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■ BREAKING NEWS

Cardenas hospitalized

President 'doing well' after major heart surgery

By **SANDRA GONZALEZ**
The Pan American

The University of Texas-Pan American's President Blandina Cardenas is "doing well," following major heart surgery Tuesday.

A memo circulated to the campus Tuesday was vague on details surrounding her condition, citing family-requested privacy.

"I think it was a shock to all of us," Paul Sale, provost/vice president for academic affairs, said. "We're all praying for her speedy recovery and healthy return."

Sale said he last saw Cardenas on Friday at Art Walk, where she was in "good spirits." It wasn't until Monday when he learned he would be acting as the university's chief operating officer in her absence.

Sale added that he is confident about the abilities of the team of vice presidents to run things until her return.

"We have a strong leadership team," he said. "There are not any immediate, important decisions that need to be made. Any major decisions will wait until the president comes back."

RECOVERY

In the absence of facts about the procedure or severity of the case, only speculation remains as to exactly when she may



Onydia Garza/*The Pan American*

HEALING - President Blandina Cardenas, seen here at fall convocation Sept. 4, is recovering from major heart surgery. Details regarding her condition are being kept private to respect her family's wishes.

make her anticipated return. But Jack Stanley, professor of theatre-film-television, had a cardiac bypass in January 2002 that took a whole semester to recover from.

"Recovering from this kind of surgery is like recovering from a major accident," he said. "You're just very much surprised at your loss of energy."

While Stanley took a whole semes-

ter off, he said the temptation to return sooner was present but too dangerous of an idea to act on.

"I wanted to come back earlier, but you find out that if you push yourself you can do more damage," he said.

More than anything, however, Stanley said Cardenas may be shocked by the harsh realities of recovery.

"Be aware that the depression you

feel is part of the side effects. Sometimes you get a major depression," he said. "On the other side, when you finally recover and get back, it's better than it was before."

CARRYING ON

Last seen publicly on campus at fall convocation Sept. 4, Cardenas, 63, See **CARDENAS** page 11

■ CAMPUS

HESTEC festivities announced

By **BRENDA ENRIQUEZ**
The Pan American

Final preparations for Hispanic Engineering, Science & Technology week are coming to a wrap, according to planners.

This year promises a long lineup of speakers and entertainers, with confirmed presenters such as Jamie Hyneman and Adam Savage, co-hosts on the Discovery Channel hit "MythBusters," and U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi.

Roland Arriola, vice president for community engagement, said he thinks one of the characteristics that makes HESTEC unique is that the event has garnered national attention.



HINOJOSA

"It shows that HESTEC has now reached a very high level because it's being recognized by the top officials in the country," he said, referring to Pelosi's visit to the university. "We've gone beyond just the school boundaries."

At a press conference last Saturday, UTPA President Blandina Cardenas emphasized the importance of HESTEC as a way for students to gain corporate recognition.

"UTPA is now very much on the minds of many, many corporate officials See **HESTEC** page 11

THIS WEEK

NEWS

Universities scrutinized over corporate sponsors
See Page 3

A&E

Former student wins Emmy award
See Page 10

SPORTS

Flag football national champs return to gridiron
See Page 16

■ ACADEMIC

Validity of university ranking systems questioned

By **MANUEL TISCARENO**
The Pan American

Recent discussions in the academic community regarding the fairness of ranking the so-called best and worst colleges has generated questions from administrators and students at The University of Texas-Pan American.

Susan Griffith, executive director of the Office of Institutional Research, believes that college rankings are ineffective means of rating schools, as uni-

versity missions are never alike and therefore incomparable.

She said that student learning outcomes should weigh more than university resources.

"There is corruption in the way institutions manipulate the data in their responses to increase their rankings," Griffith said. "[Universities report falsified data because] they think they will recruit more and better students because of it and be able to raise more funds."

In the past, UTPA has participated

in ranking surveys distributed by the U.S. News and World Report. The results of the survey UTPA participated in were released April 2006 and includes a comprehensive rank of 1,900 schools nationwide.

The best national master's, business and liberal arts colleges subdivide the report. Ranking categories included within the sub-divided categories are: "top schools" followed by "third tier," "fourth tier," and "unranked" - the latter is used to define

institutions that generate less research.

Currently UTPA is considered a fourth tier master's university for the West Region and has a general ranking of 88 out of 116. This is out of public master's schools within the area.

Confused? According to critics of the ranking systems, that is exactly the point of creating such a complex system.

Still, surveys conducted by larger entities are more widely received than See **RANKINGS** page 11

OPINION

■ FRANK FATHOMS

Controversial reality series to make debut

BY: FRANK CALVILLO

Just when you thought it couldn't possibly sink to the lowest depths of existence, it appears it can.

While Reality TV has ranged from shameless (remember 2000's "Who Wants to Marry a Millionaire?") to utter vapidness (case in point, E!'s current offering, "Sunset Tan") it was well thought by some that this genre of television was finally running out of ideas and would not be around much longer.

They were wrong.

One of the latest offerings from the never-ending cesspool that is Reality TV is CBS' "Kid Nation." The show's premise: a group of 40 children are left by themselves for a number of weeks WITHOUT adult supervision. The kids' mission is to build their own community in the middle of the desert using a method only described as "Pioneer Style."

The kids, who hail from different

walks of life and range in age from 8 to 15, are expected to learn valuable childhood lessons, including homesickness and peer pressure.

At the close of each episode, a town meeting will be held where one child will be rewarded for his or her exemplary contribution to the group with a gold star worth \$20,000. This reward is in addition to the \$5,000 each child receives simply for being a contestant.

Announced in mid-summer, "Kid Nation" has already received a slew of bad press from disgusted critics and sponsors. Additionally, authorities in Arizona and Los Angeles are probing the show's footage after questions of child safety and labor violations arose. Amid the controversy, network execs insist the show will air as scheduled Sept. 19.

When I first heard about the premise of this show back in May, I thought to myself: "they can't really be serious,

can they?" After all, what parent would put the safety of their child's life up in the air for a few thousand dollars? I guess those who have mounting debts to pay, obviously. It really speaks to the mentality and ethics of some of today's parents.

One other question that sprang to mind was, who thought of such an idiotic and immoral idea? Why did they think a show like this could ever be considered good television? Suppose a child -- excuse me "contestant" -- has a scuffle with a fellow cast member. Who will moderate? Who will intervene? What is to stop these kids from killing themselves and creating a "Lord of the Flies" for the 21st century?

However, the problems go further than that.

Being a child is filled with so many painful and confusing emotions. There are often times of self-doubt, humiliation and confusion. Experiencing the pratfalls of early childhood can be hard

to endure on your own, but to have these instances fully exposed for America to witness (and even worse, get pleasure from) is literally a nightmare.

As young adults, some of us have succeeded in putting those emotions behind us, although they might still remain vivid in most minds. Now we have CBS to thank for bringing up those memories that we worked so hard to suppress.

I know that enough people will tune in to give the show decent ratings, but I for one will not be watching. Maybe I'm lame, but I simply cannot get any pleasure from the disgusting exploitation of children. But hey, I suppose for some, it's entertainment.

■ **Think the reality show will be a big hit or fall flat on its face? Could you care less? Let me know: hennero@msn.com**

■ LESSONS FROM LEY

UTPA great for Hispanics; Oh! And water is wet

BY: ANA LEY

Time and time again, organizations like Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education recognize The University of Texas-Pan American for some meaningless achievement regarding Hispanics.

As one story in this issue of The Pan American explains, most rank-based assessments focus on quantity rather than quality, because it's too hard to assess something as complex as institutional effectiveness. What that means is that these organizations are mostly measuring UTPA's effectiveness by counting how many Hispanic students graduate from the institution or how many Hispanic students get master's

degrees from its programs, etc.

Need I say "duh?"

I don't know if any of you have noticed, but there are lots of Hispanics on campus - about 88 percent last year, according to UTPA's Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness.

Of course the school should get recognition for something like this. It would be embarrassing if it didn't.

It's useless to constantly remind everyone that UTPA is a predominately Hispanic institution. I know already. Everyone here does. Seriously.

Yet the school still basks in the empty glory of fellow Hispanic recognition, as illustrated on UTPA's Points of Pride Web page - where Hispanic

Outlook's rankings are frequently mentioned.

It's difficult to believe Hispanic Outlook doesn't see the obvious advantage schools like UTPA have and the sheer vapidness of these "rankings."

Still, I certainly think it's worth recognizing UTPA for being a successful Hispanic-serving institution. This is just because as defined by the Higher Education Act of 1965, an HSI provides an education for predominately low-income individuals and first-generation college students.

That's definitely something to boast about, especially considering the success of some of the school's graduates.

I don't mind UTPA showcasing

recognition for educating an underserved class of students - and other significant achievements.

But it should stop caring about meaningless mentions regarding our large Hispanic class. These offer no insight into the institution's worth.

UTPA shouldn't cheapen itself by using such nonsense to pat its proverbial ego.

■ **Did you misinterpret this as an unreasonable attack against Hispanics and would like to call me on it? Here: analey23@yahoo.com.**

Savethesedates

September

13

Judge J.D. Salinas will be speaking on the border wall issue in SBS 101 at noon

Newsinbrief

■ CRIME

A man was arrested Saturday morning after driving across university lawns while trying to flee campus officers, causing damages to the grounds.

At roughly 12:45 a.m. on Sept. 8, a campus police officer patrolling Lot G near the tennis courts was flagged down to investigate a group of intoxicated men at the Stripes convenience store on the south side of University Drive, according to James Loya, assistant police chief for The University of Texas-Pan American police department.

After seeing the officer while committing a traffic violation, the driver, Juan Quintana, 18, attempted a getaway via the sidewalks near the Fine Arts Auditorium. The officer did not follow, but units on the other side of campus were notified. The truck exited campus grounds between Troxel Hall and the parking lot.

While driving at a high rate of speed down Sugar Road, Quintana rear-ended one vehicle, causing injuries to the female driver, who was taken to the hospital.

Edinburg police arrived and apprehended Quintana - whose passengers fled the scene - at the intersection of Sprague and Sugar roads.

Estimated damage costs are under review; however, Loya said several small trees and bushes were destroyed as a result.

UTPA plans to press charges against the driver, among them criminal mischief and evading police.

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■ JUDICIARY

Sponsorship investigation targets colleges

UTPA's practices among those examined

By **MICHAEL A. GARCIA**
The Pan American

Imagine dropping 75 cents into a campus vending machine for a can of Coca-Cola and finding Bucky the Bronc's face superimposed on your beverage.

For students at campuses like The University of Texas at San Antonio, this is not uncommon.



mon. Currently the school has a \$190,000 yearly corporate sponsorship contract with Pepsi, Inc., which grants the company exclusive rights to the 28,000-student campus, according to The San Antonio Express-News.

In order to allocate enough funds, corporate sponsorships are common in colleges and universities. In athletic departments,

schools must sustain the department via student fees and ticket sales, without relying on state money. To sustain programs, companies give target departments money in exchange for permission to promote their product at sporting events.

Recently, New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo began an investigation between UTSA's athletic department and University Financial Services, a student loan consolidator that targets alumni.

Cuomo has accused Dowling College of Long Island, N.Y. of taking a \$75 payment for each loan application directed to UFS.

Five Texas schools are being investigated by Cuomo, including The University of Texas-Pan American for similar allegations. A review of UFS contracts with UTPA and UTSA show that UTPA agreed to take \$75 for every application the consolidator received from students. The purpose of such an incentive is to generate more applications from trusting students, even if better options are available.

Though UTPA has not received any money from the com-

pany, Cuomo defines it as a bribe.

Barry Burgdorf, general counsel for the University of Texas System, told the Express-News that the contract is not illegal, but under the certain circumstances it does make sense to get rid of that provision -making it unacceptable.

UTSA associate vice president for business affairs Pamela Bacon doesn't have any reason to believe that relying on sponsorship is a shameful business practice.

"I certainly think it's a common business practice," Bacon said. "I believe its authorized on the rules," she added, in regards to printing UTSA's mascot, Rowdy the Road Runner, on a Pepsi cola can.

UTPA'S PERSPECTIVE

Letty Benavides, director of Auxiliary Services at UTPA, said that as a general rule, the UT System prohibits solicitation unless stipulated with a written agreement.

"One of the allowable stipulations is if the university has a written agreement for certain types of services," she said. "The university does have an exclusive beverage contract with Coca-Cola that includes sponsorship for athletics."

Limits and specifications as to how Coca-Cola can display their marks on vending machines and menu boards are included

See **SPONSORSHIP** page 12

■ CAMPUS

Charity group helps Reynosa shelter

By **DANA DE LUNA**
The Pan American

A volunteer organization at The University of Texas-Pan American is hoping its ongoing charitable deeds will make a difference internationally.

Circle K International, which recently launched the 13th Annual Casa Amparo Benefit Barbecue, is raising funds to help needy young girls living in a Reynosa, Mexico, shelter.

Since 1979, *Casa Amparo a la Mujer* - House of Mercy for Women - has served as a shelter for abandoned girls in Reynosa. Although the center is often called an orphanage, many of the girls have parents. Still, others among them have been saved from families whose mothers were consequently forced into prostitution. Catholic nuns provide for the physical, spiritual, emotional and educational needs of these otherwise underprivileged children in the community.

The Reynosa shelter is managed by

See **CHARITY** page 12

■ LIBRARY NEWS

Staff shortages felt nation-wide

By **ANA VILLIAURUTIA**
The Pan American

As libraries develop into multimedia research hubs, the likelihood of finding suitable staff to maintain them is shrinking.

Libraries across the nation are facing an employment shortage because corporations, such as magazine publisher Conde Nast, are seeking library science graduates to work for them instead and for better pay, according to a recent article in the San Antonio Express.

Many public and university libraries are finding it hard to compete with the corporate offerings of large companies, and the opportunities therein.

"Libraries are so broad," Kathleen Horan, Palm View Branch library man-

ager, said. "At a company, librarians work with more specified research."

At Conde Nast, for example, staff librarians research innovations within the magazine industry and the history of various publications. This allows them to delve into a large variety of subjects over the course of their careers. Horan said the unique setting appeals to many librarians.

With most employed librarians likely to retire in the next two years, finding prime candidates to stem the surge in job availability will prove to be difficult, according to the Express-News article.

Struggling to fill vital positions, libraries across the nation - and in the Rio Grande Valley - must somehow learn to cope with the shortage.

Farzaneh Razzaghi, new library

director at The University of Texas-Pan American, said that recently, interest in library employment has been low.

"There is a shortage of librarians in general because the number of applicants we receive are very few and not all of them are qualified," she said. "We used to receive 15 or 16 job applications about 10 years ago, but now we get two or three."

Razzaghi agreed that corporate salaries are a large draw. Librarians employed with companies earn roughly \$50,000, compared to \$35,000 from libraries, she said.

George Gause, a special collections librarian at UTPA, said those who find appeal in a larger salary are justified due to the time spent building credentials.

See **LIBRARY** page 12

New director, big plans

By **BOBBY CERVANTES**
The Pan American

As libraries across the country struggle with library personnel shortage, The University of Texas-Pan American found the task of hiring a new library director relatively painless.



RAZZAGHI

one - longtime university employee Farzaneh Razzaghi.

Razzaghi replaces Lawrence Caylor, who served as library director from September 1998 to June 2006.

The Iran native first came to UTPA in March 1990 as a nursing librarian after

receiving a grant from The University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston and was charged with expanding the nursing collection at UTPA. Nearly 17 years later, she now heads the maintenance of nearly 500,000 reference materials housed in the UTPA library.

She was promoted to assistant director for research services in September 1997, subsequently moving up as associate director in 2005. Razzaghi served as the library's interim director twice, once before her predecessor's appointment in 1998 and again following Caylor's retirement.

Razzaghi earned her bachelor's degree from The University of Tabriz in Iran in library and information science. Soon after, she left the Middle East to pursue education in the United States.

See **DIRECTOR** page 12



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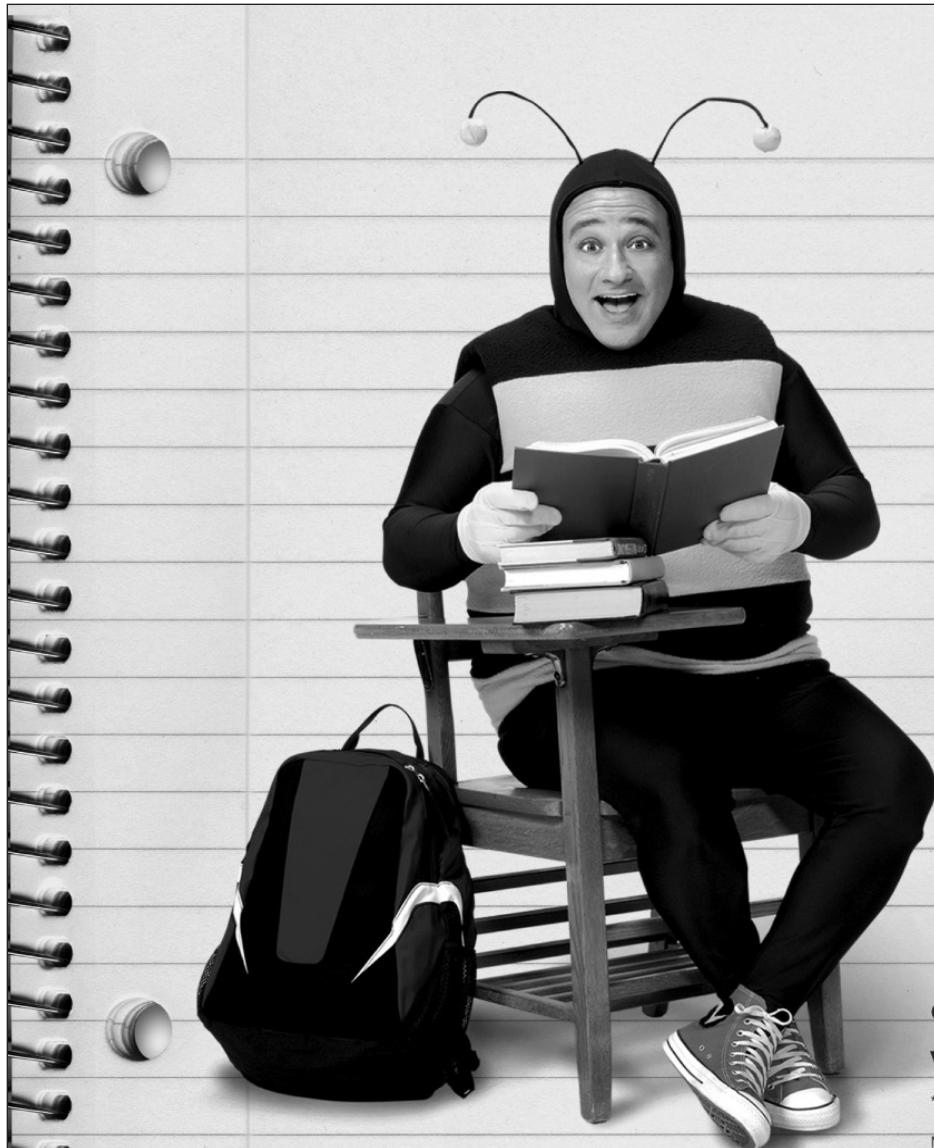
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■ CAMPUS

University to continue hosting Speaker Series

Fall semester's distinguished guests revealed

By **LEZETTE VILLARREAL**
The Pan American

Five years ago, The University of Texas-Pan American's Student Union hosted the first Distinguished Speakers Series, a succession of campus speeches presented by popular and influential individuals.

This semester, the series continues with presentations from Mikhail Gorbachev, former executive president of the Soviet Union, and co-host of "Ring of Fire" on the Air America Radio network, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV

Gorbachev, the first speaker of the series, served as executive president of the Soviet Union from 1985-1991. He signed two broad disarmament pacts and ended communist rule in Eastern Europe. He was the recipient of 1990 Nobel Peace Prize, the Orders of Lenin, the Red Banner of Labor and the Badge of Honor. Time magazine also selected Gorbachev as one of the most

important individuals of the 20th century.

According to Edna Zambrano, Student Union director, the former president was selected because of his many accomplishments as a world leader.

"This is an awesome learning experience. I have never been a big history buff and I would have never been introduced to Gorbachev if not for the committee," said Yuri Bazan, a member of the Distinguished Speakers Series committee.

"It is a big honor and privilege for any student to get to listen to him speak," said Bazan, a senior international business major. "To get to say we actually saw Mikhail Gorbachev, the former president of another country, is a once in a lifetime opportunity, an opportunity that I'm actually going to be able to tell my grandkids about."

Gorbachev will be speaking at the Fine Arts Auditorium on Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. Seating has student priority. Doors will open to the public at 7:20 p.m.

"I became interested in Gorbachev when a friend introduced me to his accomplishments," said Cynthia Sanchez, a sophomore chemistry major, who plans to attend the event. "It's something new to me and I want to see

how it goes."

ROBERT F. KENNEDY JR.

The second speaker that will attend is Kennedy, a former Harvard graduate who received his degree in law from the University of Virginia Law School, who has long-since been an environmental advocate.

He is an accomplished author with many New York Times bestsellers, winning articles and publications on environmental issues. Kennedy also serves as Chief Prosecuting Attorney for the Riverkeeper and President of Waterkeeper Alliance.

Riverkeeper is an environmental non-profit dedicated to the protection of the Hudson River and various watersheds that provide New York City's drinking water. It was the first "keeper" to be founded; today, there are over 150 keepers around the globe, all members of the Waterkeeper Alliance umbrella organization.

Kennedy's activism was the chief reason he was selected to speak by the committee, according to Zambrano.

He will be speaking at the Fine Arts Auditorium at 7 p.m. on Nov. 14. His speech will coincide with International Week at UTPA.

NARROWING IT DOWN

Previous influential speakers have included former anchor Dan Rather, Antwone Fisher, CNN morning anchor Soledad O'Brien and Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchu.

Speakers do not necessarily base their speech on what their occupation is, but rather base it on something that has impacted their lives. For example, Soledad O'Brien - who spoke last semester - talked about her encounters with the survivors of Hurricane Katrina and what she experienced throughout her stay in Louisiana.

She talked about her travels to Asia and reported her personal reflection about her travels there and on the tsunami tragedy.

"It's a nice way to get to know the speaker and their personal experience, and students also learn from it," said Zambrano. "The students on the committee are very savvy. If they do not recognize a name, they do not automatically say no. They want to know what the individual did and they will let us know if other students would be interested in attending the presentation."

Zambrano said the Student Government Association appoints students who have applied to be

Distinguished Speakers Series committee members. Other members include UTPA faculty and staff who are recommended by deans and vice presidents of the various divisions, added Zambrano.

However, Zambrano said the majority of brainstorming is left to the students when deciding who the speaker should be.

After the brainstorming process it is Zambrano's responsibility to call the agencies to figure out the cost for attendance and the availability of the speaker.

"There is always a big name that comes up that we can't afford," said Zambrano. "But we try to find ways to bring who the committee wants."

Gorbachev

Oct. 9 @ 7 p.m.

Kennedy

Nov. 14 @ 7 p.m.

All events will be held in the Fine Arts Auditorium. Doors open @ 7 p.m. to students and 7:20 p.m. to the general public.



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■ CAMPUS SCENE

Student art exhibit spreads word of 'green' movement

By **FRANK CALVILLO**
The Pan American

To many people, going "green" represents nothing more than a fleeting fad. For some, the phrase — which means simply to be more environmentally conscious — has become the latest craze to get involved in and talk about among mixed company.

For Chris Ramirez, a junior at The University of Texas-Pan American, the term is defined less verbally and more visually.

"I became very moved by the 'green' movement when I found out about it last October and I wanted to do something that would help bring it to the Valley," he said.

That "something" came in the form of Art of the Earth, an environmentally friendly art show that will take place on campus Sept. 18 at 6 p.m. The show will feature the works of more than 30 artists from UTPA, STC and the Upper Valley Art League.

Additionally, a silent auction will be held allowing attendees to take home certain pieces, which range from \$200-\$1,800. Aside from the art, there will be food, drinks and music provided, as well as giveaways of energy star light bulbs, potted plants and DVD copies of "An Inconvenient Truth," by Al Gore

Kris Ohlinger, a senior physics major, is one of the participating artists who had strong motivations for getting involved.

"Perhaps the most sound-byte reason for my involvement is a personal feeling that the many if not most of the paradigms for living in both First and Third World countries are

incompatible with sustainability as it pertains to life on earth," he said.

Ohlinger feels that the public should take the show's initial meaning more seriously than before.

"Some of the difficulties I see with the 'going green' movement is commercial exploitation, when much of the

damage done can be linked to unscrupulous chasing of the buck," he said.

While there was no shortage of participation, getting the show made was something completely different.

UTPA student Ramirez, who serves as the show's director, explains that the process of getting this project off the ground was no easy task since its conception in early February.

"It's been extremely difficult," he said. "I had to speak to everybody from the physical plant to the department chair, dean of the college and the coordinator of special projects."

While getting permission to have the show, the real chore was getting sponsors for the event.

"Getting sponsorship is really hard because some people just don't take you seriously," he said. "I knew that if I could get one big name to sign on, that others would follow."

After much hard work Ramirez got sponsorship from Breadsmith, a local delicatessen. It wasn't long before others, including Wal-Mart, Texas State Bank, Flipside, International Bank of Commerce and Starbucks, signed on to lend a hand to the event.

The pieces themselves each display a theme of environmental appreciation such as a painting featuring a serene landscape and trees sculpted from clay.

Ohlinger's piece, like most other artists' work, reflects his point of view about society.

"I welded some stainless steel forks together and bent them so that they resemble a tree form. Then I painted them white. They are meant to mimic home decor with disgust at the genre," he said. "It is my view that people have been brainwashed away from their roots in the environment by the industrialized process so as to only like the faint idea of

nature."

For Ramirez though, his explanation for the show are simpler.

"I see different things like the construction on 107, the tearing out of plants and putting in concrete," he said. "Since the Valley is growing, all of our natural resources are being torn up."

Ramirez, a graphic design major, cites the recent border wall controversy as an example of nature's downfall.

"The concept of a 700-foot wall is insane," he said. "It would only disturb the habitat and life forms that would be there for centuries."

The Student Government Association was also taken by the show and Ramirez' passion for the cause.

"This is an excellent way to bring awareness to a cause like this," said Marco Setien, student ambassador for SGA.

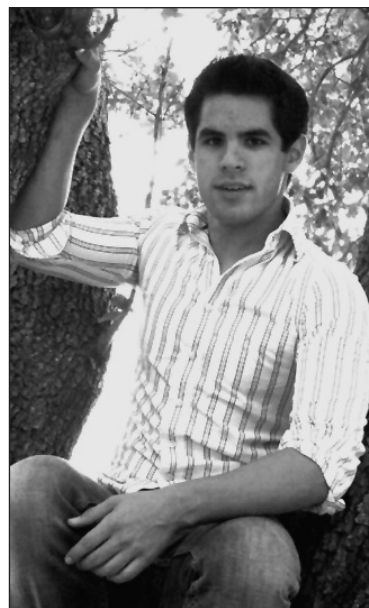
Setien, a pre-med/biology major, will be volunteering at the event alongside other members of SGA.

"We are going to be promoting, passing out handouts and just doing whatever we can to get the community involved," he said.

Whether or not the event becomes a yearly tradition, Ramirez hopes that those who plan to attend Tuesday will carry the message with them into the future.

"I would like to see this happen more often," he said. "I really hope that students take part after seeing this."

Art of the Earth will take place next Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at UTPA's Fine Arts Auditorium and courtyard.



Sidney Meadows/*The Pan American*
NATURE'S ART - Art of the Earth, an environmental exhibit, was a concept originated by UTPA junior Chris Ramirez.

■ LOCAL SCENE

Filmmaker puts Latino spin on cult classic story

By **LESLIE ESTRADA**
The Pan American

Do you know the name of at least one Mexican-American accordion player? You'd better think twice before saying no because Dante is out to kill you.

"Mexican American Psycho," a movie by McAllen native J.D. Mata, was shown to the public Sept. 2 at the McAllen Creative Incubator, a division of the McAllen Chamber of Commerce that provides local artists and musicians with a place for publicity. The movie, Mata's fifth film, is a remake of 2000's "American Psycho."

The film is a cinematic journey about Dante, who has fallen in love with Chloe and will do anything to obtain her affection. Anyone that dares come between them runs the risk of being "offed" by this homicidal maniac. Not knowing what she's getting into, Chloe falls for his charm and wit. For the new couple and others, this relationship is killer.

Mata said that both versions of the movies have similar plots.

"Actually, they are quite similar in terms of their obsessive compulsiveness," said Mata who graduated from UTPA in 1988. "Except my character Dante fixates on Mexican accordion music as opposed to '80s music, for example."

Moreover, the actor/director added that while the main character in "American Psycho" showed no mercy, in his movie, Dante will spare the life of his victims if they are able to answer a simple question.

"Dante had traumatic childhood experiences which led him to a killer adulthood," Mata explained. "But he will give his victims a chance to live if they can name one Mexican-American accordion player."

Mata stated that his movie is an art-house version to the original, and that the most notable difference was in terms of the budget.

When people make a low-budget indie film they are forced to "stretch" their creativity level, and in the end cinematic miracles are produced, he said.

facebook

Story By:

Jeanette Perez

Design By:

Juan M. Torres



LOG IN

Login | Sign Up | Tour

The Evolution of Facebook

Walk into a lab on campus and you'll see it on half the monitors. In class, look over the shoulder of your classmate with a laptop and there it is--a Facebook profile. It is inevitable, unavoidable and unstoppable. Almost everyone and their mother have one. It has become the modern day epidemic.

As of July 2006, Facebook had the largest number of registered users among college-oriented sites with 34 million active members, ranking sixth among the most visited sites in the United States and number one site for uploaded photos.

But because of its prestigious nature, Facebook lags behind in today's popular culture and among local college students who prefer the young, eclectic feel of MySpace to the prominence of Facebook. University of Texas-Pan American history and psychology major Ledy Cruz is one of those. She's been 'MySpacing' since 2004 and finds contentment in being one of 200 million (and growing) users.

"My cousin introduced me to it and I was immediately hooked. There were just so many people to talk to," said the 22-year-old from Weslaco. "It allows you to meet local people that you would never meet on the street and I especially love how easy it is to find out about shows."

THE STARTUP

The competitive site Facebook was launched by creator Mark Zuckerberg Feb. 4, 2004 a year after MySpace's debut. It was initially restricted to Harvard University students as it was strictly college-based.

It wasn't until 2006 that Facebook expanded its network by allowing access to other institutions such as high schools, and eventually to anyone with a valid e-mail address. While MySpace caters to the general population, Facebook tends to

serve an elite, more private group of users.

Free to users, the site allows its members to create profiles with photos and personal interests, to exchange private messages, post public comments and join online groups to their taste.

Facebook allows friends to post public comments on what is called 'the wall,' similar to bulletins on Tom's site. As of this year, the site added the new feature of 'gifts,' special novelty item icons available for purchase for exchange between friends. The site also introduced so-called applications, which allow users a variety of new features to a user's account. Most recent popular applications include Top Friends, Graffiti--a visual version of 'the wall,' and iLike, which provides concert information.

The site, while serving an entertainment and interactive purpose, can also help students on the verge of graduation seek a job. Some employers actually look at Facebook profiles of prospective employees or interns since information posted on the site becomes potentially accessible to employers with faculty or alumni accounts. Most notable of all, Facebook is generally monitored and investigated by colleges, universities and even police as means of protecting the safety of its users.

Facebook has become a part of almost every college student's agenda. The TechCrunch Network stated that "about 85 percent of students in previously supported colleges have a profile on the site. Sixty percent [of users] log in daily. About 85 percent log in at least once a week, and 93 percent log in at least once a month."

Chris Hughes, spokesman for Facebook, stated that members spend an average of 19 minutes a day on the site and in a 2006 study concerning the college-student market, Facebook was named as second most popular thing among undergraduates - alongside beer and

sex - with the iPod coming in first.

Cruz is not the only one with a taste for the space. English major Yaz Gonzalez is going on her second account, with a hunger for gossip.

"It's a bad-ass site where you can meet other people and find out all the *chisme*," said the 21-year-old McAllen resident. "It can also become addictive, but I've learned that I can also live without it. But I like how it's a place where you can share your memories with others and everyone has one."

However, Facebook has a following all its own.

Senior broadcast major Vanessa Chavez however finds Facebook's accessibility quite appealing.

"It helps you find friends from high school that are impossible to find on MySpace. Everyone is classified by school so there's an easier chance you'll find who you're looking for," said the 21-year-old. "And if you absolutely miss class, you can directly contact your professors or a classmate. That's pretty cool."

Advertising major Brittany Salazar also prefers the private, simplistic scene of Facebook but has found herself questioning the site's latest developments.

"I got Facebook to keep in touch with friends from the school I transferred from. None of them had MySpace and I didn't want to lose contact," said the 20-year-old sophomore who finds that Facebook has lost some of its charm. "But I liked it more when Facebook was students-only. Now it's open for anybody. It's just basically converted into another MySpace and I don't like that so much."

Although MySpace users override Facebook's numbers, there are always those willing to try the alternative.

"I had actually never heard of it since MySpace is what everybody has, but now that I know, I'm gonna check it out," said Gonzalez.

■ ALUMNI NEWS

UTPA alumnus wins Creative Arts Emmy

By **CHRISTINA GARZA**
The Pan American

And the Emmy for Best Editing of a Reality Series goes to... The University of Texas-Pan American alumnus Steven Escobar.

Escobar won the prestigious trophy for his work on the CBS hit, "Amazing Race" on Sunday during the show's Creative Arts Emmy Awards ceremony.

Though it has been several years since the 1993 graduate left UTPA, his former professors — with whom he still keeps in contact — remember his work ethic well.

"He was very focused," said Jack Stanley, a professor of theater-film-television. "A lot of people have the talent but not the drive."

Even after leaving with his bachelor's degree in radio-television-film, Escobar is thankful to the university for the support he received as a student.

"Dr. Stanley and the communication department is where I learned all the basics, for what I've always dreamed of," Escobar said.

Among those that made a lasting impression on Escobar is recently retired professor of theater and television Marian Monta.

Monta said Escobar's potential was evident early on.

"You can always tell who is going to succeed. They work twice as hard as everyone else," Monta said.

However, Escobar said his time at UTPA was no easy feat either, as he was constantly pushed by both Monta and Stanley.

"Even though at the time I always thought, 'Man, why are they picking on me?' I never realized that they were actually setting me up for the 'real world,'" he said. "Believe me, they are tame compared to some of the producers I've had to work with over the years."

Aware that his student years were imperative to his success, Escobar and other UTPA alumni are working to help set up a scholarship for the theatre-film-television majors.

"His success reflects the quality of the program. It says we're doing a great job," said Monta.

Scholarship aside, Escobar also

wants to encourage high-quality work from students currently studying in the department. In fact, he recently shared some video clips with Stanley.

"He sent me some scenes from a feature so that the students could edit it for themselves and learn the process," said Stanley.

Escobar said he wants students to pursue their education and dreams.

"Being Hispanic and coming from the Valley, it's hard to imagine this," he said. "It feels great to have the respect of my peers. UT-Pan American is where I got my start."

Stanley has faith that his former



Joe Castro

GOLDEN BOY - Steven Escobar, former UTPA student, on Sunday received an Emmy for Best Editing of a Reality Series.

student will continue this success streak.

"He will win other Emmys and Oscars," he predicted.

TV Corner

"The New Adventures..."

By **FRANK CALVILLO**
The Pan American

One of the most underappreciated shows on television is slowly building up an audience. The critically acclaimed yet slightly ratings-challenged sitcom "The New Adventures of Old Christine," deals with the ups and downs faced by Christine Campbell, a divorcee who has to deal with her obnoxious ex-husband, pre-teen son and an assortment of other wacky characters as she creates a new life for herself.

Starring Julia Louis-Dreyfus of "Seinfeld" fame, the show has become an overnight critics' darling and even won its star an Emmy for best lead actress in a comedy series. Although the plot may seem contrived at first glance, the jokes are well timed and the humor proves to be contemporary and fresh. Even if the show doesn't reach the same popularity level as ABC's "Ugly Betty," it has certainly garnered enough clout to see itself through a long and healthy run. "The New Adventures of Old Christine" airs Mondays at 7:30 pm on CBS.

PSYCHO

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"There is a huge parking lot basement scene where a chase takes place. The parking lot is naturally lit like a million-dollar flick," said the actor/director. "I made friends with the security guard and he let us shoot the scene late at night. These are the miracles in independent cinema."

Onesimo Romero, a junior biology major at The University of Texas-Pan American, heard about the movie and thinks it's an interesting project.

"I really liked 'American Psycho,' and having another film that is similar gives the audience more choices and other perspectives," said Romero.

He also said that the character's obsession with accordion music gives the Hispanic population more focus.

"People who don't know about the subject can discover it through this film," said Romero.

Mata offered his take on what viewers can expect.

"Seriously, this movie will make you laugh, it will scare you, but most of all entertain you," he said. "And remember to always know at least one Mexican-American accordion player."

For more information on the film, log on to www.jdmata.blogspot.com or www.myspace.com/jdfilmmusic.

■ MOVIE REVIEW

Latest 'Halloween' slashes box office record

By **TREY SERNA**
The Pan American

When musician/film director, Rob Zombie signed on to make "Halloween," he said in numerous interviews that he would be making a prequel/re-imagining of John Carpenter's 1978 film, not simply a remake.

His masterpiece was finally unveiled Aug. 31 and Zombie delivered. "Halloween" grossed \$31 million over the Labor Day weekend, making it the highest earning opening for the four-day holiday weekend.

This is the ninth installment in the Halloween series, though it's technically

the eighth film with Michael Myers in it since "Halloween 3: Season of the Witch" strayed away from the Myers storyline and focused on something completely different. That installment was the idea of some Hollywood genius [insert sarcastic tone here] to bring new life to the popular series. It bombed miserably and the Myers plot was soon brought back in the fourth part.

To get even more technical, this could also be considered a rebirth of the series. Thankfully, the storyline doesn't continue where the eighth part, "Halloween: Resurrection" left off. And lucky for us, there's no Tyra Banks or Busta Rhymes in this film either.

In the 2007 version, Zombie

explores exactly what drove Myers to be a psychopath. While it's interesting to see what's behind his insanity, there's something about dwelling into a killer's past that takes away the mystery that makes them so terrifying. Still, it was appealing to see the disturbing things he did as a kid that made him a fierce killing machine. It's also this that allows him to be an actual character in the film, not just some mysterious masked killer.

Before Zombie's version, the only time in the Halloween series where we were exposed to the possible root of Myers' evil was in "Halloween 6: The Curse of Michael Myers."

Zombie's film is definitely on in its own. It almost bears no comparison to the original. While Zombie took the same storyline and elements, he added years of Michael's life into the film. From his disturbed childhood, to his years in the insane asylum—all which lead up to the infamous night he breaks out and begins his quest to find his baby sister.

In the 1978 film, we are never aware of why this masked killer is after Laurie Strode. We don't find out until the sequel, "Halloween 2," that she is actually his sister. All of this is revealed in Zombie's version and there's much more of a "connection" between Myers and Laurie in this one.

There's also an explanation on the

meaning behind Michael's white, emotionless mask. The original has him steal the mask from a local drug store. In the updated version, the mask has much deeper significance.

Another positive difference is the killing of some of the characters. In the original, the audience doesn't really feel a bond to the characters as they're killed off too easily. However, Zombie managed to build up his characters in a short amount of time. For some of the killings, one can actually feel sympathy for the victim.

To some, a negative aspect could be the massive amount of nudity and gore in this version. With the vamped-up sex scenes and gory deaths, it's definitely obvious this is a Zombie film. But seriously, what kind of slasher film doesn't have pointless nudity and teenagers who think with their hormones instead of their brains? It wouldn't be the genre without it. And the gore just makes the death scenes more disturbing and realistic.

Zombie's version is definitely worth checking out. The ending of the film leaves room for another installment, though Zombie has expressed no interest in creating a sequel to his remake. However, we all know in Hollywood that money speaks louder than words. But for now, we can all have a happy Halloween.



IMDB.com

CARDENAS continued from page 1

showed no signs of waning health. However, in her address, she acknowledged the stress that comes with being university president.

"Being president is tough, it's very tough," she said. "But the reason you keep going is because you are inspired by the work people do."

Sale, who will continue his work as head of academic affairs on top of new duties, said while the workload may be heavier than normal, the administrative team will "all chip in to do the job."



Sidney Meadows/The Pan American
SPIRIT - Cardenas dresses up as Bucky the Bronc at a spirit event Aug. 30.

■ **"I don't think anyone can fill those shoes, but we'll carry on the best we can."**

- Paul Sale
Provost/vice president
Academic Affairs

To this end, Stanley said that one fact that continues to surprise him and that will surprise Cardenas too, is that despite your absence, the world keeps going.

"The department was still working very well without me. Nothing stopped. None of us are as vital as we think we are," he said. "The teaching business is about giving and you can't give until you've got it to give. And she is such a giver. The best thing we can do it take the time we need to heal."

However, in that time, Sale said there are some things that will not be replaced.

"We're going to miss her smile, passion and deep knowledge of the university and the community," Sale said. "I don't think anyone can fill those shoes, but we'll carry on the best we can."

RANKINGS continued from page 1

independent surveys.

According to Sukhjit Sethi, assistant director of OIRE, UTPA officials recently declined participation in an independent ranking survey, saying they were aware of recent scrutiny regarding the U.S. News report.

FLAWS

Many colleges who question the ranking system say tempered statistics are not hard to furnish. Arunava Mukherjea, professor of mathematics, said there are many ways to stretch statistics, namely by altering visual data and removing certain variables.

Traditionally, factors influencing rankings include class size, test score percentages, financial resources.

"There are many ways to manipulate statistics," he said. "Sometimes percentages can be manipulated in different contexts."

Mukherjea said even though some statistics may be skewed, students and parents have a wide source of information to evaluate before making a decision as to what college is best.

"Students these days have information technology so available to find out whether the school is good or not," he

added.

One example of allegedly unfair ranking variables is called, "selectivity," which compares amount of students chosen and rejected. The act of generating high amounts of applicants to select a few is indicative of elitism in rankings, said Griffith.

"Selectivity is an attribute of elitism," she said. "If you believe in democracy and access, selectivity is not a measure that is revered."

UTPA RECOGNIZED

According to Hispanic Outlook 2006, UTPA is first in the nation awarding bachelors degrees in English literature and multi-interdisciplinary studies to Hispanics. While acknowledging the accomplishment, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Ana Maria Rodriguez said even this distinction has its flaws.

By federal regulation, an institution considered Hispanic-serving must have at least a 25 percent Hispanic population. At UTPA, 87 percent of students are Hispanic. Rodriguez feels this is just another category in the often-flawed university ranking system.

"This speaks to quantity. The rank-

ings do not speak about quality," Rodriguez said. "They are generally more about quantity than quality."

Moreover, Rodriguez feels that rankings would have some degree of importance if their methods of categorizing were more sensitive to differences

Did You Know?

■ **UTPA is considered a fourth-tier master's university for the West Region and has a general ranking of 88 out of 116.**

- U.S. News and World Report

between university missions.

"There are so many variables that contribute to the success or lack of success of colleges that comparing them to each other is really impossible," Rodriguez said. "That is what's wrong with rankings; they often compare apples to onions."

While UTPA may not be at the top of national lists, Rodriguez said the university is advancing through doctoral programs and research oriented programs - all aspects that might not be evident in a ranking report.

HESTEC continued from page 1

as a source of great talent and also as a target of support," she said.

"We have a HESTEC family," Cardenas said, referring to those involved with the event. "They open doors for us that we could not open for ourselves."

Gilbert Maldonado, one of the co-directors for HESTEC, said they are expecting 60,000 to 70,000 people to participate during the event's Community Day.

"Right now we are really doing more of the logistical factors that are involved in planning the event," Maldonado said. "I think we already have most of the key players and key partners already confirmed."

One key player who will not be in attendance is President Blandina Cardenas, who is currently hospitalized following heart surgery earlier this week. Paul Sale, provost/vice president for academic affairs, said the event will go on as scheduled, with him making Cardenas' normal HESTEC appearances and speeches.

Sale assures that Arriola is a "HESTEC expert" and all should go smoothly.

"I am sure that all of the participants will miss President Cardenas, but they will understand," he said. "HESTEC will go on to benefit the community and the students as it has in the past."

PREPARATIONS

Maldonado said that one of the

biggest challenges of preparing for HESTEC week is that growing crowds require more and more space. Last year, the university attracted about 45,000 visitors on Community Day.

"We are already closed for registration of HESTEC, except for Community Day," he said. "It's very hard for us to say no for school kids but we don't have the facility to house so many people. We are growing so fast."

Maldonado said he has been preparing for HESTEC - which is co-organized with Congressman Ruben Hinojosa's office - for one year and he has been on the planning committee since the annual event started in 2002.

"When our HESTEC partners come to the event, they already ask us: 'What dates do you have for next year?'" said Maldonado. "The corporations and federal agencies that come to HESTEC they like what they see. They like that we are reaching not only The University of Texas-Pan American students, but students that are on the pathway to college."

Maldonado said UTPA has maintained sponsors from last year and gained two more, though they are still trying to solidify others.

Key speakers for this year's HESTEC week include Pelosi and company heads of such organizations as the Ford Motor Co., Lockheed Martin, Shell Oil Co. and Texas Instruments.

Entertainment features this year will include Billy Ray Cyrus and such bands as Jeremias, Costumbre, Solido and Belanova.

"We selected the groups based on what we like to call, more importantly, the theme and the attraction for the event," Maldonado said.

Arriola said that when HESTEC

began, very few students were getting into the sciences because the engineering school had just been established. The school of science and engineering has since then grown from about 200 students to 800 students.

"I knew it would grow," he said. "But I didn't think it would be this big."

Maldonado said along with hoping

to encourage science literacy in youth and promote higher education in the Rio Grande Valley, he has a personal mission for HESTEC.

"I would like to see people that have never come to a university setting," he said. "[They should] take one message with them, and that is that they will succeed through higher education."



ANTICIPATION - Roland Arriola, vice president of community engagement, discusses the weeklong festivities that will take place during HESTEC at a press conference Sunday.

Sidney Meadows/The Pan American

CHARITY

continued from page 3

Catholic nuns from the order of "Our Lady of Charity of the Refuge." Presently, nuns from this order have independently started shelters throughout the world, eight of which are in Mexico.

The benefit will take place Sept. 16 at the Palmer Pavilion on Hackberry Avenue in McAllen from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Karina Munoz, a senior English and criminal justice major at The University of Texas-Pan American, said *Casa Amparo*, home of many young girls, largely depends on charity events such as the annual benefit barbecue to sustain itself.

The center houses about 100 girls from ages six to 17, according to its Web site. It does not receive funding from the Catholic Church.

"When you see these girls, they will always run up to you and give you a hug. I love to go visit them," said Munoz, who has organized the event the past four years. "Being tackled by them is such a wonderful and satisfying feeling."

According to Munoz, half of the proceeds from this event help feed the nuns and the girls, while the other half is used to fund building projects at the shelter, including maintenance and repairs.

"Last year at our 12th Annual, I remember telling myself that we did an awesome job that year, because of all the plates I saw going out and being purchased, as well as all the volunteers that showed up to help," said Munoz.

CKI President Marelli Montanez, a graduate student at UTPA, said she hopes for a good turnout at the event.

"Personally, I'm crossing my fingers 10 to 15 of our people will show up at the event," said Montanez.

She said last year was a great turnout and CKI donated \$200 in addition to five large bags of used girls' clothing to the charity. The bags also included store-bought undergarments.

"Any word of upcoming charity events we receive, we try to make it out. But we gear more toward underprivileged children," continued Montanez. "Anyone can stop by and help out."

Along with Munoz and Montanez, CKI historian Daniel Garza said he shares high hopes for the benefit this year round.

"We don't want to just give out a handout," said Garza, a 19-year-old sophomore at UTPA. "Anyone can hand out a check. Rather, we are trying to actively show involvement on behalf of not only CKI, but UTPA as well."

The mission of CKI's local UTPA branch is to support charity organizations throughout the communities of the Rio Grande Valley. It was chartered in December 2002.

CKI is a collegiate organization housed under Kiwanis International, an organization of service clubs. The association is made up of approximately 8,000 clubs in 96 countries.

SPONSORSHIP

continued from page 3

in the agreement.

Marketing professor William Thompson said objections to sponsorships are nothing but "anti-business" sentiments.

"I don't understand people being anti-business given the fact that the uni-

versity will use the money to generate an expensive undertaking," Thompson said.

However when it comes to questionable relationships between lenders and universities, Thompson feels that it becomes a problem due to student's lack

of experience with economic planning.

"Students are grossly underprepared for the financial world," Thompson said.

Robert Cortez, a sophomore, said legitimate business behavior is more important than how the school handles sponsors.

Cortez also feels that heavy sponsorship could also affect the university.

"It would really hurt our reputation as a university if something such as money and endorsements brings us to our knees," the 19-year-old said.

LIBRARY

continued from page 3

"To be a librarian you have to have a master's degree," he said. "You can imagine how expensive that would get."

Another inconvenience is that there are only three schools in Texas which are accredited by the American Librarian Association: The University of North Texas, The University of Texas at Austin and Texas Women's College.

To help alleviate the problem, many grants offer distance-learning courses and full tuition waivers for disadvantaged students wishing to pursue a degree in library studies. One is The Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program, a grant designed to attract new graduates to libraries lacking employees.

A recent ALA newsletter said the program will "help offset a current shortage of school library media specialists, library school faculty, and librarians working in underserved communities, as well as a looming shortage of library directors and other senior librarians."

Another grant, the Rio Grande Initiative, was created by UNT to give full tuition and train students for their master's in library science. Another program helps ensure that students take jobs at libraries along the Rio Grande with specially trained Hispanic librarians.

"You can already see the grant is working," said Razzaghi, adding that three UTPA library staff members have studied under the distance learning program from the Rio Grande Initiative.

Rick Peralez, who was recently hired as assistant library director, is one of the staff members who received his MLS through the program.

"It's really helped us because it's allowed to put librarians in the Valley, especially when there is no school in the Valley," he said.

Peralez added that when Valley libraries try to recruit outside librarians, they tend to leave their jobs more often than locally hired librarians.

Alice Nixon, director of South Texas Library System, said "If the librarians have gained their degree in South Texas it's most likely that they will stay in South Texas."

To show how vital some of the programs have become, Rusty Dove, library director of Speer Memorial Library in Mission, said he would not be able to fill positions within the library without the Rio Grande Initiative.

"It has been extremely helpful, our librarians are getting older," he said. "It's getting hard to get people to come to the Valley."

THE FUTURE OF LIBRARIES

Guase said that though the Internet is a popular tool for research, it does not compare to those of a traditional library setting.

"Today more research is done online, like Google and Wikipedia," he said. "But most information can be false."

Razzaghi said that libraries can build positive customer relationships involving the Internet if the medium is used properly by students.

"Were talking about scholarly resources only available through the online library," said Razzaghi. "The library purchases and subscribes to these resources and they are different from Google."

The school offers hundreds of databases such as Lexis-Nexis, Academic Search Complete and netLibrary.

"[The Internet] makes it easier for students to access scholarly work, so you don't need to be in the building," she said.

Guase admits that he has reservations about the rumored decline of in-house librarians.

"People think they can do it themselves," he said. "They can be better by using [librarians]. If you don't ask us questions, we don't have a job."

DIRECTOR

continued from page 3

She graduated from Texas Woman's University in Denton with a master's degree and a doctorate in library science.

Janice Maville, a nursing professor at UTPA, was a member of the committee that selected Razzaghi and two other contenders for an interview with Paul Sale, provost and vice president for academic affairs at UTPA. She had good things to say about the winner.

"The new director's long history with the University Library will place her in the perfect position to lead the library," she said. "She knows where the university has been, how it's growing, and the direction it needs to go."

THE FUTURE

For the time being, Razzaghi said she will focus on the library's expansion and on updating its sources.

"We are creating more space for the library materials," Razzaghi said. "Once that happens, we will add more compact shelving on the third floor of the library."

Recently, Razzaghi and a few colleagues visited other Texas schools to see how they are securing library space.

"We visited Trinity University in San Antonio and The University of Houston because each one has a different compact shelving contracts with different companies," she said. "We found out what the services were [available], how satisfied [the institutions] were with their services, and how the systems worked."

Compact shelving greatly aids in balancing the influx of new materials because there is already an overwhelming amount of books stored, she said.

To make room for the new materials, she has proposed moving older journals - those over a decade old - to a university-owned storage facility that was once the Haggar Building, located on Freddy Gonzalez.

"Compact shelving will double the space capacity from what it is now," she said. "By moving the old journals to Haggar building, we are hoping to create space for 50,000 more books."

Employed at UTPA for over 30 years, Web librarian Virginia Guase has seen her fair share of library directors come and go.

"The library director has to be someone who is compatible with both faculty and students," she said. "[Razzaghi] offers something, I believe, the University Library needs right now - availability."



Sidney Meadows/The Pan American

ASSISTANCE - Dominique Fernandez (left), freshman computer science major, receives research help from C. Ward Price, reference librarian at The University of Texas-Pan American.

■ FLAG FOOTBALL

South Texas Demolition second in nation

Team seeks back-to-back national titles

By **ERICK QUINTERO**
The Pan American

It's not exactly a place in the AP Top 25 Poll among college football elite's, but South Texas Demolition enters the Office of Intramural and Recreational Flag Football season with a No. 2 national ranking, according to Flag Football Magazine.

Last year's National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association champion, the South Texas Stallions, disbanded after senior quarterback Daniel Flores, biology/premed major, broke his neck over the summer while playing in a tournament in Denver.

Several of the players graduated or didn't come back, but a solid core enter this year's Office of Intramural Recreational Flag Football League as STD, with the No. 2 nod nationally.

"Wouldn't think it would be right to keep the Stallions going on without Danny," said Steven Jondreau, senior

kinesiology major. "We lost eight guys; it was a tough hit, since it all happened last minute we didn't have time to prepare."

Ray Salinas, last year's tournament MVP, and Jacob Santa Maria, an all-tourney selection -- both of whom are senior kinesiology majors -- are back, while Marty Aguilar, senior kinesiology major and Jondreau, a sturdy cornerback, should provide plenty of senior leadership for the newcomers.

"I wish we had the whole team coming back this year, we had a lot of major losses that we took through the team, including our quarterback," said Jondreau, referring to Flores, who has regained movement in his arms but remains grounded below the waist.

"I talked to him a couple days ago on the phone; I call him every week to see how he's doing," Jondreau continued. "He's in good spirits right now, he's excited to come back and watch see how our season is going. Hopefully he can get back here in time to see the end of our season and the Valley Bowl."

Only a handful of returnees are back on STD, but according to Jondreau, the squad held tryouts and has filled some gaps left behind by graduating seniors.

Among them, Juan Villarreal, a jun-

ior quarterback, figures to take over where Flores left off. Sophomore Kenny Garza and junior Juan Gonzalez are also promising.

Losing a quarterback at any level, especially one with a title under his belt, is a devastating blow, but Jondreau said Villarreal should fit in nicely into the former Stallion spread-them-out, gun-them-down style offense.

The attitude remains the same, optimism and abundant confidence among teammates has them thinking about back-to-back national titles.

"We have the team to do it this year, we have the players, and we have the talent we just have to mesh it together. We got to work out a couple of bugs," Jondreau said. "We're just out there to have fun and give 100 percent, so we're looking at a good season."

On the road to last year's crown The University of Texas-Pan American averaged 35.3 points per game while allowing 12.3. UTPA flattened Arkansas-Little Rock and Texas A&M by a combined score of 89-6, followed by victories over Southeastern Louisiana 35-26, University of Georgia 27-22, Illinois State 34-0 and University of North Carolina-Charlotte 27-20 for the NIRSA crown.

Flag Football Schedule

Monday, Sept. 17

Top Guns vs. Trojans	6 P.M.
The Morgado Team vs. The Crusaders	7 P.M.
Run and Gun vs. _ Most Wanted	8 P.M.
Boyz -n- Blue vs. The Knights	9 P.M.

Games to be held at intramural practice field.

Four different divisions make up the Intramural and Recreational Flag Football team, including a ten-team advanced division, two intermediate ones with eight teams and the other features 11 while the co-ed division fields seven teams. All teams are limited to 16 players per roster, which should be finalized after the second week of play.

The league will run through the third week of October with a single elimination tournament at the end of the season. Out of that tourney, the top two teams from every division move onto the

Valley Bowl, a year-end event for local universities and colleges who may otherwise not travel for postseason play.

"That's going to be with the other schools; Texas State Technical College, South Texas College and the University of Texas-Brownsville," said intramural assistant and league organizer Arturo Cabrera. "We're trying to see about adding Corpus, Laredo and Kingsville to it also, but if they do show up they'll only bring one team. This will be the fifth year that we've done it so I look forward to continue doing it."

■ GOLF

Lopez takes over Lady Broncs golf

Green and Orange record top-ten finish

By **ERICK QUINTERO**
The Pan American

After spending the last two years as an assistant at the University of Southern Mississippi, Ofelia Lopez helped the Golden Eagle women's golf team to four top five finishes and in her debut as head coach of the University of Texas-Pan American the Lady Broncs earned a top ten finish at the North Texas Women's Golf Classic hosted by the University of North Texas on Monday and Tuesday.

During the first day of action, which was played at Robson Ranch in Dallas, Texas., Mariale Camey jumped out to a first place finish with a 71(36-35) round score.

Junior Bronwyn Sandberg shot 76(38-38), good for a 19 place, first day finish and Mission Veterans former stand out Rebecca De Leon tallied up a respectable 78(37-41) in 18 holes.

Camey sizzled and the rest of the Lady Broncs followed suit, shooting a 308(+20), and finishing ninth in the standings, but the second day proved to be uncharted territory for the Bronc bunch.

Plagued by unfamiliarity, as the women haven't exactly had the best of years in recent memory, the sudden success resulted in what Lopez called, "the deer in the headlights look."

"They started off the day with a 308 total and they haven't shot that round in a very long time. We went out and kind of showed them what Pan American was all about. The second day

we were a little nervous, but we just hadn't been in that position before and that's one thing that we're going to work on. Now that they have the game, they just need to believe in themselves because they can go a long way," Lopez said.

It would be hard to consider the second day of tournament play a meltdown since the women showed solid

play, enough to defeat host North Texas, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, "and a couple of others they hadn't beaten in a long time," said the first year head coach.

"We finished with a good showing, I think, the girls are real proud of themselves and I'm proud of them. They fought the whole time and it could have been a lot worse but they stayed in the game," commented Lopez. "After the first round it was anybody's game, it was anywhere around from 299 to 308 and it was still anybody's game at that time and I think they just got nervous."

Chalk it up to inexperience in the winners circle, but the top 10 finish gives the women a much needed morale boost.

Sandberg shot a second day best 52 for a two day 158 total and finished 37 overall, while Camey finished 11 overall

with a 81 second round total.

"We did well, we finished tenth. Ally Camey finished eleventh. We haven't been in this position before and it was a good showing to start off the season," Lopez said. "They started off the day with a 308 total and they haven't shot that round in a very long time. We went out and kind of showed them what Pan American was all about."

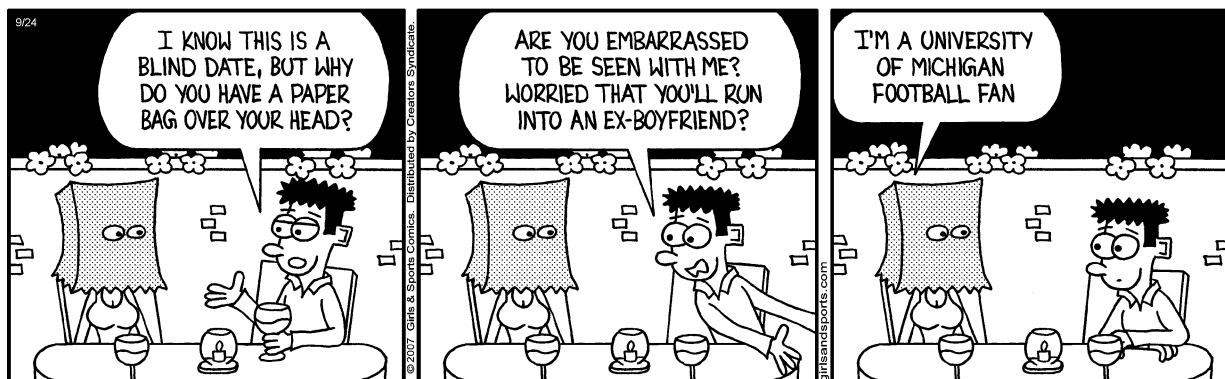
On the second day, Lopez admitted to a few nerves, but said it is something they plan to learn how to control.

"Now that they have the game they just need to believe in themselves because they can go a long way," Lopez said.

The women continue their season with a trip to the Fred Marx Invitational hosted by the University of Louisiana Monroe on Sept. 25.



LOPEZ



■ BASKETBALL

Hoffman's up-tempo game back in RGV

Former Bronco coach leads new NBA-D team

By **ORLANDO BUENTELLO**
The Pan American

After posting dismal records for three straight seasons, the University of Texas-Pan American's basketball program found itself in dire need of a metaphoric SOS. — Save Our Sport. Then came head coach Bob Hoffman.

His striking record at Oklahoma Baptist College of 244 wins and 77 losses (.760 winning percentage) caught the eye of UTPA leaders. However, not even they could foresee the immediate turnaround Hoffman, now head coach of the Rio Grande Valley Vipers, would deliver. His team compiled an impressive 12 wins in his 1999-2000 inaugural season, more than the three previous seasons combined, and local rooters finally began to see the light of better days.

As the program generated more interest and respectability, Hoffman led the Broncos to a most accomplished season in 2002. Their 21-win charge garnered national attention and serious consideration for a bid in the NCAA or NIT tournaments. The season was capped when Hoffman was named Independent Coach of the Year, his first of two such awards during a five-year career at UTPA.

"I was pleased to be a part of a great university," declared Hoffman. "We had a good run. We were able to

accomplish a lot, not only in wins and losses, but in community involvement and the educational process in the Valley. We're very proud."

After finishing his stint with the Broncos, Hoffman went to Oklahoma University as an assistant coach and last season guided the American Basketball Association's Arkansas Aeros to a 25-2 record on a team that averaged more than 133 points per game.

But now he has returned to the Valley as the head coach of the Rio Grande Valley Vipers, an expansion franchise in the National Basketball Developmental League.

Long-time San Antonio Spurs star George "Iceman" Gervin accompanies Hoffman as president of Basketball Operations, but it remains to be seen if their combined "star-power" alone will make for an entertaining, fan-driven season. The D-League, as it is known, is a relatively new entity, and pro hoops in the area is definitely a break from the ordinary. Hoffman hopes to win games and out people in the seats at the Dodge Arena when the season starts in November.

"We've always scored high and have led leagues in offense, this team we hope to be no exception," Hoffman said. "That's why our players like to play and fans like to watch. We're going to develop the guys who can attack the basket and guys who are unselfish."

Rightfully so, a newly-established franchise will endure its necessary share of growing pains. Often, communities have a tendency to attach themselves to teams

once they feel personally connected.

"The first year is just finding ways for the organization to be involved in the community, which we've already started to do," Hoffman said. "As a new entity, you kind of have to find your place, and that takes a little bit of time."

A strong moral grounding and development of close, personal relationships are integral parts of Hoffman's basketball ideology. His ethics of teamwork, accountability and wise decision-making may not translate easily into box scores or highlight reels. But rest assured, somewhere deep within locker room walls, his teachings are invaluable.

"It's all about relationships," Hoffman said. "It's about trying to get people to perform at a higher level and do more than they think they can do on their own."

His sights are definitely focused onto his new team. His interest in teaching basketball is at an all-time high. Interestingly, the possibility of coaching at the NBA level is something Hoffman is not consumed with. Some fans may find that uncommonly refreshing.

"I would love the opportunity to just be somewhere and make a difference, whatever the Lord has in store for us, that's what we'll do," said Hoffman. "We're just going to try to continue to coach and instill the principles of life and how to do things correctly in whatever level we're at."

Hoffman will return to the UTPA court Sept. 15 for open tryouts for the RGV Vipers at the Field House.



Onydia Garza/The Pan American

WARNING: PROTECTED BY VIPER - Bob Hoffman, former UTPA men's head basketball coach, stands in front of Dodge Arena, home of the RGV Vipers.

■ VOLLEYBALL

Lady Broncs drop three at Islander Invitational

Women slip to 2-10 record in weekend's work

By **GABRIEL SALDANA**
The Pan American

Last weekend's action at the Islander Holiday Inn Invitational in Corpus Christi yielded uncertainty about the season's potential for victory, as The Lady Bronco Volleyball team suffered three consecutive losses placing them at 2-10 overall record in 2007.

The ladies set off on a bumpy trail, losing the first series of the tournament to Northern Illinois on Friday. After winning their first frame 30-28, the Lady Bronco team dropped three subsequent sets to lose a 3-1 decision bringing the 2007 record to 2-8.

In their battle against San Diego

State, UTPA, in a straight decision, garnered a loss and helped secure the Aztecs' sixth victory of the 2007 campaign. The Green and Orange team went down 16-30, 16-30 and 25-30.

Top performers against San Diego State included Corona Del Sol HS, Chandler, Ariz., alum Kellie Phillips with eight kills and 10 digs. Chelsea Blakely had 19 assists as she nears the school record for all-time assists. Middle blocker Deanna Schneyer contributed six kills, only one ahead of Missouri City native Noelle Mayor, who had five kills and 11 digs.

In their third and final match of the invitational against Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, the Lady Broncs stuck it out for five grueling sets, ultimately losing the decision on the last frame, 7-15.

Once again posting a strong offensive effort was Phillips with 18 kills and 14 assists. Schneyer contributed 12 kills while Blakely, further cementing

her status among the UTPA greats, dished out 39 assists and 17 digs.

Despite the tough trip, the Lady Broncs are hanging in there and accentuating the positives.

"Blocking and defense was our focus last week, and we greatly improved on that this weekend. It didn't get us the wins we needed but I can see things changing," said head coach Angela Hubbard. "Things are definitely getting better but we need to teach the girls how to win and how to get the edge to win that fifth game against (teams like) Corpus Christi."

There has recently been speculation as to whether the women are en route to posting a season record comparable to the 6-25 of the 2006 campaign. Taking into consideration their current standing at 2-10, some have started to question whether this can be a successful season.

According to Hubbard there are

many aspects of the game that can be augmented during practice time, including both mental and physical strategies for success. And doing so should help the ladies win more games.

"We've made our focus, communication," Hubbard said. "The talent is there. We have the ability to win those games. We just need to figure out how to use it."

The Prairie View A&M tournament is next on the women's schedule and is set to kick off with a Friday match against host Prairie View A&M. Following Friday's sets are three games on Saturday: against Air Force, Texas Southern and Texas-San Antonio.

"I feel good about this next tournament," Hubbard said. "I don't want to over-predict what's going to happen, but I feel like we are going in the right direction and I hope the girls just learn from last weekend and move forward."



Onydia Garza/The Pan American

SETTING THE PACE - Chelsea Blakely sets up a teammate during practice in hopes of improving the Lady Bronco 2-10 record.

■ BOXING

Yoli scores a knockout of a night

Pena clobbers San Antonio's Soto in first round

By **RAMIRO PAEZ**
The Pan American

For 19-year-old Yoli Pena, life suddenly became more meaningful. She made her pro boxing debut in front of a raucous crowd, as part of "Warriors Collide," a boxing card at Edinburg Baseball Stadium Saturday night.

Pena handily defeated San Antonio native Cassandra Soto by technical knockout, 1:12 into the first round. After having had her foray into pro pugilism postponed twice this summer, she got it going with a vengeance to start her career record with a 1-0 mark; Soto dropped to 0-2.

"This taught me what I need to work on," said Pena. "I was kind of nervous but now I know how to be prepared for the next fight. This taught me a lot."

For those who attended the fight, there was no sign that Pena has work to do. Her skills and technique was a far cry from the normal fumbles of the average young boxer.

Pena, 2006 alumni of Edinburg North high school, was actively involved in sports; she took an interest in boxing after her graduation and decided to give it a try. Prior to her debut, she had been preparing with her trainer, Johnny Garcia, for about six intense months.

With a positive mindset and the wish to grab people's attention, Pena did just that on Saturday. The UTPA student began her match with a packed ballpark and chants of 'Yoli' filling the air as she headed down to the ring in a hooded red

and blue robe.

After last-minute advice from Garcia, Pena started the match with a push down of Soto and the crowd roared. Pena came out firing with punches left and right and was completely manhandling Soto in the ring as the crowd went wild and jumped out of their seats.

Referee Tony Garcia stopped the bout just after the one-minute mark of the round, declaring Pena the winner by TKO. Her trainer was pleased.

"She did really well," Garcia said. "She did exceptionally well. There are some things that we still need to work on,

but other than that she did really good."

The crowd cheered the victorious Pena. Reporters and fans surrounded her as soon as she stepped out the ring. Pena had stated that all she wanted to do was to make a difference a people's lives and to show people that boxing is not just a men's sport, that women can fight as well. Doubters certainly had their state of mind challenged Saturday night.

Overall, Pena was satisfied with the performance she gave and knows making her debut was a big step for her.

"It felt good," said Pena. "I was nervous but I went out there and started

feeling the hits and I reacted and came back. It (Saturday night) means a lot and I'm happy with what I did and in the next fights I'm going to do a lot better."

Pena will have to put her record on hold as no future matches are planned at the time. But after her emotional win, Pena will definitely go into the future with momentum and try to improve on her record.

In the main event of the night, heavily favored fan favorite Roberto "La Amenaza" Garcia of Weslaco, ranked fifth in the world, defeated Vance Garvey in a unanimous decision.



Onydia Garza/The Pan American

HONORED - (Left) Yoli Pena, UTPA freshman, makes her entrance in the ring donning both the American and Mexican flag. **POWER** - (Above) Pena lands a left jab above Cassandra Soto's left eye. The Edinburg native knocked out Soto in the first round of her professional boxing debut.



Onydia Garza/The Pan American

■ SOCCER

Club slips past Longhorns 1-0

By **ERICK QUINTERO**
The Pan American

The University of Texas-Pan American men's soccer club had only four shots on target but only needed one in the season opener at home Saturday. A well-placed Luiz Barrenchea shot was enough to edge past the University of Texas B team, 1-0.

"I think we did OK. I felt comfortable with the talent and the athleticism

of our kids," said Marcelo Schmidt, the club's Argentine adviser. "I didn't feel too well with our collective performance, but it's early in the season so it's going to be growing. I think we have incredibly talented athletes on the team."

The lone tally came on a collective effort as the entire squad attacked, broke through the center and slipped the ball past the Longhorn backline.

Barrenchea made a dash for the ball, took aim and placed it in the bottom

corner by the far goal post 35 minutes into the game on a Pablo Aguilar assist.

"It was one-zero, we won. The goal came off a simple situation but we had four clear attacks and four shots on target that could have been goals," Schmidt said. "But again most of the situations were based on their talent and how good of athletes they are."

The squad failed to submit the necessary paperwork required to travel so Sunday's game against San Antonio College resulted in a forfeit.

Up next for the Broncos is an away game Saturday against the University of Texas-San Antonio, one of the toughest opponents in the Texas Collegiate Soccer League.

Schmidt reported Wednesday that the team had completed the details



Onydia Garza/The Pan American

BRONC BLUR- Juan P. Davila, freshman, dribbles past two University of Texas defenders during UTPA's 1-0 victory over the Longhorns on Saturday afternoon.

allowing their trip.

The women begin play on Saturday against Texas State at San Marcos fol-

lowed by a Sunday home debut game versus Sam Houston State at the Intramural practice field.

■ BASKETBALL

Reaching new heights

By **GABRIEL SALDANA**
The Pan American

As though growing close to 7 feet weren't enough of a challenge, senior Colin Lien has joined the ranks among the all-time letterman of the Bronc men's basketball team. He is out of eligibility but remains enrolled at the school.

At 6-foot-11, Lien claims to have been tall for as long as he can remember.

"I've been tall a long, long time," said Lien. "I just tell people I'm 7 feet tall because I am with shoes on. In the fifth grade I remember just being taller than all my teachers and I always tell people that to describe my height."

Lien began his basketball training in the first grade when his father became interested in involving his son in extracurricular activities. But despite this, the former two-year starter at center did not have a stereotypical athlete's upbringing as his parents were not overly focused on his sports career.

"Believe it or not, my dad was always really focused on academics," said Lien. "My mom was always happy with whatever I did and they never really had to push me too hard to play. They always said that if I wanted to quit it would be fine too."

Following his introduction to the sport, the Waterloo, Iowa, native continued to play in leagues from second through fifth grade until he was eligible to play at the junior high level, where he played on the school team.

"I really just enjoyed it," said Lien. "I continued to play through high school and made my freshman and sophomore team. I got moved up my sophomore

year and got to play a little varsity. That was a good experience."

Lien says that his major inspirations to excel have been his parents. Coming from a middle-class environment in a blue-collar town, Lien has learned to appreciate the fact that opportunities aren't given but must be worked for.

"If you want to do anything you have to work at it," said Lien, who averaged over 10 points and six rebounds the past two seasons for UTPA. "I wasn't born with athletic abilities you know. I had to work really hard to just be decent."

The Columbus High School Alum lettered his junior and senior years with Most Valuable Player honors as a senior and earned a scholarship to play ball at Southeastern Community College. During his 2003-2004 stint with the Blackhawks, Lien helped lead the team to a 32-4 season and a second consecutive NJCAA National Championship title. The Blackhawk team was established as one of the top basketball programs in the country.

"I was never really a gym rat or anything like that," said Lien. "I'd go to camps and stuff when I was young but I never really took basketball too seriously until my freshman year of college."

After his sophomore campaign with Southeastern Community College it was time for the former Blackhawk to take a stab at Division I on the Bronc team at UTPA. While playing ball for the Green and Orange, Lien was an integral cog as a big man and one who helped build the morale of the team. The former starter was a performer from his first season with the Bronc team, garnering selection on the All-Independent honor-

able mention squad.

But now, he is an alum.

"If anything, I wish I had a year left to play," said Lien. "I miss not being around the guys and the camaraderie. It was a good experience I still felt like I could have improved more my senior year."

Lien has recently been spotted around campus and there has been talk of whether his presence is fueled by his academic endeavors or he simply loves UTPA and refuses to leave.

To put all speculation to rest, the senior, who has exhausted his four-year eligibility to play, is slated to graduate in December with a bachelor's degree in social studies. Lien will be uncertified to teach when he graduates but will embark on subsequent courses to obtain certification.

In his immediate future, Lien is considering the prospect of playing for the CBA's local squad, the Silveradoes, who begin in November. He has mulled over travel-

ing to Europe to play in one of the many successful leagues there. Having already played basketball in China on a trip last year, Lien remains open to the experience of travel. He has also considered furthering his education with a master's degree in history.

"I would love to teach at the high school level," said Lien "Teaching and coaching is something I'd definitely be interested in."



LAST CALL - Former UTPA basketball center Colin Lien reflects on his playing days at The University of Texas-Pan American.

Onydia Garza/The Pan American

StatsAtAGlance

2

South Texas Demolition's national ranking as reported by Flagmagazine.com

46

Days left until the NBA's official tip-off

0-2

The University of Michigan football team record after losing 39-7 to Oregon on Sept. 8

83

Number of assists needed by Chelsea Blakely to break UTPA's all-time assist record

ShortSports

■ BASEBALL

On Tuesday, Willie Gawlik, University of Texas-Pan American head baseball coach, made one more change to his coaching line-up with the addition of former Union College graduate assistant coach, Patrick Hon, to take over the Bronc struggling bullpen.

Pitching woes plagued the Bronc squad last season as they struggled for victories, posting a 17-39 record, which has raised many doubts as to Gawlik's pitching gameplan.

Hon launched his pitching career with Southern Illinois University where he remained for two years before transferring to Newman University, where he received All-American honors to go along with two appearances on the Heartland Conference first team.

Hon, joins former Texas A&M-Corpus Christi interim head coach Gene Salazar as the newest addition to the Bronc coaching family.