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■ CAMPUS

Wellness and recreation complex to open soon

Director says doors will open on schedule

By **MICHAEL GARCIA**
The Pan American

After three years of planning and constructing, the Wellness and Recreation Sports complex is due to open at The University of Texas-Pan American in August.

The 156,000-square-foot building, located at the corner of Sugar Road and Schunior Street, will offer students numerous amenities, such as a pool, a climbing wall and racquetball courts.

James Watson, who became UTPA's first director of wellness and recreation sports last June, said the facility is 85 to 95 percent complete and will open its doors Aug. 27.

"All we basically need is the completion of the interior area of the complex," he said. "We still need to finish putting in the necessary glass, as well as completing the aerobic floors, racquetball courts and the swimming pool. Everything is going on schedule."

Jerry Price, dean of students, said that the school anticipates many students will benefit from the facility's services.

"Students have complained in the past that there is hardly anything to do on campus, and this would solve a lot of those problems," he said. "The facility will host not only sports-related activities, but it also has computer labs and lounge areas that contain Wi-fi access."

Price said that another benefit is

that it will open its doors every day, including weekends.

"Our main concern for the creation of this facility is first and foremost to promote healthy lifestyles for our students and staff," he said. "With so much obesity in this area we hope to decrease it and help students not only stay healthy, but learn to maintain it for the rest of their lives."

A referendum accepted by students in April 2004 initiated the facility's creation. Subsequently, HB 258 was signed by the Texas House and Senate in May 2005, approving its establishment. The school began building the complex in January 2006.

UTPA students will have to pay a \$75 fee to help repay money borrowed to complete the project regardless of whether they use the gym, and some will pay additional fees for 190 courses that will be offered as a result of the new facility. The center cost \$26 million to build, and it is projected that it will take 30 years to pay off, said Watson.

Though the center is a student-first facility, it will be open to staff, faculty and alumni for a fee.

According to a recent article in The Monitor, The University of Texas System Board of Regents approved a fee schedule July 11 that will allow spouses of UTPA students and staff to use the facility.

Faculty and staff or their spouses will have to pay \$250 a year to use the facility, while alumni and their spouses could pay up to \$300, spouses of students \$220 and retired faculty or staff \$250. Once completed, the gym will be capable of accommodating close to 1,500 people.

Savannah Gomez, a 20-year-old business major from Harlingen, said that although she is eager to see the facility open, she is unsure whether she'll get much use from it.

"I come to school early in the morning and by early afternoon I have to commute back to Harlingen," she said. "I would not have any time whatsoever to even eat lunch if I used the facility. Hopefully if my schedule is ever to free up in the future, I would be able to use it, since we are going to be paying to have it up anyway."

But others who live close to cam-

pus say the gym will offer great convenience.

"In the weight lifting department, the [current] room is so small it can only fit a small number of people at a time," said Gilbert Medina, a junior political science major from McAllen. "The new weight room will be able to hold a whole lot more."

Medina is especially looking forward to the second floor track.

"I usually run outside, but you know how weather conditions can be," he said. "This would be a great advantage for all of us to take a part of."



Jennifer Durheim/*The Pan American*

ALMOST DONE - Construction workers put the finishing touches on the new Wellness and Recreation Center, which opens next month.

■ SAFETY

Campus class instructing females to fight back

By **ANA VILLAURRUTIA**
The Pan American

Kim Loan Nguyen-Finn is well acquainted with what it takes to be a counselor at The University of Texas-Pan American. But this semester she will try her hand at something a little different: teaching a self-defense course tailored to women.

The course, titled Physical and Psychological Resistance Tactics, was taught on campus last year, but as more reports of attacks on females pour in from around the country, Nguyen-Finn feels this course has heightened importance.

"A lot of women have this perception that they don't need to learn to take care of themselves," she said. "Sometimes they think that their husbands or boyfriends will be there to care for them, but chances are they won't be in their presence in case they get attacked."

Nguyen-Finn said her class was designed as a beginner one for women who are afraid to learn physical defense with men.

"When we teach classes we emphasize that it won't be a martial arts class," she said. "We won't teach

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A&E

Valley music continues to grow

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SPORTS

Lady Broncs sign new hoopsters

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■ MONEY

Rising food prices may affect spending for students

By **EVELYN B. GARZA**
The Pan American

Books and gasoline may soon be the least of students' financial worries, according to recently released government statistics.

Overall food costs have increased by nearly four percent since 2007 began, in comparison to the usual increase of two or three percent per year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported on June 21. According to the report, the price

of a gallon of milk rose by 15 cents to 30 cents. Other increases were evident in products such as corn, pork and poultry.

Alternative fuel research may be partly to blame, said Erik Dohlman, agricultural economist for the USDA's Economic Research Service.

"Ethanol is the largest source of bio-energy used as a fuel additive or substitute for petroleum fuel," Dohlman said. "The rapid increase in grain-based ethanol production and the potential use of cellulosic materials as an ethanol

feedstock affects agricultural markets, local communities, consumer prices and environmental quality."

E85 is an alcohol-based alternative fuel consisting of a mixture of ethanol and gasoline. Ethanol is produced by a process that turns starch crops, such as corn, into simple sugars.

Michael Betancourt, a senior criminal justice and public relations major, said that the higher cost of food means less money to spend on textbooks, supplies and other necessities.



Onydia Garza/*The Pan American*

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OPINION

■ FRANK FATHOMS

Seacrest is right: celebrities suck

BY: FRANK CALVILLO

I don't understand the young talent in this town. It doesn't make any sense," rants Ryan Seacrest during his brief, but hilarious cameo in the summer's hit comedy "Knocked Up." During his time on screen, Seacrest proceeds to point out the ridiculousness of the state of celebrity today and America's unexplainable obsession with it.

Seacrest, a sought-after personality himself, may have a point. What is with America's fascination with today's crop of young Hollywood? Certainly, there are more important things going on in the world that should make the woes of Paris, Lindsay, Britney and Nicole pale in comparison. Yet each time one of them goes to the bathroom, the world stops and everyone from E! to CNN is using the event as that night's top story. What's worse is that everyone stops and gives it the time of day as if it were vital information.

Does knowing whether or not Lindsay had cocaine on her or how much Ashlee spent on her nose really determine whether or not our own lives can continue? The state of the world today is less than stellar with gasoline prices reaching an all-time high and the war in Iraq still going strong. Yet the main topic of interest for most last week was the lavish wedding of Eva Longoria and Tony Parker.

It could be said that it is mainly the younger generation that is fueling the celebrity machine, a sad fact, if it is to be believed. Perhaps the younger demographic of 18-35-year-olds aren't as socially aware of the world around them and instead choose stories such as Posh and Beck's arrival to America as newsworthy. Is this decision made out of a youthful form of

ignorance? Could it be that some people actually find stories such as these taking precedence over what is happening in our country today? Or could it be that most people find the real world too dark and depressing to ponder and would rather emotionally invest themselves in fluff and gossip?

A lot of people may also find themselves following the lives of these people in order to keep up with their peers out of fear of having nothing to contribute at the water cooler the following day.

Last month, when Paris Hilton was released from jail, there were hordes of fans standing outside the jailhouse, eagerly awaiting her release. I seriously doubt that many of those individuals really cared about Hilton, but rather just wanted to be there at the moment she walked out, thereby giving them something interesting to talk about with their friends and co-workers the next day. But how many of those same individuals would take the same kind of action about the war in Iraq? My guess is not many.

As I listen to our secretary and our assistant advertising manager talking about Nicole Richie's impending pregnancy, I realize that there is something to be appreciated about these young celebrities and their wacky antics. In many ways, these stories are excellent cautionary tales for today's youth of how even the rich and glamorous of the world mess up just like everyone else. But besides having to answer to authorities and family members, they also have to

answer to the press, media executives and fans.

If these celebrities serve any real purpose or function, it is to help us feel better about our own lives and in a way, their actions instruct us not to fall into the same trap.

Looking back, my hectic summer has included struggling to secure funding for graduate school, balance the duties of two jobs, keep tabs on all my reporters, and console my best friend while her grandfather lies on his deathbed. Yet I haven't gone to jail, checked into rehab or crashed my car into a tree. So in many respects, I'd say my summer has been pretty good.

Obsession with celebrity is really nothing new as there has always been a fascination with those basking in the glow of the spotlight. But nowadays it seems that there is a celebrity overload where anybody who steps in front of the camera, in whatever capacity, can become the newest overnight sensation.

But whose fault is this? Has the entertainment industry made it easier for unknowns to go from virtual obscurity to becoming a household name in the space of 24 hours? Or has the desire of wannabes seeking fame become so intense that their drives have become stronger?

As I think about this, I am taken back to Seacrest's cameo in "Knocked Up" where he proclaims: "'I'm more famous than half the people we talk to!'"

Sadly, he's right.



■ Please send all questions, comments and concerns to hennero@msn.com.

■ QUIPS FROM QUINTERO

The good, the bad, the ugly

BY: ERICK QUINTERO

A colleague recently shared her dislike for professional sports. She doesn't understand the way games are structured or why they were invented in the first place. While I obviously enjoy watching a good ball game, she on the other hand just doesn't care to follow.

But yet as I browsed the Internet I found plenty to follow. No, I am not advocating dogfights, sports betting, steroid use or moving halfway across the world to take a lesser job. Yet as I continued to navigate past message boards I remembered something I must have forgotten: professional sports, like any other entertainment entity are just that, entertainment. A business if you will, marketed to a specific target, with the bottom line being revenue, and as we all know, sadly, nothing sells better than scandal.

THE GOOD

The project that started some 13 years ago in the U.S. lingers in the balance of David Beckham's nagging left ankle sprain. Major League Soccer was conceived following the 1994 World Cup, which was hosted by America. For the past decade or so, the league has vagabonded around the back of American viewers' mind as the lesser known, slightly more retarded brother of all major sports. Which is not to say the MLS is not making all the right moves, but some kinks still need to be worked out, i.e. a goofy \$2 million salary cap that waters down league play. Last May, Time magazine ran a story which discussed MLS management's new marketing strategy. Hit big markets with smaller stadiums that accommodate the 15,000 fans the MLS averages per game. Given the "think small" strategy, I was shocked to see arguably the most recognizable and highest paid player in the world join the Los Angeles Galaxy. However fans will soon realize he's not



■ Please send all comments, questions and concerns to erickquintero4@hotmail.com.

a scoring machine, and all the hype will fizzle just as quickly as it built up. Nonetheless a great marketing move.

THE BAD

How do you repair trust with your loyal customers? Such is the question NBA Commissioner David Stern faces as the FBI is investigating Tim Donaghy, a former referee who allegedly bet on games and perhaps fixed ones he officiated. Of course many of Donaghy's peers say it was an isolated incident by a man deep in debt to the mob. Yet the damage is done and the league's credibility shattered (after all, I always wondered about certain playoff series going that extra game). At times it almost seems scripted, and guess who's doing the writing?

THE UGLY

Only a truly disturbed individual can commit such crimes against man's best friend. Oh, hi, Michael Vick. Barry Bonds is on his way to taking Hank Aaron's home run record. Did he or did he not take steroids? I'm not a nutritionist but when someone's forehead swells to the size of a pumpkin, well something's definitely not right.

Then again, by the same token, with headlines like these who wants to follow?

JULY 26, 2007

THE PAN AMERICAN

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Delivery
Thursday at noon

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Pan American gladly accepts letters from students, staff and faculty regarding recent newspaper content, campus concerns or current events. The Pan American reserves the right to edit submissions for grammar and length. Please limit submission length to 300 words. The Pan American cannot publish anonymous letters or submissions containing hate speech or gratuitous personal attacks. Letters are printed at the discretion of the editor and must include the writer's name, phone number, classification/title and major if applicable. Please send all story ideas to the corresponding section editor or to thepanamerican@gmail.com at least two weeks prior to event.

NEWS

■ BRONC SPOTLIGHT

UTPA senior spends summer researching biology at Harvard

By **BRENDA RODRIGUEZ**
The Pan American

While most college students are kicking back at the beach this summer, Isabella Garcia is spending her two-month vacation studying neuroscience in Boston.

Garcia, a senior biology and psychology major at The University of Texas-Pan American, is participating in the Summer Honors Undergraduate Research Experience at Harvard Medical School. The program was established to allow students a chance to spend a summer working in an area of their choice at a Harvard laboratory.

Garcia said she wanted to participate in a research project somewhere out of state and chose to apply for the program because Harvard is her "dream school."

"I simply wanted to experience what it would really be like to be part of the intellectual community there and mingle among the students," she said.

She was accepted to 10 different programs, hosted by such schools as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Harvard Stem Cell Institute, New York University, Baylor University and Johns Hopkins University.

Garcia was one of 25 students picked from a pool of nearly 450 from around the nation who applied for the Summer Honors Undergraduate Research Program.

SHURP allows participants to study as graduate students at Harvard doing rotations in respective laboratories. The 10-week research program mirrors the typical duration of rotation for a first-year graduate student at Harvard, and gives participants an idea of what graduate school at the Ivy League school is like. The program is primarily for college students belonging to minority groups that are underrepresented in the sciences.

Her project is titled "Molecular Mechanisms of Neuropeptide Release." Garcia's research spans over several Harvard teaching hospitals and research labs. She spends most of her time conducting experiments at Boston Children's Hospital.

Garcia became involved in research while at UTPA. She said her work here has made her competitive with the rest of the nation and given her the confidence to apply for prestigious programs.

Her mentor, Bimal K. Banik, is a presidential endowed professor in the

College of Science & Engineering. Along with 25 other students, Garcia participated in a research group led by him.

While the format of the research group was casual, Garcia would meet with Banik daily to discuss her findings, occasionally meeting with other students to collaborate on projects.

"Isabella Garcia is one of many of my students who have reached high excellence this year," Banik said. "Indeed, I and my research group are very proud of her."

Garcia said she was first intimidated by the thought of studying at Harvard.

"At first, I was afraid to approach several important individuals because I thought they would not have the time for me," said Garcia. "However, I soon discovered that no matter how busy they are, they are always willing to talk to you about anything that is on your mind."

She said that unlike at UTPA, Harvard has state-of-the-art research facilities readily available for any researcher. She added that it has a diverse student body and that the university offers many opportunities for students to receive funding and guidance for their desired career choices.

Garcia said the two universities are

similar when it comes to the students.

"I believe that any college student chooses to be a student and become educated because he or she wants to learn and achieve a greater goal, and this is no different with students at Harvard," she said. "At both institutions, desire and motivation can lead a long way."

She said the most difficult aspect she's faced at Harvard has been time management.

"I am currently preparing for the MCAT, writing and editing personal statements, completing my medical school applications and working 10-hour days in general," she said. "I have found that I tend to stay up until 3 a.m. to get everything done and wake up again early in the morning to head into the lab."

The program will end Aug. 18. However, Garcia will remain in Boston to take her MCAT and to present her research at the American Chemical Society.

After Garcia graduates from UTPA, she plans to pursue an M.D./Ph.D. degree with focus on neuroscience.

"My ultimate career goals are to practice pediatric and adult neurosurgery and to run my own laboratory investigating the most common neu-

rodegenerative diseases and working toward treatments and possible cures of these diseases," she said.

Garcia said the most important aspect she will take away from her Ivy League experience is self-assurance.

"I was able to overcome my insecurities, gain confidence and know that I can thrive anywhere as a researcher or student, be it at UTPA or Harvard," she said.



Garcia

■ STUDENT GOVERNMENT

SGA passes bill to reward student feedback, promote student gov

By **ANA LEY**
The Pan American

Last Thursday, the Student Government Association at The University of Texas-Pan American passed a bill initiating a program that will provide students free testing materials in return for questions and concerns regarding the university or student government.

Authored by Yuridia Bazan, senator at large, the bill will enact a program titled "Ace the Test," which will come into effect next fall. Free materials offered to students will be testing sheets, testing booklets and pencils.

Other schools, such as Pittsburgh State University and The University of Texas at Dallas have implemented similar programs, said Bazan.

"Students already have to purchase books and school materials, and we hope that this will be a tiny little way SGA can help students financially," said Bazan. "This is also a way for us to get students to come into our office so we can find

out what their concerns are."

Tony Matamoros, president of SGA, will sign the SGA bill on Thursday to enact it.

"A long-term advantage is that [students] will know more about SGA and what services we provide on campus," Matamoros said. "This will be a good way for them to learn where our office is and who their senators are."

The bill was reviewed by the University and Community Affairs Committee. It was passed with nine of 10 SGA senators voting in favor of it, said the organization's secretary, Michael Martinez.

When a senator writes a bill, it is submitted to the vice president and is subject to amendment. If the vice president chooses to move it to SGA's agenda, it is brought up during a regular meeting and given to a corresponding committee. Subsequently, it is brought up during another regular meeting for senators to vote for or against. More than 50 percent of SGA senators present

at a regular meeting must vote in favor of a bill to enact it.

Bruna Estrada, senator at large, voted for the bill because it attempts to make SGA more student-friendly and approachable, she said.

"We hope we will gain student presence in our SGA office," she said. "We want students to know there is a place they can go to when they want to influence on what happens and how things happen in our university."

The program will have a \$500 cap, and SGA has an overall budget of \$25,000 for the 2007-2008 fiscal year. Estrada said that testing supplies are only provided if funding is available.

Martinez, also senator for the college of Social and Behavioral Sciences, was the only opposition to the bill.

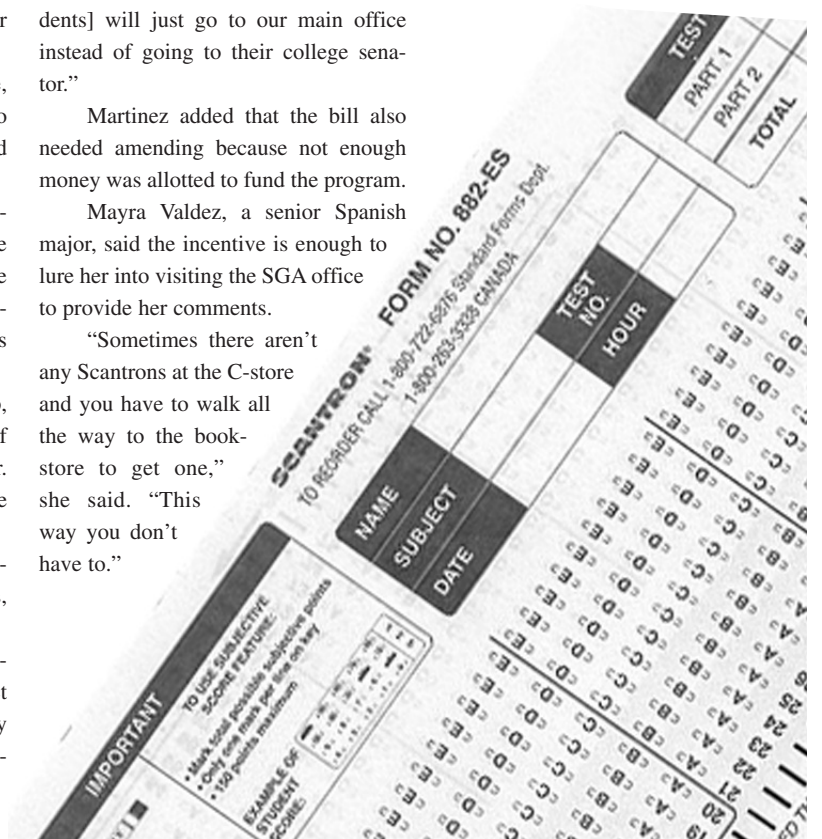
"I can see how it could benefit students but I think it could also affect [SGA] negatively," he said. "The way the bill is illustrated doesn't allow senators to have that one-on-one relationship with students because [stu-

dents] will just go to our main office instead of going to their college senator."

Martinez added that the bill also needed amending because not enough money was allotted to fund the program.

Mayra Valdez, a senior Spanish major, said the incentive is enough to lure her into visiting the SGA office to provide her comments.

"Sometimes there aren't any Scantrons at the C-store and you have to walk all the way to the bookstore to get one," she said. "This way you don't have to."



DEFENSE continued from page 1

a whole lot of complicated moves that come with traditional karate or Tae Kwon Do.”

Due to time constraints, Nguyen-Finn said they will focus on the basic, easy-to-remember moves that will “help them in case they need to react in a physical situation.”

While Nguyen-Finn said she is unsure how long the course will run, she plans to make it shorter than the typical four-month semester effort. To make up for that time, she plans to make the classes last longer each time out.

She thinks it is important for women to learn to defend themselves because they are often easy targets for attackers.

FIGHTING BACK

A surprising new police tip may leave some preparing differently for potential assaults. In a recent article in the Kansas City Star, city police officials were quoted as saying many attackers seek passive victims to control and victims must fight back to survive.

Police officials at The University of Texas Pan-American agree.

“If the attacker’s going to be forcible, you want to try to fight,” said James Loya, assistant chief of police. Still, he stressed victims should only fight if their lives are being threatened.

Last spring, a woman was attacked in a UTPA parking lot after

leaving the library one night. She resisted and broke free of her attacker.

“She got away from her attacker because she was very loud and she fought back,” Loya said.

He said the victim should do anything to avoid getting into a vehicle with the attacker, and recommended making lots of noise and making it known that the attacker is a stranger. A common problem among students is a lack of attention to their surroundings, he added. Potential victims can be distracted with cell phones and MP3 players, especially at night, when they are most vulnerable.

Still, Loya said fighting an attacker may be hard for some, especially if faced with a weapon.

“Even if [a perpetrator] has a gun, you want to be able to scream,” he said. “You have to get a big enough disturbance.”

Janey Sustayta, a senior biology major, said she would be too shocked to fight if she were faced with an attacker.

“I’d be too scared,” she said. “In the moment, I know my body wouldn’t respond as fast as it should.”

After hearing about the new advice being given by police officers, Robert Tellez, a sophomore biology major from Laredo, said that he would like to look into taking a self-defense class.

“I hope my natural instincts would kick in,” he said. “But how can

you be ready?”

Conversely, Mike Blackwell, a self-defense instructor for 30 years, said it’s better to avoid attackers than fight.

“It’s what precedes an attack that is important,” said Blackwell, who teaches Nguyen-Finn. “First, [the attacker] will try to invade your space to see how you would react and read your body language. If you are intimidated they will try to make physical contact.”

Blackwell said if a potential attacker asks for money or offers assistance, victims should make eye contact and say no.

“Don’t worry about being rude, attackers don’t like difficult victims,” he said.

FOOD continued from page 1

“These numbers don’t really sound like a lot but it’s rough when it all adds up if you are living on your own, have a job that pays a bit over minimum wage and you still have to pay for books, gas, rent and monthly bills,” Betancourt said.

The adverse effects of rising food cost aren’t exclusive to those who live on their own. Stephanie Leal, a junior finance major, said although she is living with her grandmother, the price hike makes

finances tight in the entire household.

“It will be harder on my grandmother because she is the one that pays for all the bills,” Leal said. “It will also be hard on me because I drive from Starr County every day to school and I help out with the groceries and also have to pay for the gas for my car.”

However, price changes do not mean that our economy is weakening, said Daniel Sutter, an economics profes-

sor at UTPA.

As far as affecting college students, Sutter said the increase in the price of necessities like food and milk will result in students having less money left over for more discretionary expenditures, like movie tickets.

“I certainly have noticed the price of milk and gas increasing, but the overall statistics indicate that other prices are falling,” he added. “I don’t consider changes in the price of milk and cheese

and meat relative to other goods to be a sign of weakness in the economy. Overall the economy seems pretty strong.”

Production and increase in demand for ethanol are also key factors to keep in mind. Sutter said it is now more expensive to produce and transport dairy products to the market due to higher gas prices and higher prices for feed grain due to increased demand for ethanol.

Shelley Parks, HEB manager of

public affairs in the South Texas region, agreed with Sutter, adding that the company tries to get Texas-based distributors to cut back on costs.

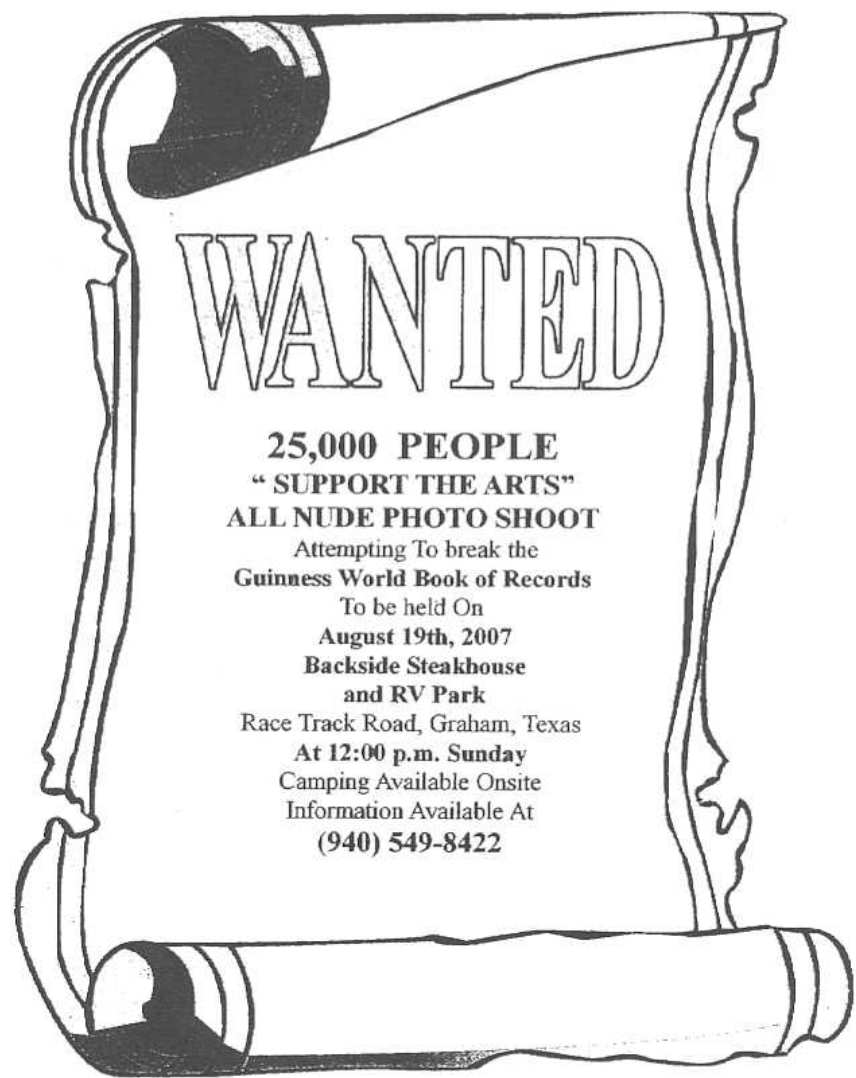
Parks thinks price changes are not necessarily a bad thing.

“Increases in consumable goods will affect customers, but will also make them smarter than they already are,” she said. “They will go to the place where they can find the lowest price they can find.”

EVENTS

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tues. July 24 | UPB Interest Session
5:00 p.m. at the UC Room 307 |
| Tues. July 24 | Face Off Tournament (Guitar Hero) UPB
6:00 p.m. at the Student Union Cafe |
| Weds. July 25 | Air Hockey Tournament
3:30 p.m. at the Student Union Game Room |
| Thurs. July 26 | Siblings Day
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Quad |
| Fri. July 27 | Unreal Tournament
3:30 p.m. at the Student Union Game Room |
| Thurs. Aug. 2 | Billiards Tournament
4:00 p.m. at the Student Union Game Room |
| Tues. Aug. 7 | Table Tennis Tournament
3:30 p.m. at the Student Union Game Room |
| Thurs. Aug. 9 | Chill With OSD
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Chapel Lawn |
| Thurs. Aug. 16 | UPB Interest Session
5:00 p.m. at the Palmetto Room |
| Mon. Aug. 20 | Student Organization Conference
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Echo Hotel |

For more info or to request special accommodations, please contact us at 381-2660 or log on <http://dos.utpa.edu>



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

LOCAL SCENE

Downtown McAllen establishment still true to roots

By **LAURA GARCIA**
The Pan American

The Cine El Rey is synonymous with Hispanic-American culture and even with recent changes, the spirit lives on.

Nearly 60 years after the historic theatre first opened in 1947, Cine El Rey now lies in the hands of brothers Bert and Isaac Guerra, also owners of Espana Mediterranean Cuisine located on Main Street in McAllen. As of right now, the brothers are leasing the building from Luis Munoz, who has been the owner since 2001, but all legal matters are in place to make the final steps toward transferring the title, according to Bert Guerra.

Along with new ownership comes change and since the theatre is located in the center of what will soon become McAllen's booming Entertainment District, it couldn't have come at a better time.

"The Cine El Rey is a really welcomed addition to the Valley with a big city, downtown feel that the Valley really craves," said Sara Montoya, 22, an English major at The University of Texas-Pan American.

Recent modifications include the

addition of a bar; owners hope to stock it full by August and extend their hours until 2 a.m. Patrons can now watch an event and instead of heading out soon after, they can stay and socialize in the lobby. There is also a VIP lounge that creates a living-room feel

■ **"The Cine El Rey is a really welcomed addition to the Valley with a big city, downtown feel that the Valley really craves."**

- Sara Montoya
English major

to viewing a show, said Bert Guerra.

The cinema's sole involvement with films has also expanded to include areas of dance, music and other forms of art. A number of new shows and attractions are expected this year.

One of the shows, "The Black Satin Burlesque," offers audiences a style of dance that dates back to the 1940s and 1950s. Another event is "Original Monday Night Live," where local bands get a

chance to perform original songs.

For "American Idol" fans, the theatre will host Breakout Band 2007 in conjunction with Fox Network, where "Idol" producers will set out to find the best band in the country.

Despite the new attractions, the theatre is not losing its dedication to promoting independent film.

Just one month ago the theatre hosted a red-carpet premiere for "Mexican American," a film by Damian Chapa which drew much talent from the Valley.

"It's a cool Austin scene right here at home with a laid back atmosphere," said Jackie Haulmark, 22, also an English major.

Bert Guerra thinks that the Cine resolves a lot of issues audiences have had to put up with at other places.

"Your section is not going to be a foldout table with meat paper over it with your number written in black marker," Guerra said. "You are not going to be forced to sit at a table sideways to where you have to turn your head all night long to see the artist."

A BIT OF HISTORY

Nearly 60 years ago, Cine El Rey

opened with the purpose of catering to the Mexican *brazeros*, who were in the United States to find work. The surge of *brazeros* meant there was need for some entertainment that would appeal to them. That entertainment would be Mexican films they could relate to.

Known for their quick wit and dry humor, these films would never be the main attraction at any other theatre. The first film shown at the Cine was "Hay Muertos Que No Hacen Ruido" and the night is said to have been the event of the year.



Jennifer Durheim/*The Pan American*

CHANGING FACE - Cine El Rey, which has been around for 60 years, is undergoing many changes with a transfer of ownership.

COMMUNITY

MujerFest aims to bring more awareness to domestic abuse



By **JEANETTE PEREZ**
The Pan American

Women's rights will be celebrated Saturday when the McAllen Creative Incubator hosts MujerFest.

MujerFest is being organized by Café Revolucion, a non-profit organization that helps bring awareness to the community about several topics concerning women.

"Café stands for: committee activists for equality," said Noemi Martinez, director and founder of the organization. "We are trying to make a statement that women can really make a difference."

MujerFest, to be held from noon to 11 p.m., is a festival where women and men can come together to discuss and celebrate issues concerning women.

"I would like to point out that this is not an event for women only," Martinez said. "Although all of the topics concern women, they should be of plenty of interest to men as well."

MujerFest was first held in 2002, when Café Revolucion was only a group of

interested individuals. The first event garnered widespread approval from participants and the public. Café has been an official organization since August and members want to bring the event back and make it an annual affair.

Martinez added that there a lot of males helping out with the organization of the event; several of the performers are men as well.

The festival will consist of several discussion topics that include: sexism in journalism, radical mothers, Latinas in literature and femicide in Juarez, among others. Several other activities such as workshops, classes, films, poetry, music and art are also planned.

Martinez stated that a kid's corner will be available so that parents can enjoy the different activities to their fullest.

Alejandra Tamayo, a junior international business at The University of Texas-Pan American, thinks that events like these should be of everyone's interest.

"I saw a flyer of the event a couple of days ago and it really caught my attention," Tamayo said. "Women's

issues are important to everyone regardless of gender."

She also said that she will make plans to attend.

"I think that it is a great opportunity to do something different and interesting," said the business major. "I am sure that I will get a lot out of this."

Junior kinesiology major Abel Frias expressed interest on the subject as well.

"I had never heard about this event before," Frias said. "Women are very important in our society and we should learn about the things that affect them."

Martinez said that people that are planning on going should expect to learn about issues that affect women. Performances will be available in both English and Spanish, she added.

Individuals can attend the event as long as they donate between \$1 to \$5. The fee allows attendees access to all the day's events. There will also be a concert starting at 9 p.m., "for the younger public," Martinez said.

For additional information contact Martinez at noemi@hermanaresist.com.

■ FEATURE STORY

Valley music scene grows new crop of talent

By **ANGELA SALAZAR**
The Pan American

Music has been used to define generations and is often an indication of the times. The Rio Grande Valley is sometimes a step behind when it comes to moving with the times. In the past few years however, the music scenes in the Valley have altered, showing a different side of life.

Most members of new bands and artists in the area are in their teens and 20s. Although bands and rap/hip-hop artists may differ creatively, the process and struggles of making a mark in the world of music still remain the same.

RAPPING, RHYMING

Roy Bazan, known by his artist name Crazy Restless, is a local rap artist who is making his way onto not only the live music scene, but also along the radio airwaves. Bazan, a graphic design major at The University of Texas-Pan American, has been working on his music for seven years.

"My music, well, I guess it's something for everybody," said the 23-year-old, who is employed with The Pan American newspaper. "It is for those who don't really have much and come from the bottom up."

He also describes his music as uplifting and something to look forward to. This renaissance music man not only writes his own lyrics, but creates the beats behind them, as well as drafting his own graphics for his album covers.

"I used to write poetry," said Bazan, "and then I heard my first rap song and I was like 'hey it sounds like poetry, but with a beat.'"

Though his family is always the first to hear his music, he has expanded to perform at car shows and clubs around the Valley.

Armed with real-to-life lyrics and a creative

sense, Bazan is ready to take his music to another level on his upcoming second album.

ALTERNATIVE CHOICE

Another music scene that is set to take over the Valley music landscape is a mix of rock and alternative. This style of music seems to be the most popular of genres out right now and locally is getting quite a boost.

The Decadent Suits, a band made up of five friends, are making their own brand of alternative rock music. Lenny Salinas (drums), Keith Kern (rhythm guitar), Marc David Solis (vocals), Jose Lujan (lead guitar) and Jorge De La Vega (bass) are together creating a unique and fun sound to their music.

"We did it at first just to jam," said Solis, a junior journalism major. "We didn't think we were really going to get serious about it, but I guess we had some sort of passion for it."

This passion has propelled them forward and helped them look at the band as a career. The Decadent Suits have gone through the growing pains most bands do, of finding the right people for the band, but these five members have been together for almost a year now.

Like most bands, it's the name that catches the attention of potential fans and can give a sense of attitude or charisma before a note is even played. The Decadent Suits discovered this late one night at an IHOP. After listening to a song from Whitestarr called "Decadent," Solis had the idea of using the word and so from there sprung the name of the band.

"I always thought the word decadent was cool and I would like to transition it into a name," said Solis. "It's a way to be wild, but still have a business side."

Their mix of blues, rock and punk make for an interesting blend for those listening in the crowd. The rambunctious nature and

passion for playing helped moved the band from practicing in a bandmate's home to a storage unit.

"All our songs are a real eclectic mix of different sounds," said Kern. "After shows it's classic. Someone comes up to you and says something like 'hey man, you guys sound like this,' and it's always something different."

They began playing at Art Awakenings and at various clubs including City Lights, Kaf's and South Padre Island. Performing live is their main focus currently, but they are working on getting an album together that fans can enjoy and which in turn will help them gain more exposure.

It was not too long ago that the underground rock scene was "underground." Now with more venues and opportunities to play, local talents are able to show what they can do.

"Back in the Trenton Point days, there was just that one scene at Trenton Point. There was no where else to play," said De La Vega, a business major.

Although Trenton Point may be gone as a venue, performers hope for new places to play and new fans. A new venue for artists has emerged and is allowing for any and all musicians to get their music out to a mass audience. MySpace has not only become a place for friends, but an oasis for all musical talent to share music to the millions of subscribers. This was actually the original purpose of the site, some say.

"MySpace has helped me a lot by helping me connect with my fans and helping me reach new people who enjoy the type of music I make," said rapper Bazan. "It also helps me keep people informed about my projects and performances."

With the many subscribers to MySpace, it is easy to gain a fan base before having a label or contract. However,

it seems to be the home fan base that generates the most buzz for artists.

"At the moment I don't have that many friends that are not from the RGV on MySpace simply because the RGV is the first place I'm targeting," said Crazy Restless.

THE FUTURE SCENE

The past music scene in the RGV was heavy on Tejano music. But with a new generation making music and leaving their mark on the Valley scene, it's only a matter of time before the Valley is known for more types of genres.

"I would say [the new genres] are growing pretty rapidly with the younger generation, but Tejano music is something that stays with you forever," Bazan said. "I used to listen to Tejano music a lot when I was younger, but now I'm more into hip-hop and rock."

With more talent in the Valley popping up every day, it is up to music enthusiasts and fans to get out there and make the talent visible to radio and labels.

One of the ways to gain exposure was to play at the Battle of the Bands the university program board held last semester.

"They actually performed at battle of the bands and they won, so we had them showcase at a coffee house," said Vanessa Castro, former coffeehouse chair for UPB.

A few weeks later they were featured in their own coffee house and performed for loyal fans. Castro said their sound was "cool" and "different" and thinks that all Valley talent should be showcased on radio.

Salinas reiterated that it's up to music enthusiasts and fans to get out there and make the talent visible to radio and labels.

"The more people that go and enjoy the show, the more we can showcase what the Valley has to offer," he said.



Crazy Restless-MySpace.com/crazyrestless

Decadent Suits-MySpace.com/DecadentSuits

■ WOMEN'S HOOPS

Women's basketball signs key players

New talent sharpens Lady Bronc squad

By **GABRIEL SALDANA**
The Pan American

The Lady Bronc basketball team is gearing up for the 2007-2008 campaign with the addition of seven new players.

The newly signed players include point guard Michelle Cottrell, center Calysa Marshall, guard Janita Sessions, forward Jessica Walker and center Maria Ben Erlingsdottir.

DeAnn Craft, Lady Broncs' head coach, said she thinks the new players will fit well with the rest of the team.

"I think they are exactly the right type for (what) we already do well," she said. "They will compliment the other players we have and fit the needs that we have."

Cottrell comes to UTPA from Wallace Community College in Selma, Ala., where she helped the Patriots to a 15-13 overall record. Cottrell averaged 11.5 points, 6.2 assists, 3.9 rebounds and 3.3 steals per game. The new Bronc point

guard ranked second among all NJCAA Division I women in assists per game.

"We really want to take advantage of Lekeisha Gray, our returning point guard and top scorer," said coach Craft. "The signing of (Michelle) Cottrell will allow Lekeisha to sometimes play in the off-guard position, which will free her up to be an even bigger scorer for us."

Freshman guard Sessions joins the UTPA from nationally ranked Narbonne High School in San Pedro, Calif. During her 26-3 senior season with the Gauchos, Sessions averaged 10.0 points, 5.0 rebounds, 5.0 steals and 4.0 assists per game and earned All-Los Angeles City Section first team honors.

"She is very good defensively and has a very solid, well-rounded skills package," said Craft.

Marshall joins the Bronc team from Hazelwood Central High School in Florissant, Mo. The 6-2 freshman helped the Hawks to a combined 58-21 record, including a 20-3 mark in Suburban North Conference action.

Erlingsdottir moves over from Sudurnes Comprehensive College in Keflavik, Iceland. The three-year member of the Icelandic National Team competed in the FIBA Under-18 European

Championships from 2004 through 2006.

Craft figures Erlingsdottir will challenge for time on the hardwood.

"She plays European basketball and she's versed in shooting from outside," Craft said. "She also is a great scoring presence on the inside and we really have not had that."

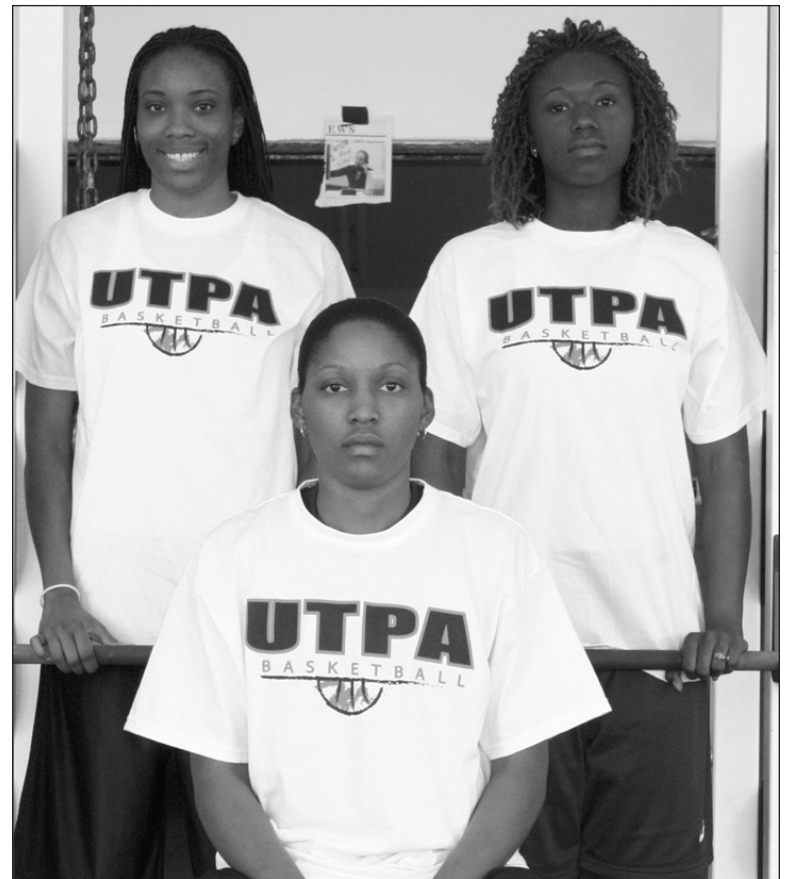
Walker joins the Green and Orange team from Palm Beach Community College in Jacksonville, Fla. In her sophomore season with the Lady Panthers, Walker averaged 15.0 points and 6.8 rebounds per game.

Craft said all of the players' skills show they "could be playing for us next year," but how much they actually do will be determined later in the season.

"Cottrell and Walker absolutely have a shot at cracking the line up and that should be their number one goal," Craft said. "Maria should be the post player, because we have not had that caliber of post player."

All of the new players' techniques will prove to be good matches for the Broncs, Craft added.

"We are at a point in our program now where we have turned a corner and are able to really recruit players who fit the style we want to play," she said.



Onydia Garza/The Pan American

NEW SIGNINGS - (From left) Forward Jessica Walker, point guard Michelle Cottrell and guard Janita Sessions are three of the Lady Broncs' newest signings this summer.

■ WOMEN'S HOOPS

America Sky welcomes UTPA men's golf

New conference home to eight universities

By **ERICK QUINTERO**
The Pan American

In as little as three years, the University of Texas-Pan American men's golf team will have a chance to compete for a NCAA championship.

On July 16, UTPA announced the program will join the newly formed America Sky Men's Golf Conference. After two years of membership, the Broncs can bid for NCAA postseason glory if they can win the conference title.

Given the men's recent success and with back-to-back National Minority Golf Championships in their pocket, success in the America Sky is not something that will come gradually but rather already is expected from

head coach Andrew Tredway.

"I think we are one of the top teams already in the conference. We've played against all those teams before and beaten them all before."

Tredway said. "I would think that we'll finish in the top two and definitely be there right in the end, so there is nothing but positives for us."

Binghamton University, University of Hartford, Idaho State University, University of Northern Colorado, Weber State University, Utah Valley University and Sacramento State University are the Broncs' new conference foes.

The golf squad joins the men's tennis program, which competes in the Southland Conference, as the only other athletic program affiliated with a

NCAA-sanctioned conference. Recent success is not the only factor weighed in when it comes to being selected as a conference member; strength of

players we have," said Tredway about the new schedule. "I definitely think that winning helps but I think our overall schedule has really added and helped us get in this conference."

The Broncs open up the 2007-2008 season when they tee off Sept. 17-18 at the Texas Cup Invitational hosted by the University of Texas.

The new conference, pieced together in large part by the University of Hartford's effort,

- Andrew Tredway
UTPA men's golf head coach

schedule is just as important.

This year the Broncs will enjoy a stout schedule, which Tredway considers to be one of the best in the country.

"I think the schedule speaks volumes to the direction that our program is going and also the quality of the

is also the product of the collective effort of UTPA Athletic Director Scott Street and Director of Athletic Media Relations Joe Monaco. Both were influential in getting all the universities to agree on affiliation. The conference will become an active NCAA Division I member Sept. 1.

Three weeks later the men visit Layton, Utah, for the Purple and Red Invitational hosted by Weber State University in search of the first ever America Sky Men's Golf Conference Championship.

As a new conference, NCAA rules state all members have to play in a conference tournament for two years before being awarded a NCAA tournament bid in the third.

In addition to a new conference schedule, the golf team will also get a chance to tee off against many national top-tier opponents during regular season tournament play, including a stop in Kauai, Hawaii on March 13-19 for the Kauai Cup.

Tredway expects Vanderbilt to be tough competition, saying they are "one of the best teams in the country."

"We are going to UC Santa Barbara's tournament which features a lot of the best teams on the West Coast," said Tredway. "We are playing in a tournament in Arizona which always has some big teams, so we are going to see a lot of top 100 schools this year. We've got to play well."



Dorados seek to clinch home-field advantage

By RAMIRO PAEZ
The Pan American

The Rio Grande Valley Dorados are almost ready for the playoffs, after they prevailed in their last home game of the regular season, defeating the Lubbock Renegades, 73-68 Saturday night at Dodge Arena.

The Renegades had a huge second half and climbed back from a 33-point halftime deficit to come within six points, but the home team was able to hold them back.

The Dorados improved to 14-1 on the season and stayed on pace with the Wilkes Barre/Scranton Pioneers for the best record in the league heading into the 2007 Arena Football Two playoffs. The Renegades have lost three games in a row and dropped to 6-9.

With the win, the Dorados are on a 12-game winning streak heading into their last game of the regular season, against the Texas Copperheads Saturday at 7:30 p.m. The Dorados already defeated the Copperheads 71-7 back in early June, but now travel to Cypress for the rematch. The Copperheads seem like they will not pose a threat to the Dorados sporting a record of 2-13, but the Dorados won't overlook their opponent as they prepare for the 2007 playoffs.

"We just got to focus one game at a time because there is still a lot at stake," said Marty Hammond, head coach of the Dorados. "Even though we won our division, there still is the No. 1 seed in

the conference [to consider], so we just need to stay focused and we want to peak at the right time as a team and keep on playing well. I think if we play well, it doesn't matter who we play and it is going to help us go into the playoffs with some momentum."

In the Lubbock win, five different players scored for the Dorados with George Williams leading the pack with seven receptions for 144 yards and five touchdowns on the night. Quarterback Josh Kellett went 19 for 38 with 299 yards passing and one interception and seven touchdowns.

The home side opened up the scoring drive in the first quarter when Kellett connected with Williams on a 15-yard touchdown pass. The extra point was no good and the Dorados led 6-0. Kellett added to the lead when he found Jermaine Carpenter for a 24-yard touchdown pass with 3 minutes left in the first quarter. The extra point was blocked and made the score 12-0.

The Dorados exploded in the second quarter, scoring 28 unanswered points. After a 17-yard touchdown strike to Williams, the Renegades were threatening to score on the ensuing drive. They fumbled the ball at the 4-yard line and RGV linebacker Keenan Washington returned the loose ball for a 44-yard touchdown, making the score 26-0.

Robert Kent finished the night for the Renegades 18 for 31 with 350 yards passing with one interception and nine touchdowns. Alvan Robinson had six receptions for 196 yards and five touchdowns.

The Dorados put up two more touch-

downs on the scoreboard and had this game all but wrapped up before the Renegades finally scored with 54.6 seconds left in the half making the score 40-7 and starting the rally. RGV answered right back with a Kellett sneak from the 1-yard line making it 47-7 with 12.9 seconds left. The Renegades managed to score in those few seconds when Kent connected with fullback Victor Mann for a 32-yard touchdown making the halftime score 47-14.

The Renegades picked up the momentum in the second half, outscoring the Dorados 34-7 in the third quarter. Leading 54-48 to start the fourth, the Dorados almost blew an important drive when Kellett sneaked into the end zone and fumbled the ball, but referees had already called the ball breaking the plane and they stretched their lead to 60-48.

After scores from both teams, the Dorados added their last touchdown of the night when Kellett connected with Aaron Karas on a 5-yard pass making the score 73-54 with 1:24 left in the game. That would be the nail in the coffin for the Dorados, but the Renegades managed to score twice in the last minute and a half.

KEYS TO VICTORY

The Dorados will look to clinch home-field advantage in the National Conference on Saturday. Hammond says the home field is convenient for the players because they don't have to travel and can stay in the same routine with

fan support.

Hammond is in his second year as head coach of the Dorados. Last year, he led them to a 7-9 campaign and now has captured the Southwest Division. Much of the success has been due to talent and staying healthy.

Health issues plagued the team last year with lineman down and the starting quarterback missing six weeks, during a period where the Dorados lost five games. Hammond says he believes this year's team has more talent than last year.

"Our team has played really well all year," said Hammond. "They are a very talented team and have stayed together whenever we're behind or ahead. We got a lot of talent out there and they play well together."

Entering Saturday's game, they fell just short of the top spot in the coaches' poll. The Pioneers finished at the top for the 13th straight week. The Pioneers and Dorados are the only two teams in the entire 30-team league with only one loss.

Defense is going to be the key to making a run at the National Conference Championship that the Dorados lost back in 2005.

"I think our defense is solid enough to get us there [Arena Cup]," said Hammond. "I think our offense has to pick it up and be more efficient. Our defense bails us out sometimes when our offense doesn't play as well. When we do that on offense, I think it will be a total team effort."

StatsAtAGlance

75

Gold medals won by the U.S. during the 2007 Pan American Games

6

Possible length of sentence for Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick if convicted of running a dog-fighting ring

4999

Alex Rodriguez's home run career total

ShortSports

OUTREACH

The South Texas Accident Rehab centers of McAllen, Rio Grande and Weslaco will host a benefit BBQ chicken plate sale for Daniel Flores and the Flores family.

Flores, a senior biology major who also quarterbacks the University of Texas-Pan American's national flag football championship team, broke his neck while playing for the McAllen Seatbacks during a tournament held in Denver, Colo.

Plates are \$5 and can be picked up on Aug. 4 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the STAR Chiropractic center in McAllen. The event will be located on 2114 A N. 10th Street.

For ticket information please contact Amanda Landeros or Rollie Escobedo at (956) 682-8300.

A flag football tournament will also be played on Aug. 4 and 5. The registration fee is \$200. For more information please contact Ray Salinas at (956) 454-3155 or Seno Ramirez at (956) 533-3838.

A second BBQ chicken plate sale will take place on Aug. 11. Plates are \$5 and can be picked up at 3 1/2 Mile N. Highway 281 in Pharr at the Monte Carlo Ballroom. For more information, contact Sonia Cantu at (956) 393-1346 or via e-mail at sonia_cantu03@yahoo.com.



Onydia Garza/The Pan American

POCKET PRESSURE -

Dorados quaterback Josh Kellett throws downfield as he is chased out of the pocket by two Lubbock defenders.