet know," said one store owner in Matamoros. "The higher-ranking officials are having problems among each other; even they don't know who will be running the country."

According to merchants, two wars are taking place on the Mexican border, one between drug cartels that has left 800 people dead, and one pitting political parties against one another. And, as usual, the little guy is in the crossfire.

"It looks like we are in the middle of two wars," said an anonymous liquor store owner from Matamoros. "As we say here in Mexico, 'the bone is very juicy.' That's why everyone wants to eat it."

Corrupt officials have been intimidating merchants to the point

that they are even afraid to say who might be the next Mexican president when Vicente Fox steps down next year.

"I wish I could give you an opinion of my favorite candidate, but I would rather not," said an anonymous *puestero* in Progreso. "I don't want to get in trouble with the law. If I give you an opinion, I might lose my *puestito*, and then how am I going to support my family?"

If merchants refuse to vote for the "suggested" candidate, they are often beaten or thrown into jail. Piracy and the sale of illegal products are very common on the border. Most government officials use the threat of prosecution for these crimes to oppress merchants.

"The cops take advantage of us, and we can't do anything about it. They tell us that if we don't do as they say, they will accuse us of selling illegal merchandise," said an anonymous Progreso merchant, in Spanish. "And even if we know that our merchandise is legal these officials always find a way to manipulate us."

Street merchants affirm that this problem is nationwide, though it is worse on the border, far from the central government agencies who might be able to help if they were so inclined.

"These things are not happening just on the border," said an any-

mous *puestero* from Progreso. "I used to live in Monterrey, and the cops treated us the same. But the reason I came here to Progreso is because I thought I was going to make more money from many Americans that come here."

Even though the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) controls most of the border, the merchants say that there are other corrupt parties in a country known for its "colorful" political history.

"PRI is not the only corrupt party. Every political party is the same," said a Matamoros store owner. "The names of the parties are just a cover-up. All parties are in the same posture just to make people believe there is a democracy."

However, people living in extreme poverty, who don't work in *puestos* or stores, seem to be affected less. They are so politically powerless and alienated that their only concern is to find a way to eat every day. Many do not even know who is in power.

"We don't even care who is going to be the next president. The people in power change but we are still in the same misery," said Carlos Mendez, from Reynosa. "No, we don't feel obligated to vote for anyone in particular. I think it's because we don't have anything of value that they can take away from us."

Police over the border refused to comment on the issue. Along with law enforcement officials, journalists in Mexico have been treated violently in the recent spate of turbulence in Mexican border society.

"As government officials, we are not allowed to talk about anything that deals with politics. It is denied to us by the law," said one private Security Officer. "I can tell that my candidate

for the elections is Obrador, but I cannot tell you my name because I might get fired from my position."

When officers refuse to speak, it makes the public suspicious. At most times they are part of the problem, not the solution. The average small-business person here continues to be strong-armed by local authorities, as the long and sad tradition of political coercion continues in Mexico.



Melissa Martinez/ Pan American

MAKING A LIVING – An anonymous street vendor walks through neighborhoods in Reynosa selling cold drinks.

HENAAC continued from page 3

check.

"I explained how the [scholarship] money will be used to further my education and career," said Gomez, who plans to go to graduate school while working with web design.

University propaganda and postings around campus encouraged Gomez to apply, and he also received a strong nudge from his girlfriend, he noted.

"I wasn't really planning to apply, and I was very surprised when I got the great news," said Gomez, who will be attending

an annual conference hosted by HENAAC. There will be an awards dinner, a job fair, and many chances for recognition.

"These are students who fight their way up in education, and that's what [HENAAC] is looking for," said LeMaster, who will accompany Gomez and several students from the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE).

"Hispanic students need role models who can show them what they can accomplish, and that's what HENAAC does," said LeMaster.

MARKETING continued from page 3

through surveys of local school districts and communities. They have also collected information from the different departments on campus. The results are under screening and interpretation by the marketing group.

Roxas explained that there is a larger committee known as the UTPA Marketing Advisory Committee consisting of over thirty staff and faculty members. The committee will review any pertinent information that the marketing group presents. The goal of the committee is to bring uniformity to the university.

"The committee will bring consistency amongst the separate departments and colleges in the University. Everyone will have the same UTPA logo, the same fonts and col-

ors," said Dr. Velma Menchaca, Dean of the College of Education. The group has only recently been formed and the individuals with influence within the university that are involved have been in action since early August.

So while all the leg work is done by the marketing group led by Roxas, the larger Marketing Advisory Committee will decide on the realistic ideas that will be presented.

Any decisions concerning the marketing strategy of UTPA should be reached by the end of the Spring 2006 semester. At that time the university should have a brand that resolves this issue and displays UTPA's clear distinct personality.



Joel de la Rosa/The Pan American

HELPING HAND - Gabriel Mendoza, D.S. technician II, takes blood from biology freshman Gloria Silva. Wednesday afternoon in the library. The Red Cross Blood Drive has been on campus throughout the week.

UTPA grad distinguishes herself as community leader

By **HILDA LORIA**
The Pan American

To UTPA graduate Laura Reagan, success is "doing what you love and getting paid for it." She also says that "Being of service to others and having a place in the community where you contribute," is vital. And she's doing all of that.

She is proof of the thriving fruit produced by The University of Texas-Pan American, a success story for university students to recognize, admire, and emulate.

Reagan's most recent success was her appointment to the position of executive director of the Boys and Girls Club of McAllen. As executive director, she supervises staff, writes grants, and oversees a program that serves 8,000 youths per year in four centers.

"You have to be creative about making your own niche. I found something that I cared about and it's clinical sociology - the practice of sociology in the community," said Reagan, who got a master's in the subject at UTPA. "It's been a trial-and-error process. I hadn't done it well at first, but I did eventually find a place for myself in the community both in the business and now serving as the Boys and Girls Club executive director."

Her immediate goals and projects for the McAllen club include outreach programming for gang prevention, diversified programming - especially for young girls - and increasing funding sources.

"We need a lot of volunteer work for our programs," Reagan explained. "There are opportunities for college students, organizations, and others who are interested to mentor kids about the value of education and persistence."

Dr. Elena Bastida, a professor in UTPA's Department of Sociology, served as a committee member on Reagan's graduate thesis and

remembers her former student fondly.

"[Reagan] always had something to contribute to the class, said Bastida. "[Sociology is] a wonderful profession for her, she'll probably be an innovative director, bringing in lots of new ideas and ways of doing things. She'll be successful and will do very good things for them."

Reagan's route to success is atypical of the high school-to college-to graduate school-to work formula that university students are accustomed to following. Her educational course was worked through a little at a time, oftentimes with the challenge of balancing work, school, family, and other personal stresses.

"I lived on nothing in college. I was in the ministry and lived in a parsonage... basically social welfare of others and went to school," she explained. "I had a kid in the middle of it. I had student loans. Shortly after grad school I divorced, so life was difficult."

But that didn't discourage Reagan from continuing her education.

"When you're in school, delayed gratification is real important. You kind of do this trick in your head where you say, 'I can't have it now, but maybe later,'" Reagan explained. "And I lived like that for a long time. It's only now that I'm beginning to enjoy the fruits of that labor, and it's worth it, it's really worth it."

Slowly but surely, Reagan got her bachelor's degree in sociology at the University of Louisiana-Monroe and her master's at UTPA.

In between, she worked in a variety of occupations: ministry, substance abuse counselor in the RGV and Mexico City, mental health case manager at Tropical Texas, and teaching assistant in UTPA.

Since graduation, Reagan has worked for several nonprofit organizations such as

Texas Educativa and *Comunidades Unidas por Salud* and has built a social research firm. She attributes some of her success as a student and now as a professional to a supportive network of classmates and professors who gave her skills that she continues to use to this day.

"Dr. Bastida introduced me to the grant writing process first. Qualitative research methods with Dr. [Kelly] Himmel was wonderful, and Dr. [Chad] Richardson shared a love of the Valley and using your own sociological backyard as research material," Reagan reminisced. "I had professors that were knowledgeable and willing, each [giving] something different."

Reagan also appreciated the master's program for its proximity to the border and the interaction with the Mexican-American population, because of her interest in borderland studies.

"I just saw it as an opportunity because my interest in sociology is borderland studies, [and] it's the perfect fit to do that here," said Reagan.

When asked what her advice is to current UTPA students, Reagan said: "Persist, persist, persist. If you want it, you can have it. I decided to do what I love. My mantra has been do what you love and the money will follow. And it has. I'm living proof that it has."



Joel de la Rosa/The Pan American

LONG WAY HOME - UTPA grad Laura Reagan has been named the executive director of the Boys and Girls Club of McAllen. She is a testament to hard work and perseverance.

SPORTS CLIPBOARD

Cunningham fills in vacancy New assistant coach replaces Hess

Track and field coach Ricky Vaughn announced Tuesday, Aug. 30, that Brian Cunningham had been named assistant track and field/cross country coach.

In his previous two years before accepting the job at UTPA, he was the men's and women's track and field/cross country coach at the College of William & Mary. He primarily focused on training middle-distance runners, and helped produce a pair of NCAA national qualifiers.

Now that he is here at UTPA, Cunningham will be taking over the men's and women's programs. The men's cross country squad will see the return of Westly Keating and Hector Gandara, the duo that has a combined three National Independent Championships and a trio of Independent Runner of the Year awards.

The women's program is still fairly strong even with the absence of their top performer in 2004, Bertha Castillo; it will have five runners back from last year. Lizet Garcia and Karla Hernandez are two of those runners who posted good times during last season's cross country season, and the pair will add good leadership for the squad.

United States, Mexico set for round two

U.S. tries to even the score at one apiece

The second qualifying match between Mexico and the United States national soccer teams will happen Saturday as the CONCACAF World Cup qualifying matches continue.

The Mexican team came out on top 2-1 during the first meeting March 27, and the loss placed the United States second in the standings behind leader Mexico. Jared Borgetti, Mexico's go-to man, was the one that drew first blood during the match and assisted teammate Antonio Naelson three minutes later with another goal. The U.S.'s only goal came from midfielder Eddie Lewis during the 59th minute.

The Mexican team has announced that Borgetti and Naelson will be leading them in the U.S. qualifier. The U.S.'s Landon Donovan and Marcus Beasley will have to bring their best if they plan on splitting the series with our neighbors to the south.

Mexico currently dominates the series with 30 wins, 10 losses, and 10 ties. Though the U.S. team does know how to win against Mexico in crucial games, such as when Mexico was knocked out of the 2002 World Cup.

The game will be for FIFA World Rankings, with Mexico two rankings points ahead of the United States for fifth place. The game airs on Telemundo at 8:30 p.m.

Keating receives preseason accolade

Bronc senior named Preseason Co-Indy Runner of Year

Three-time All-American Westly Keating (Pharr, TX/University of Texas) was selected as the Preseason Co-Independent Runner of the Year on Wednesday for the upcoming 2005 Independent cross country season.

"I think that this honor gives Westly the respect that he deserves from his performances over the past few years. It's a nice honor that our fellow coaches have bestowed on him. I think that Westly's main goal is to go out and concentrate on the NCAA Championships and winning that competition," said head cross country coach Ricky Vaughn.

Keating, who has also captured a pair of Independent Runner of the Year laurels in 2002 and 2003, was selected along with freshman Shadrack Songok of Texas A&M - Corpus Christi, who finished ninth at the 2005 NCAA Division I National Championships in the 5,000 meters, as the pre-season top competitors.

As a squad, the Broncs were picked to finish fourth overall out of eight schools with UC-Davis leading the way as the preseason favorites. South Dakota State and North Dakota State were ranked second and third followed by UTPA and Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

The Lady Broncs were picked seventh overall in the preseason rankings while UC-Davis and Texas A&M-Corpus Christi were the favorites among all women's squads. South Dakota State, Utah Valley State and North Dakota State all rounded out the top five.

The 2005 University of Texas-Pan American men's and women's cross country season begins on Sept. 17th at the Rice Invitational hosted by Rice University.

UTPA Sports Information

FOR THE RECORD

UTPA SPORTS

UTPA VOLLEYBALL

Saturday, Aug. 26-27

University Tulsa Tournament

Fordham def. UTPA

30-21, 30-28, 30-18,

Tulsa def. UTPA

30-17, 30-21, 30-16

UTPA def. Lamar

25-30, 30-24, 20-30, 30-25, 15-13

Utah State def. UTPA

30-14, 25-30, 30-24, 30-19

Tournament totals

UTPA: Kills, 173, Kellie Phillips 41; assists, 164, Karen Lyons 110; digs, 230, Chrissie Carrigan 63; blocks, 34.0, Stephanie Redd 15.0; aces, 18, Chrissie Carrigan 4

record: (1-3)

OPPS: Kills, 216; assists 193; digs, 232; blocks, 33.0; aces 36

UTPA 2005 Cross Country Schedule

Sept. 17 Rice Invitational

Oct. 1 Cowboy Jamboree

Oct. 15 Pre-Nationals (men)
Chili Pepper (women)

Oct. 29 Independent Championship

Nov. 12 NCAA South Central Champ.

Nov. 22 NCAA Championships

UTPA Men's Club Soccer Schedule

Lone Star South

Sept. 10 **A&M Kingsville**

Sept. 11 Texas State

Sept. 17 UTSA

Sept. 24 UTB

Oct. 1 **TSU**

Oct. 9 **UTSA**

Oct. 15 TAMUK 7pm

Oct. 16 **UTB**

Oct. 21 Region IV Tournament

Nov. 17 NIRSA Championship

All home games in bold. Games are at 1 p.m. unless noted

Ready for some Rio Grande Valley Football

The season begins for the remainder of the Valley's high school football teams who did not play during Zero Week. Their season follows last week's introduction of gridiron teams, both big and small. This week, those teams along with the Valley's more elite units take their place beneath the Friday night lights. These games represent the more high-profile contests happening around the valley kicking off RGV football 2005.

Edinburg Bobcats at San Benito Greyhounds

The week's highlight game finds a young, virtually untested Edinburg signal caller - Bobby Trevino - in the fight of his life against a San Benito team that went 12-1 last season, advancing to the Class 5A Division II quarterfinals.

The Greyhounds dominated 32-5A boasting a season total 4,269 yards of total offense, averaging 39 points a game. Both teams are expected to be among the area's best.

Edinburg Economedes at Brownsville Pace (Sat.)

Sharyland coaches offered a stern warning to their players: avoid underestimating the Economedes Jaguars following an offensive display resuscitated by two strong-armed quarterbacks Rick Alaniz and Micheal Iglesias. In the air, and on the ground, the offense took the Sharyland defense by surprise last Friday retaliating with 14 points in the second quarter following a 12-point deficit.

Harris Ratings predicts the Vikings pull a off victory by eight points but the teams sport similar units offensively and defensively. The Jags return a total of seven starters com-

pared to Pace's 12.

Both teams struggle with the realities of losing key players to graduation. In Economedes' case, losing Ryan Richardson and Derek Garcia hurt. Pace loses Josh Leffler, Jerry Monroe, and Chris Jaramillo from a team that emerged as the Division II bi-district finalist in 2004.

Brownsville Rivera at Edinburg North

Practice is over for the Edinburg North Cougars. Following a scrimmage last week against Rio Grande City, the Coogs will have to find a way to pull away from last year's 1-8 season.

Beating the Rattlers 21-0 seems to be a good start, so does having 10 returning starters. They will host a tough Rivera team that won last week despite the loss of quarterback Tiger Padilla, who transferred to Brownsville Hanna in the offseason.

PSJA Memorial vs PSJA North

The Raiders are favored to take 31-5A and never look back. Of course, the season is still in its infancy, and North should take a lesson from La Joya's loss to Rivera last week, not to underestimate an underdog.

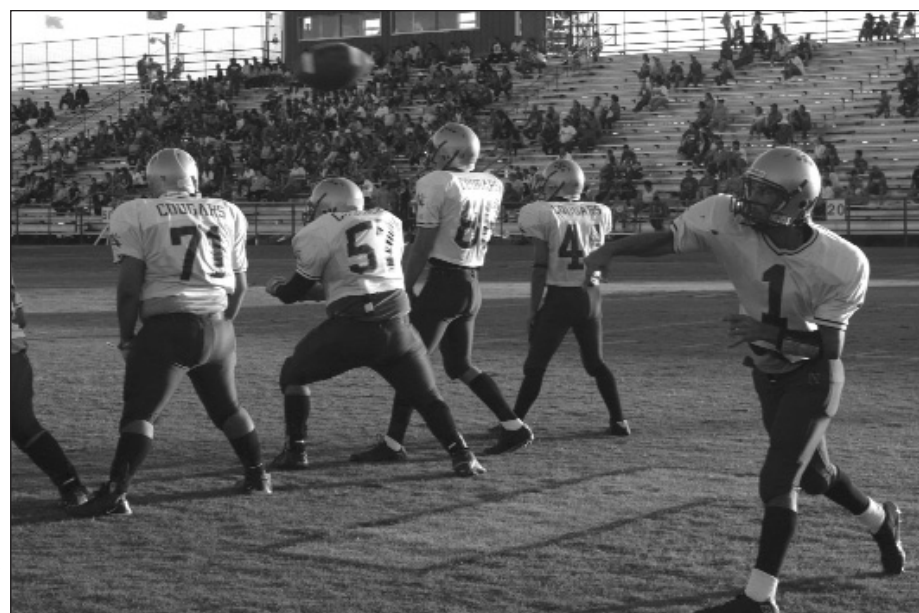
The Division I bi-district finalist Wolverines are coming off their third playoff trip in program history despite going 4-7 overall and 4-3 in district. They return 10 starters to the field.

Memorial amassed 3,205 total yards, good for fourth place, in 32-4A last season. The Raiders are looking to capitalize on depth, defensively. Seven players of last year's Division II bi-district team return. They are 1-0 this season.

McAllen Mustangs at Mission Vets (Thur.)

Mission Veterans coach Carlos Longoria returns with 24 lettermen and 13 starters (six offense, seven defense) to a team that emerged as a Division II bi-district finalist in 2004. The Patriots went 5-2 in district and 8-3 in last years campaign.

They face a Mustangs team that despite hovering at the bottom of district 30-5A last year (3-7, 2-3) returns seven starters to both sides of the ball. Memorial is currently ranked third by district coaches as was reported in Texas Football magazine. The Mustangs' primary attack will probably rest with junior back Bradley Stephens, who has rushed for 3,000 yards in his career.



Daryl Gonzales/ The Pan American

WARM UP - Edinburg North senior quarterback Ramiro Ramirez fires a pass in a pre-game warmup last week at Rio Grande City. The Cougars take on Brownsville Rivera at home in their season opener Friday.



with UTPA Men's Head Golf Coach Andrew Tredway by Annalisa Limas

Annalisa Limas: What factors influenced your decision to accept the head golf coach position?

Andrew Tredway: "The desire to be the head golf coach was my biggest influence; it's something I've always wanted to do, something that I've been preparing for, for the last five years."

AL: What do you hope to bring to the team?

AT: "I hope to bring just my experiences. I've been through what these guys are going through, as far as college golf and I've played professional golf and I've been around a lot of the best players in the game. I think there are a lot of little nuances to the game that these guys haven't learned yet and hopefully I can teach them."

AL: When you think of golf, it's often seen as an individual sport. How does the "team" aspect come into play?

AT: "I think it's one of the great things about golf, as far as college golf goes that when you look over you see your teammates also going through it, walking with their head up or their head down, and you can kind of read their body language; it kind of gives everyone else on the team a little boost and I think that's where the team aspect comes in; you're still playing your own game but there's a lot of support you can give each other out on the course just by body language."

AL: What kind of impact do you think the difference of the local courses that you practice on, compared to the golf courses you compete on, will have on your team's ability to perform?

AT: "Well I think these courses are a good test of golf. What's nice is that we have a lot of different types of golf courses, some that are very, very short where we actually shoot low scores on and then you have some that can play very, very difficult in the wind. We kind of get the best of both worlds, so hopefully that will translate into some success."

AL: What goals or expectations do you have for your first season at UTPA?

AT: "I would just like to see the guys improve individually. I think when that happens we'll get better as a team. But as far as goals go, it's a little bit early for me to say, we kind of have to evaluate those as we go."

AL: What goals do you have for the Sept. 12 event?

AT: "The first event will really show us where we're at and then we can kind of go from there. My goal for the team is for them to have fun, do well in school, and for them to achieve their own personal goals. For the first event we'll just need to evaluate where we are and where we need to go to."

AL: Who are you looking at to lead the team?

AT: "Definitely our senior Craig Berger; he's already shown to me that he's a leader; also Colin Norris; just the way they've accepted the new freshmen and just showing them around and really helping them. I'm really counting on those two guys."

AL: How do you think having three freshmen will affect the team?

AT: "From what I've seen so far, they're all really great guys. I'm coming into a situation where I'm really going to have some help here from these guys."

AL: As a coach, what do you think is the most important thing to focus on in developing the team?

AT: "Well I think getting them to believe in me is a big help. If they believe that I know what I'm talking about and that I can help them, when that happens we'll start seeing some success and we can kind of go from there. But I think we're on our way and I think we're going to be just fine."

AL: Are there any common misconceptions of golf that you would like to set straight?

AT: "Well we don't all wear plaid pants but it's starting to come back so we just might have to start breaking out the plaid pretty soon."



Broncs getting set for New Mexico Tourney

By **DARYL GONZALES**
The Pan American

The University of Texas-Pan American had its hands full last weekend, but this coming volleyball weekend will only bring a bigger challenge, as the Lady Broncs compete at the New Mexico Tournament Sept. 2-3.

The tournament will have Tulsa, Cincinnati and host New Mexico State, a nationally ranked powerhouse. The Lady Broncs look to even things up with Tulsa after losing to the Golden Hurricane at the Tulsa Tourney. The weekend will also mark the school's first-ever competition against the Cincinnati team.

"We are just going to go back to the fundamentals and work on the little things and get ourselves ready for this next tournament," coach Dave Thorn said. "It is going to be a long process, where these first tournaments are really going to give an opportunity to play a lot of different people, rather than playing against ourselves."

Last weekend the Lady Broncs played four matches, winning once, against Lamar in five sets. The three losses came against Fordham and Tulsa in three straight sets, and to Utah State in four.

"I really liked how the returners played, and think that they all meshed pretty well," Thorn said. "The conditioning level has been good for this team and I liked how everyone came back in shape to allow us to do more work in the preseason. I think we held pretty well during the four matches."

In the match against Fordham, they weren't only handed their first loss of the season, but finished with a hitting percentage of .000 as they recorded 26 kills and 26 errors in 110 total attempts. In two of the three games, the Lady Broncs were held to a negative hitting percentage while collecting a mere six kills in two different matches.

The returning Lady Broncs from last season were solid, but the level of play was inconsistent in the four matches. Danielle Holthe, Heather Bravo and Stephanie Redd seemed to put up most of the offensive, while Karen Lyons had more and more assists with every match.

"When I put Karen in, she really stepped it up and did really good job for us," Thorn said. "Stephanie and Danielle were great for us offensively and defensively, getting us the big blocks."

Holthe had her best match of the tournament against Lamar, finishing with 14 kills, and four blocks. Bravo started off slow, but also seemed to improve with every match, finishing with four kills, an ace, and a block in the first, and then finishing off stronger with 13 kills, and a block. Senior middle blocker Redd kept up pretty high stats through the final three matches.

As the veterans led, the tournament debuted five new faces on the Lady Broncs squad, Carrie Ermel, Kellie Phillips, Chelsea Blakely, Deanna Schneyer, and April Young. The freshmen were quickly introduced to the fast-paced competition of NCAA Division I volleyball as they played solid minutes on the court.

Blakely came up big in that first match, scoring her first collegiate double-double with a 20-assist, 12-dig outing. Thorn said that a lot of them made some big contributions.

"Well you could definitely tell that they were freshmen on the first day, they were nervous, they played nervous, and looked nervous, which you can expect," he said. "To their credit, the freshmen really stepped it up, and got better each and every game."

"Some people stepped it up pretty well, and it looks like the starting players on Saturday are going to be our starters for the foreseeable future," he added.



Delisa Guadarrama / *The Pan American*

SET GO - Chelsea Blakely sets the ball to a teammate in the Field House. The Lady Broncs take a 1-3 record into this weekend's New Mexico Tournament.

Search on for new leader of university's tennis program

By **JOEY HINOJOSA**
The Pan American

The UTPA athletic department is continuing its search for a new head men's and women's tennis coach, after Paul Soliz left the teams Aug. 1 to accept the head tennis coaching job at Charleston Southern.

Athletic Director Scott Street and other individuals in the Athletic Department quickly began looking for a new leader after Soliz resigned.

"We have a search committee that has been established to help the athletic director evaluate the campus," said Street, in his first year at UTPA.

"We are doing a national search for our next head coach. We've had some good applicants and we're ready to move along in the search process," Street added.

According to Street, several factors go into selecting the right head coach.

"There are many things we look for," said the UTPA athletic director. "Previous college experience is preferred, interaction with student athletes,

knowledge of NCAA rules compliance, and academics are very important to us, so we want someone who shares the same vision of the student athletes."

Time is of the essence, as the tennis season will begin for the women Sept. 24, and the men will be in action for the first time Oct. 7. Street thinks the department should have a head coach in time for the opening tournament.

"Yes, I think it is a matter of weeks, and not months," said Street. "We are going to move on as quickly as we can, but also be cautious to find the best fit for UTPA tennis."

Street also said that if a head coach were not found by the beginning of the season, it is possible an interim head tennis coach would be named. However, Street said it would likely not come to that.

The new coach will have a big challenge ahead of him.

He will be in charge of improving a men's team that went 6-10 overall, 1-5 in the Southland Conference.

He will also meet the challenge of preparing the women's team

ahead of the Sam Houston State Tournament at Huntsville. The men's team, the only conference affiliated team at UTPA, begins its fall season at the UTSA invitational in San Antonio.

Departed coach Soliz once said that while fall matches don't hold as much urgency to win as much as matches in the spring, these early competitions are useful because, from a coach's perspective, they allow for the proper evaluation of team strengths and weaknesses.

UTPA men's tennis will have to do without last year's standout Jeremy Salvo, who led the team by going 8-7 overall last year in singles competition and 3-5 in the first position.

With a little luck, senior Rehman Esmail will fill in the void left by Salvo's graduation. Esmail went 7-8 overall last year. He also went 10-5 when paired with Salvo in doubles competition.

New additions to both teams have yet to be announced. It is still unclear if the new coach will be able to arrive and put things in order before the fall season begins.



Delisa Guadarrama / *The Pan American*

BOINK - Mariely Rincon practices a header during a practice this week, as the university soccer club prepared to open the season. Over 60 players have made the rosters of men's and women's teams.



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SPORTS



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South of border tour will be hoops learning trip



Joel de la Rosa / The Pan American

GOING HOME - Cinthia Ramirez, a sophomore Lady Bronc, will get a chance to play in her native Mexico when UTPA travels south for four preseason basketball games this weekend.

By **JOEY GOMEZ**
The Pan American

Lady Bronc basketball coach Deann Craft has two full months to gauge her team's strength, riding on strong personal philosophies developed after last year's historic season.

But this year Craft also has the opportunity to test her current veterans using a rare foreign tour as an experiment, playing people at different positions to perhaps increase the team's versatility on the court.

The team heads to Mexico to play in a four-day game spree that includes both club teams and programs from regional universities.

"This year we have talent," Craft said. "But we're young. We have a tremendous future but it also depends on how hard we work."

According to Craft, team effort and chemistry might arise as a recurring theme in the upcoming season. She said Mexico may serve as a way to "break in" a total 10 freshmen and sophomores after summer conditioning drills.

The Lady Broncs season begins Nov. 12 when Texas A&M-Kingsville comes to town, in the first of two exhibition games. The regular season will include games against Big 12 opponent Kansas

State on Dec. 2-3, Auburn, and Texas State to name a few.

"We're grooming success," Craft said. "There's stability and we're going to shoulder the burden with this new group to prove we're no overnight sensation."

The National Collegiate Athletic Association allows foreign tours to Division I and Division II schools every four years. This season marks the first tour in the history of the program, which set a record for wins in 2004-2005.

Craft said the situation is challenging because the NCAA allows a maximum of 10 practices before the event. The team began practice Aug. 25.

"Consider a 10 day-old program playing international teams well-versed (on the court)," Craft said. "We're treating them like real games and we'll do our best to represent the university."

Players will compete under international rules as well. Some of these include:

- ◆ A 24-second shot clock
- ◆ A backcourt count of eight seconds
- ◆ Four 10-minute quarters
- ◆ A trapezoid lane

Craft said the event will be beneficial to those new players who are void of

division 1 experience. The third year coach said four games in four days, a total 160 minutes, will be an experiment testing the team's "hi-low motion."

Craft also said the tour is important to some of her players for more personal reasons. Sophomore guard Cinthia Ramirez, who hails from Guadalajara, Mexico, already has experience playing at the international level.

According to the UTPA Web site, she was a member of the Mexican National team that played in the Centrobasket Tournament in 2003. The following year she competed with the Jalisco team that captured the national championship that summer.

Craft said that Ramirez's family will finally be able to see her play basketball for the Broncs for the first time.

Craft also highlights the Broncs facing off Sept. 5 against former center Jennifer Arriola, who now plays for Monterrey Tech.

"It really worked out to be a good situation," Craft said.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

- Sept. 2 Universidad Regiomontana
- Sept. 3 Centro de Estudios Universidad
- Sept. 4 Universidad Autonoma
- Sept. 5 Monterrey Campus

Soccer returns to campus with club teams

By **ABEL SALINAS**
The Pan American

Football is back at UTPA. But before you start wondering what kind of defense they will be using, what kind of offense they will be running or how great the special teams are, beware. You got the wrong sport.

This brand of football does not have timeouts, tackles call for a red card, and the ball goes from end to end until someone gets it in the net. Soccer, or futbol, has returned to the university after a 15-year hiatus, and it is now alive and 'kicking,' thanks to the newly formed soccer club.

The soccer club is a hybrid organization: part school club, part intramural activity, and it hopes to lay the ground to bring intercollegiate soccer back to UTPA. The sport went down the tubes more than a decade ago, after a long tenure in a soccer-crazy area.

"There has always been interest in soccer in the area," said Polo Tapia, president of the club. "Now we have something to offer in the university for everyone that is interested."

The 100-plus students who attended tryouts in late April speak volumes to the following futbol has on campus.

The club includes both men's and women's teams that will be participating in the 30-year-old Texas Collegiate Soccer

League, which has 48 teams representing 30 universities, 32 men's. Each UTPA team has around 30 players on the roster.

The Broncs will be part of the Lone Star South division, that includes Texas A&M-Kingsville, Texas State, UT-San Antonio, and UT-Brownsville. The top two teams will proceed to a state championship and the winner there will advance to a national tournament.

However, the club is more than on-field action. Off-field activities count just as much as ability on the pitch, and members are active as a campus organization.

"We have been part of school activities such as the Last Bash and we have a number of activities planned for the fall semester," said Tapia.

Following a 12-game undefeated pre-season, the men's team is looking forward to their first game Sept. 10 against TAMK.

"I think, as a team, we are ready," said midfielder Juan Antonio Garcia. "We know each other well on and off the pitch. We are like a family."

Jose Cortez, goal keeper, said, "We are very united. The morale is high and the chemistry within the team is great."

After a summer-long session of practices and scrimmages the team is expected to match up well against its competition. Jerome Osborne, coordinator of Intramural

Sports, said, "They do not look like a team that has only been practicing for four months. The skill level is very high."

The men's coach agrees.

"We are just tuning up at this point," said coach Oscar Coronado. "We are starting to play and look like a team that is capable of going far in the season and in the tournament."

Coronado has experienced Texas Collegiate League firsthand; he reached the state semifinals in 1997 while playing striker for STCC. His latest team shares his confidence.

When asked about the expectations for the season, central defender Rodrigo Castillo said, "Win above all. We want to bring good attention to ourselves and the university."



Daryl Gonzales / The Pan American

THREESOME - A trio of UTPA athletes converge on the ball on the intramural fields this summer. The sport is making a comeback this semester with a schedule of men's and women's games.