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■ PHILANTHROPY

Students on crusade for kids

West Dallas area benefits from annual outing

By **VERONICA GONZALEZ**
The Pan American

Endless road stretched before them as they made their way to Dallas. It would be the farthest any of those in attendance would have traveled, but even now they say it was worth the trek.

With high spirits, the Campus Crusade for Christ chapter at The University of Texas-Pan American shared their expectations of the event that lay before them—the Dallas Winter Conference.

“The day of outreach is one of my

favorite parts about DWC because it really pushes us out of our comfort zones to reach out to the Dallas community,” said Charity Bowen, president of UTPA Cru. “We get to work with other students that aren’t from our campus, and talk to people we’ve never met before.”

The day of outreach gives more than 1,000 students from Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma opportunities to exercise their faith in new ways each year.

Bowen, along with the other members of the UTPA organization, would be assigned to work in the 11th poorest area of the nation—West Dallas.

The UTPA organization went straight to work.

With 2,000 school-supply packs

and 2,500 gospel bracelets to make, UTPA Cru members along with 300 other Texas college students had their work cut out for them. The students spent the entire afternoon Jan. 4 getting everything set.

After getting neighborhood assignments the next day, UTPA Cru was ready to meet the residents. It didn’t take long for the group to find people to talk to. The neighborhood was filled with children running around in their hand-me-down clothes; parents screaming at the ones misbehaving.

Bowen and the others stuck out

like a sore thumb in the predominantly black neighborhood. It didn’t take long for them to be noticed.

“There were so many kids. I didn’t know who to talk to first,” Bowen said. “It was a little intimidating to really feel like a minority.”

The children immediately came up to them, asking about the packs in their hands.

The members took the opportunity to give each child a Gospel bracelet and

See **CRUSADE** page 11

■ CAMPUS

University addressing bird issues

By **VERONICA GONZALEZ**
The Pan American

An innumerable amount of droppings have caused an unsightly scene and intolerable smell, prompting The University of Texas-Pan American to take action against the growing bird population last week.

The university has arranged for non-lethal scare tactics to be carried out by way of the ‘Scare-away LP Gas Cannons,’ having last used the method in March 2007.

According to Reed-Joseph International Company, the manufacturer, these cannons produce harmless thunderclap bangs, dispersing the wildlife. Multiple shots within a short amount of time have proven to be an effective means of safely forcing birds to relocate.

From Jan. 10 to Jan. 12, large blasts could be heard over the course of 45 minutes twice a day.

“By doing this in the morning and evening, they’ll start to look for other places to roost,” said Oscar Villarreal, maintenance and operations member of the UTPA Physical Plant. “If you only do it once, they’ll circle the campus and come back. The three-day period is enough to relocate them.”

It’s been a constant battle between

See **BIRDS** page 11



Veronica Gonzalez/*The Pan American*

A LITTLE LOVIN’ - (From left) Nicole Morales, Yesenia Martinez and Albert Aleman, members of Campus Crusade for Christ, spend time with the children of West Dallas.

THIS WEEK

NEWS

Local soldier’s photos displayed at library

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A&E

New law brings TV quality upgrade

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SPORTS

Trader Brothers form unstoppable Bronc duo

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■ Q&A

Cardenas: ‘I. Am. Not. Sick. Anymore.’

President opens up about health, upcoming year

By **SANDRA GONZALEZ**
The Pan American

Securing some one-on-one time with The University of Texas-Pan American’s president Blandina Cardenas is a little easier now than it was last semester. Only a few months ago, she was undergoing a cardiac

bypass and several in the university were left wondering if their suddenly fallen leader would ever return.

Well, she’s back. And in this two-part exclusive sit-down with *The Pan American*, Cardenas speaks on her health, the cost of running a university, and much more.

So, before anything else, how are you feeling?

I feel so good. I wasn’t quite as strong in December but now I think the recovery is pretty complete. I feel great. I’m excited. I had gotten pretty weary before my operation and I was thinking

how much time I had before I could retire. Now, I don’t think about that anymore. I’m ready to go.

I’ve started doing yoga. Of course, I had never done it before, but it seems to be doing me some good.

How was the transition from just returning from major surgery to now?

What happened was people kept taking care of me and I told my staff, ‘I don’t want to be treated like I’m sick anymore. I. Am. Not. Sick. Anymore. And I think when I achieved that mental attitude, everything else took off. I think it was about deciding that I was not

going to be sick anymore.

When one has had major surgery, you have these phantom pains that will probably last for quite some time. It’s just the nerve endings reconnecting and so occasionally I will get one that feels like someone just stabbed me (laughs). But they pass.

Spring is typically a very travel-heavy semester for you, how are you going to deal with that?

I made the decision not to make some trips. But yes, fortunately we don’t have a legislative session. There will be

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OPINION

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January 14, 2008

THE PAN AMERICAN

■ SOCIAL COMMENTARY

Celebs: stay in tabloids, out of politics

BY: SANDRA GONZALEZ

A few weeks ago, I was watching CNN and saw Scarlett Johansson campaigning for Barack Obama. Celebrity endorsements always somewhat chafed my rear, but with the front-running positions in this presidential election so easily affected, they've become an annoyance that I really can't bear much longer.

As much as I respect Johansson's views on education (She was in the *Perfect Score* after all), I would never think it's a good idea for someone who makes a living saying words others write for them to give speeches supporting any candidate.

It's fair to say that the public should support their candidate, but support and endorsement are two different things. Support: dancing at rallies. Support: Chanting absurd, incoherent words at caucus and primary events

(E.g.: Candidate: I want fair and equal treatment for every one in the world. Crowd chant: World! World! World!).

To endorse, on the other hand, you have to be someone important and someone has to care what you say. Sure, good endorsements can make a campaign; like Oprah did for Obama. She practically won him Iowa. Then again if you don't do what the O says, she'll punish you by making you a present distributor during her My Favorite Things show (bring your brass knuckles). But it's a rare and special day when a celebrity can have more positive influence than negative.

Before endorsing a candidate, the stars should consider how they could hinder an effort. In general, any time you add a face to an organization — or in this case campaigns — you add risk. One person's momentary screw-up can derail a whole organized entity.

Case and point, at the end of last semester, a student — let's call her S.G.

(not me, in case you're wondering) — became mixed up in a parking debacle with the university's police department, a situation that involved a ticket for illegal parking in a handicapped zone, a handicap mother and whole lot of anguish. Her appeal failed because — at least she claims — the officer who heard her appeal showed her nothing but rudeness and indignation.

Sure, everyone has had a spat or two with the PD, but I can't remember being treated unfavorably by an individual officer at any time. Thus, my favorable opinion of the organization remains intact. However, S.G.'s opinion of UTPA PD is pretty much ruined because of the unwelcoming attitude of one officer. The same reputation sensitivity applies in elections.

Say for example that tonight, one day before the Michigan primary, Johansson is doing some campaign work in a Lansing bar and has a couple of drinks. But things get ugly when one

heckler tells her she looked fat in the *Nanny Diaries* and Johansson punches them out. Guaranteed, the news article about the incident would mention her candidate and (as wrong and stupid as it sounds) he would lose votes.

Regardless of how small or big their names are; celebrities should stay out of politics. Chuck Norris may have the whitest teeth in the world and a cult following, but that should not determine whether or not someone votes for Mike Huckabee. Let Huckabee get his own white teeth and fans. If the celebrities who follow a candidate around really determine whether you vote for someone, do the country a favor and stay home Nov. 2. Mmk?

Excuse me while I go secure the "Go Hillary" sign I placed on Britney Spears' lawn.

■ You know you want to: thesandrafanclub@gmail.com.

■ AS I SEE IT

College football playoffs coming soon?

BY: RAMIRO PAEZ

Unless Trinity High School, among others, won the 2007 Texas high school football championship in its division. The National Football League playoffs are in full swing. Louisiana State University won the college football playoffs...wait, there is no such thing.

That has been one of the most heated, debated issues in the world of sports for the past couple of years, especially this past season.

As I watched the BCS national championship game last Monday night, I did so with little enthusiasm and interest.

It could be because Michigan or Texas weren't in the national spotlight,

but with the way the college football season went down this year, I felt that nobody really deserved to be declared a champion.

This season will probably go down as one of the most parity-ridden ones in history. No team could ever sustain their prestigious ranking, so to see LSU, a two-loss team, celebrate its 38-24 victory over The Ohio State University was not impressive.

According to an ESPN analyst, the reason why college football will not move to a playoff system is because the current one generates revenue. Obviously.

Universities cringe every time they hear the word "playoff" because they are blinded by the almighty dollar. Winning a

bowl game means allocating lumps of money.

I have always liked the idea of a playoff system to determine a "real champion," but after watching the season unfold, I really jumped on the bandwagon.

Yes, universities will lose out in money, but is it really worth it to continue in the direction the NCAA is stuck in?

At least one team in the past 10 years has felt robbed by the computers who determine the two teams that will play in the championship game, and this season definitely led to the awakening.

Players and coaches devote their lives and put forth the effort of "work hard" every season in hopes of raising the title trophy in early January.

Savethesedates

January

14-18

University Program Board will host Welcome Week

23

Celebrity chef and author Melissa Guerra will speak about the history of local cuisine at the South Texas College Pecan Library at 7 p.m. Admission is free

Newsinbrief

■ LEADERSHAPE

The University of Texas-Pan American held the third annual LeaderShape program Jan. 6-11. The six-day program is designed to turn students into leaders.

The program was only open to business and engineering majors, but this year contributions have allowed all currently enrolled sophomores through seniors with a minimum 2.5 GPA to apply.

Other institutions around the world offer the program to students at a set cost, but UTPA is the first to provide the program free of charge.

Edwin LeMaster, dean of the College of Science and Engineering, brought in Jeanette Broshears and Velinda Reyes to help with the program.

"We have seen firsthand the impact this program has on our students. Many have developed their skills in communication, goal setting and discipline in their career goals," Reyes said.

Supporters like Ford Motor Company, Halliburton and Proctor and Gamble have helped to fund the event.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Pan American accepts letters of 300 words or less 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. The Pan American cannot publish anonymous letters or submissions containing hate speech or gratuitous personal attacks. Please send all story ideas to thepanamerican@gmail.com.

Individuals with disabilities wishing to acquire this publication in an alternative format or needing assistance to attend any event listed can contact The Pan American for more details.

■ COMMUNITY

Photos from the front lines

Local soldier's work on display for public view

By **J.R. ORTEGA**
The Pan American

Circling the makeshift wall displaying 25 of Marine Corps Sgt. Rey Leal's photographs was a slow crawl. Grayscale depictions of his time in Iraq showed his recollection, a story of war, sentiment and patriotism. Though business matters in southern California hindered his attendance, some said his presence through photography was more than enough.

On Thursday evening the Dustin Sekula Memorial Library in Edinburg put the 24-year-old's photographs on exhibit after Loida Leal, his sister and organizer of the event asked for his consent in doing so.

Both Leal and her brother were high school acquaintances of Dustin

Sekula, an Edinburg North graduate and the first Hidalgo county serviceman killed in the war with Iraq.

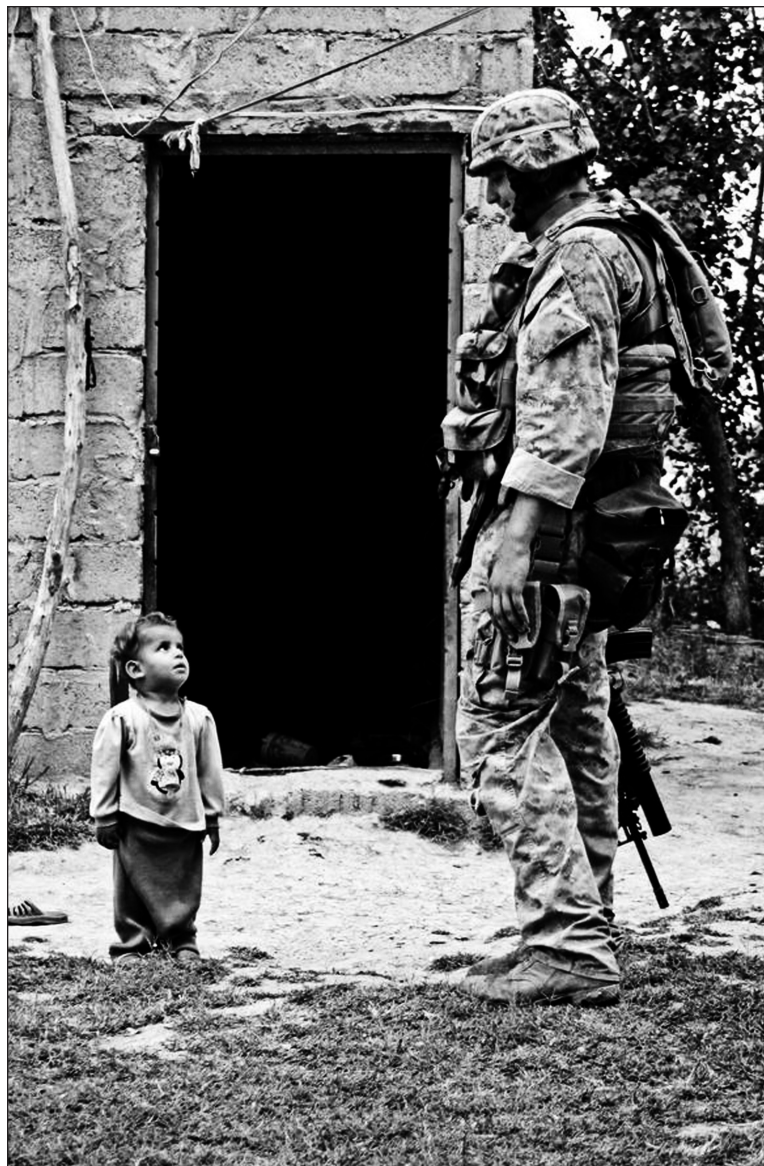
"I have always looked up to my brother and for those who know me and my family, he was that person in my life that I looked up to," she said. "With this I was hoping to prove to him that not only am I grateful to him but I'm proud of him."

A tearful Leal read a speech written by her brother commemorating the event and the fallen soldier. "The images you will see tonight are my burning story, a story that you might never know about if not for these photos," she intoned.

Prior to showcasing the soldier's photography, the library held a ceremony to unveil a statue honoring Valley natives who have served in the military.

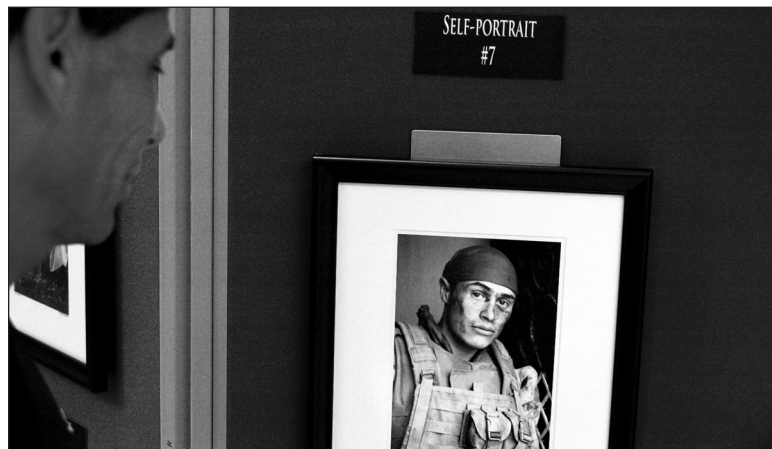
Manuel Cantu Jr., commander of the Veterans of the American Legion Post 408 attended both events and thought of Leal's photos as showing "expression in every picture."

The Vietnam volunteer veteran
See SOLDIERS page 12



Rey Leal

A WORLD AWAY - (Above) A small Iraqi child looks up at an American soldier in a photograph titled "Gentle Giant." Rey Leal, the photographer, considers it his "bestseller." (Left) David Chavana, a staff member at Edinburg North High School, views a self-portrait of Leal in full military uniform.



Nick Dodd/*The Pan American*

■ CAMPUS

SACS renews university's accreditation

By **ABIGAIL MUNIZ**
The Pan American

It took three years of work, but on Dec. 11, the University of Texas Pan American's efforts were recognized when the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission once again accredited the university.

The university had to satisfy the organization's 76 core requirements and comprehensive standards, largely in the areas of institutional mission, institutional effectiveness, undergraduate and graduate programs and federal requirements.

The SACS agency oversees the accreditation process for institutions of 11 states in the southern United States. Accreditation ensures a basic nationally commensurate level of quality in the education received from an institution, according to Susan Griffith, executive director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness.

"It also ensures that degrees will be recognized for the true achievements they are," Griffith said.

But the months leading up to the accreditation of UTPA were at times stressful for the team members. A committee of SACS representatives visited Edinburg last spring.

"It was an intense few days in April 2007 when the visiting committee was on campus," said Griffith, who headed the compliance certification portion of the SACS reaffirmation.

See SACS page 12

■ CRIME PREVENTION

Web site used statewide recovers stolen property

By **ANA VILLAURRUTIA**
The Pan American

In the Education Building across the Cafe a la Carte hangs a flier pleading for the return of a camera gone missing since Dec. 4. All over campus, students have used these fliers in hopes of recovering what was lost or stolen. But as Assistant Police Chief James Loya said, unless the individual who found it is a Good Samaritan, it is likely the person will not see the item again.

According to the 2007-2008

Campus Safety and Security Report, there were 85 reported thefts in 2004. Though the number went down in 2005 to 73, the following year, 100 thefts were reported at UTPA.

With the increase of lost or stolen items, The University of Texas-Pan American Police Department has come up with a more sophisticated option than putting up fliers.

Via Trace.com, a global database, students can check if an item they purchased or traded was a stolen good and even protect their property by creating

an inventory of belongings. The site claims to help people reclaim lost or stolen property, avoid purchasing stolen goods and stop property crime.

The Web site, which started in England as swift-find.com in 2005, made its way to the United States in 2006 and finally to UTPA at the end of last semester.

According to Loya, last year a missing laptop was recovered from a student on campus who bought it in a parking lot in McAllen. The computer was located because it had a tracking

device in it.

"The laptop was confiscated and the student received the same class offense as the person who steals the laptop," he said.

Though the university is taking steps to help solve the problem, the number of thefts at UTPA is not as high as other state schools. UTPA has had an average of 86 reported thefts per year since 2004. For other universities in Texas, an average of 793 thefts are reported annually over that period. But stealing is still a local issue.

"As technology improves, people are carrying around more high-priced items," Loya said. "The more participation we have [in trace.com] the more recovery we will have."

Loya said Trace.com will become an investigative tool that will help develop a pattern for areas in need of more security. Big areas like libraries, are popular among thieves. The stolen items will then end up on eBay, in flea markets and sometimes at pawnshops.

Jose Castillo, an associate at First
See TRACE page 12



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■ STUDENT LIFE

Delayed adulthood plagues many students

Study's definition could create new age category

By **J.R. ORTEGA**
The Pan American

Parents have probably heard the overused "I'm an adult and can do what I want" bit from their children more times than they care to count. However, a recent study suggests many college-age students actually do not consider themselves adults at all.

Published in the December issue of *Journal of Family Psychology*, the study showed that many parents and their 18-to-25-year-old children agree they are not yet an adult.

While some students at The University of Texas-Pan American live independently with minimal parental contact, there are still those who receive much support from family, like 20-year-old Lori Hinojosa, a nursing major from Mission.

"I'm an adult who needs an adult," she said. "There is still a lot of stuff I don't understand like politics and being financially stable, things an older adult knows more about."

She said this is how it is for most people her age, "stuck in the middle" between adolescence and adulthood.

"The jobs and decisions we make and have now are just leading and preparing us for adulthood," she said.

For Hinojosa, a person isn't fully adult until about the time of marriage and children, but even that can't specify when it's time for someone to take charge of their life.

Hinojosa's mother, Linda Hinojosa, agreed that her daughter is legally an adult but still has much to learn about an adult's function in society.

"I've seen kids who move out of their house to go to school somewhere else and within a year they're back because they couldn't make it," her mother said. "It wasn't all the fun and glory they thought it was gonna be."

According to the mother, the government just gives a person a legal age of maturity but in the end it all depends on the individual.

"Any child and person is going to make a mistake, you try and teach them 'don't do this because this is what happened to me,' leading by example," she said.

EXPERIENCED VIEW

In the United States, there are legal

ages for smoking, sexual consent, drinking and other significant aspects typical of adulthood. Legal age ranges from 18-21, but only serves as a guideline of what someone of that age should be held responsible for.

However, working and attending school full-time for rehabilitation major Becky Muniz comes naturally, and with that, she said, comes the title of adult.

"I see myself as independent because I take care of myself," said the 23-year-old. "I pay for my car, my gas and my bills."

Muniz said her single-mother raised her and her siblings. It was her mother's strength as a single-mom that helped her realize she could take care of herself.

"I think these past couple of years helped me realized I can pretty much do

anything," Muniz explained. "There is no obstacle if you learn to do it all."

Russell Eisenman, an associate professor of psychology at UTPA, has studied psychology for 41 years and has taught adolescent and young adult psychological issues in one of his courses.

"Anything that tells people they are not yet adults may help make them less responsible," he said. "Legally, they [emerging adults] are considered adults in all states that I am aware of."

Eisenman added "delayed adulthood" may have some positive impacts because issues of self-discovery and career choice are hindered, resulting in a lack of full adult status.

"I recall knowing that if I wanted to become a psychoanalyst, I would be in

my 30s and still in training and not a full-fledged psychoanalyst," he said. "That [lack in full adult status] made me not want to go into that field."

Prior to teaching at UTPA, Eisenman worked as a psychologist in a California Youth Authority prison where he said a prisoner of 18-25 years of age could be sent to a different facility depending on their stability.

"A prisoner of 18-25 years of age could be assigned to either the adult prison system, the California Department of Corrections, or if they were seen as too weak, immature, or too emotionally disturbed, they could be sent to the juvenile system," said Eisenman. "Thus, 18-25 years of age can reflect different personalities and different abilities."

CampusViews What makes someone an adult?

"Being independent, aware of oneself, punctual and on task help makes someone more of an adult. [Also,] dress appropriately and stay away from the disheveled look."



-Florinda Gonzalez
junior, nursing

"A responsible person who doesn't try everything once just so they can know right from wrong."



-Steffen Wanza
sophomore, exchange student

"Learn how to be responsible and be mature and do not let your parents intervene in your decisions. You should learn from experience."



-Lorena Garza
freshman, pre-med biology



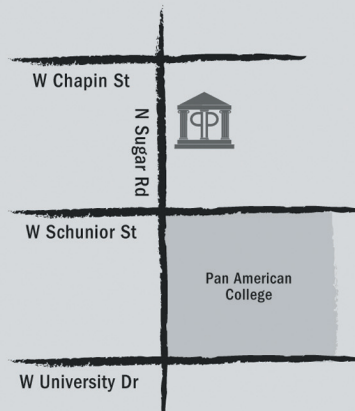
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■ MUSIC SCENE

Local duo puts spin on 'common' musical artistry

By **JEANETTE PEREZ**
The Pan American

Life is full of many ironies. In the Rio Grande Valley's music scene, McAllen's Stereo Kitsch is glad to be one of them.

The duo, made up of Elias Montemayor and Homer Rios, is hoping to bring its diverse Indie/Experimental/Rock sound and styles into the local area. The University of Texas-Pan American alumni are welcoming the New Year with a long-awaited first official album release, *Get it Goin*.

The band, whose name in part means "common, vulgar art," thrives on its mix of various musical stylings which include elements of R&B, blues, jazz, folk, reggae and rock.

"We're very eclectic. It's singer-song writer oriented. You can compare us to bands like Bob Schneider of Austin, Ween and Phish," said 31-year-old Montemayor, a fine arts graduate. "[Like] a lot of the bands with cult followings that don't really stick to one style. They play different styles but you can tell it's the same band playing."

Stereo Kitsch, like its name implies, is all about abstraction and an assortment of art forms for the ears.

"We wanted to have something that is ambiguous where you can interpret it yourself. We love playing a wide



Elias Montemayor

MUSICAL ASSORTMENT - *Get it Goin*, the duo's first release, combines several styles from jazz to rock to reggae to create the band's unique, distinct sound.

variety of music," said 30-year-old Rios, who plays drums and percussion for the band. "We've played in so many different bands. We can play with a jazz band and then a blues band the next day and we have to be able to sound like that style. It just comes naturally."

While the music comes naturally to them now, putting it all together for an album was quite the lengthy, difficult process.

It started about eight years ago, when band founder Montemayor started

writing music. His love for music eventually landed them in the recording studio, where they dropped five or six songs. Money problems, however, caused them to abandon the project.

"We started again with a second recording session," said Montemayor, a music teacher at a La Joya elementary school. "That's when we went all out. We try to be as professional as possible. We started off small and we just kept adding and spending more money."

Another problem inhibiting the

progression of the release was various line-up changes over the past four years. Rios and Montemayor, who had known each other since the day they met "by the portables outside the Social and Behavioral Sciences building" at the university, didn't officially become Stereo Kitsch until about two years ago.

"Elias had asked me to play in a band with him when we were at [UTPA] but I didn't know if he was any good or not so I asked a friend of mine," said Rios, a music education graduate. "He [Elias] actually called our friend to play drums and they started playing and I was like, 'Wow, this guy's actually good.' We started playing in different bands before we finally decided to make this band just me and him."

Rios enjoys the loyalty that goes along with having a single band mate.

"It's a pain in the ass when there's more than a couple of people in a band because it's kind of like you're dating like two or three people at the same time," he quipped. "We figured we'd keep it monogamous."

The two of them, continued Rios, are like family. The pair, each with their own influences - Rios who "will listen to anything that's good" and Montemayor who enjoys The Police, Bob Marley and Otis Redding to name a few - bring a special touch to the band. They both strive for the next level.

"We go further than most bands in

the area. We've spent quite a bit to record this record so we're both kind of broke right now," said Rios, who teaches drums at Melhart's in McAllen.

Further indeed. *Get it Goin* is composed of more than just Montemayor's and Rios's musical stylings. In fact, the band acquired talent from all over the place.

"We've had a lot of very well-known musicians that we've gotten to record and play with. Just playing with people of a higher caliber, musicianship just raises the bar," said Montemayor of their album. "We took more chances. We got John Mayer's keyboardist, Kevin Lovejoy, Ivan Neville of the Neville Brothers, The Grooveline Horns, and Billy Harvey, former singer of Bob Schneider [among others]."

After seven long years of member changes and in-and-out studio sessions, the band is thrilled to finally put all their hard work out for everyone to experience - but they are not done yet.

"We're actually starting our own publishing company. We're going straight-out independent," said Montemayor. "We're going to start our own record label and maybe even our own distribution company."

Stereo Kitsch will have a CD release party at Cine El Rey in downtown McAllen Feb. 13. For more information on the band visit their Web site at www.myspace.com/stereokitsch.

■ ART SCENE

New gallery offers venue for fresh, modern talent

By **LAURA GARCIA**
The Pan American

Pablo Picasso once said "Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." Amid the dust is the Valley's newest Modern Art space, Manichaus (pronounced: manic house) in McAllen.

A self-proclaimed "by the artists for the artists" venue, the art gallery opened its doors in late December of last year just in time for the McAllen Artwalk, a self-guided tour of galleries.

Owner and curator Omar Rodriguez used to present exhibits in his home but when that proved to be difficult due to tight space, he decided to open shop in McAllen's new entertainment district.

Art is rapidly gaining ground in the

Valley, Rodriguez said, and "it's all around us, if you want to accept art as the way people dress or if you think telephone poles are artistic."

In hopes to accommodate and support local artists, Rodriguez offers a venue for the community to go out and experience something different for a change. There are plenty of galleries in downtown McAllen, but Rodriguez strives to offer that extra punch in the art scene. And local professionals agree.

"It betters the community by exposing it to existing and untapped talent. It helps the artist by giving them exposure and hopefully the community can help the artist by purchasing their work," said local artist Israel Perez.

Manichaus hosts monthly and at times bi-monthly exhibits showing mod-

ern art from local, national, and international artists, ranging from the 20th and 21st centuries.

Paintings, drawings, sculptures and mixed media pieces are just some of what one will see. It also houses a shop that displays smaller-scale artwork and wearable art such as accessories, shirts, and bags, that may be more suitable for others.

One of the biggest differences the spot offers is that it doesn't showcase traditional or "mundane Valley art" as Dennis Zamarron Jr., another local artist, noted.

Save the free wine and gaudy cheese for someone else, Manichaus takes pride in giving "weird" artists an outlet.

"No self-respecting gallery," Zamarron said with a sarcastic scoff,

"would offer a chance to no-name artists or art that was far out of the nor-

mal spectrum. Manichaus provides that comfort."



Isaac Barrientes/*The Pan American*

HAUS SHOW - University of Texas-Pan American art professor Paul Valadez is among the artists who have work exhibited at the Manichaus gallery.



Story by: Jacklyn Alvarez

Digital TV

Students, public await major change in network broadcasting

Many remember their grandparents' huge television set, sitting in the living room collecting dust. Remember the huge turning dial in order to get to one channel to the next made an interesting sound, which almost sounded like a machine at work? But what you probably didn't notice was that whenever your grandmother or grandfather was watching their early evening shows an odd noise would almost deafen the sound of the television. That was the analog signaling and soon it will be obsolete.

An analog signal is a copied and re-copied signal transmitted over long distances. And in December 2005, legislation passed by the U.S. Senate required that all television broadcast stations stop broadcasting analog signals and convert to digital by Feb. 17, 2009.

The reason for this change according to the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) is because "digital is a more efficient transmission technology" and by converting from analog, frequencies will be freed up to "be used for advanced commercial wireless service for consumers."

This change to digital television is occurring all around the world. Several European countries have already switched off of analog while Americans are still getting prepared to make the change.

In recent weeks, local newscasts and major networks all over the country have been broadcasting the message to the general public.

Marco Trevino, the sales manager of Circuit City in McAllen, said the main difference between analog and digital is that "[digital] picture quality is 100 times better and sound as well."

According to Trevino, subscribers to cable or satellite will not be affected by the change. Rather, it will be over-the-air television watchers. He added that people will need a converter box to be able to watch television without cable or satellite because the analog tuners on older television models will be useless.

Without a converter box televisions will not be able to decode and uncompress digital signals. Any television set after May 25, 2007 must have a digital tuner or be identified as not having one when being sold.

To help ease the burden, the government has begun offering \$40 coupons to be used toward the purchase of digital-to-analog converters. Converter boxes are priced from \$80 to \$100, meaning consumers would have to scrounge up at least another \$40 to purchase a converter box with a coupon.

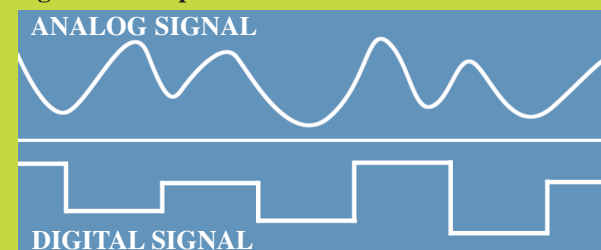
Trevino thinks this will just be another expense to consumers. Computer information system major Jose R. Garza Jr. agrees.

"I think the government is freeing up the airways so they can sell the airspace or use it themselves leaving the poor households without TV," said the 22-year-old senior. "If the government were looking to sell the airways to large corporations the ones more likely wishing to purchase them would be the same ones they forced to convert to digital. Using the airways for government purposes would be ridiculous because there would be no way of securing any transmission."

As for communities near the border, Garza said people will still be able to watch Mexican channels without a converter box because Mexico's analog cut-off date is 2022, and if those with a converter box

want to see the Mexican channels they will have to change their TV settings or disconnect the box.

As for the economy, he said, the conversion to digital will help boost the television market.



To fully understand the DTV, you must first understand the difference between analog and digital signals. Think back to your younger years when you learned basic physics, analog signals are measured by the variation of the frequency of the signal. These signals look like waves and can vary in both height and width. This variation in the signal is the reason why you get snow in the picture and lose sound.

On the other hand, a digital signal compresses data and sends it out in blocks that must then be decoded for viewing. Their waves use up less bandwidth and look like blocks and do not vary in frequency, thus allowing for a clearer picture and better sound. It also allows for more programming options.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is in charge of the coupon program. You can visit their website at www.dtv2009.gov where you will be able to get more information about digital TV, apply for a coupon and locate a converter box retailer in your area.

MOVIE REVIEW

Juno brings sweetness, humor to teenage traumas

By **RUSSEN VELA**
The Pan American

Admit it, you think a film about a pregnant teen who tries to discover herself through her unfortunate predicament is bound to be a stinker of a film. Sorry to burst your bubble; *Juno* is simply one of the year's most original and

best films.

The film, which had a budget of \$2.5 million, has grossed \$52 million in its fifth week in release and is already getting Oscar buzz, especially surrounding newcomer actress Ellen Page and screenwriter Diablo Cody.

Everything about this film just works: the dialogue is sharp and the act-

ing is right on point. It's this year's *Little Miss Sunshine*, only 100 percent better.

Juno, played to absolute perfection by Page (*Hard Candy*) is a whip-smart teen confronting an unplanned pregnancy with her classmate and best friend Paulie Bleeker, played by Michael Cera (*Superbad*). After her confession to her parents and her cheerleader best friend, Juno decides that instead of being a single "kid-parent," she will give her unborn child to a sweet and wealthy couple played by Jennifer Garner (*13 going on 30*) and Jason Bateman (*Arrested Development*).

Page is without a doubt one of the best actresses of her generation. She embodies Juno in a way no one else could have. She's not rebelling from medication like Natalie Portman in *Garden State*, nor is she just a normal, shy girl who is externally quirky like Tina Majorino in *Napoleon Dynamite*, both characters some have drawn far-fetched comparisons to. Juno is somewhat reminiscent of Ally Sheedy's character in *The Breakfast Club*, but that's the closest comparison any one should draw to this unique character.

Juno is a loner and has her two friends, but once she breaks out of her shell she is someone who will ultimately get along with anyone if they just reach

out to her. Page's punchy one-liners and peculiar contortions really come from her gut rather than a typed page. By the time our heroine's water breaks, Jason Reitman, who directed the controversial *Thank you for Smoking*, has transformed her early idiosyncrasies into an eccentric but sincere tenderness that radiates.

The first thing one notices about *Juno* is the wise-cracking, magical dialogue, sprinkled with liberal uses of slang and a sort of hyper sentence construction. It's a riot to listen to, and stripper-turned-novelist-turned-screenwriter Cody is already getting the red carpet treatment in Hollywood. Her characters, as she has stated in numerous interviews, are based on her close friends from high school; from them springs raw emotional life, and they seem perfectly matched to the actors.

The film is so much fun that it's easy to overlook the film's rather controversial plot, especially given 16-year-old actress Jaimie Lynn Spears' recently announced pregnancy. The movie offers a good dose of honesty and wit. Some maybe expected a full gross-out comedy like *Knocked Up*, but instead, *Juno* is a sweet-and-sour look at the traumas of teen life, and the way that sometimes, improbably, they can be transformed into small miracles.

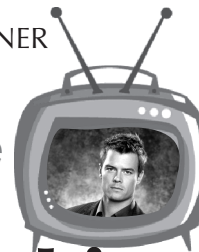


slashfilm.com

GROWING UP - Ellen Page plays Juno, a pregnant teen in the latest block-buster film, who learns the pros and cons of the unexpected plans of life.

TV CORNER

What You're Not Watching



"Las Vegas"

By **JEANETTE PEREZ**
The Pan American

With the Writer's Guild of America strike still going strong after two months, television has been somewhat at a standstill with its programming. Although beloved shows like *Heroes* have yet to make a return, there's no reason why you can't enjoy what's currently screening.

NBC's *Las Vegas*, which has been going strong since the fall of 2003, is still alive and kicking during the network's primetime schedule.

After the loss of Mary Connell (Nikki Cox) and the 'disappearance' of Ed Deline (James Caan), the team has come under the direction of another boss, Cooper, played by Tom Selleck.

With gambling, scheming, grand explosions, robbery-heists, exploitation, drama and high sex appeal at the exclusive Montecito resort, *Las Vegas* is one show you don't want to miss this season. What happens in Vegas is at your disposal Fridays at 9 p.m. on NBC.

EVENTS



- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| <p>Thur., Jan. 17</p> | <p>Involvement Fair
From 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Quad</p> <p>Rock the Rec
From 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the WRSC</p> <p>UPB Presents: Discovery Channel Day
From 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Quad</p> |
| <p>Fri., Jan. 18</p> | <p>National Certified Peer Educator Training-Part I
From 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the SU Palmetto</p> <p>UPB Presents: A Sock Hop
From 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Cafeteria</p> <p>Due: Homecoming King/Queen applications
6:00 p.m. to UC 205</p> |
| <p>Mon. Jan. 21</p> | <p>MLK Day-UTPA closed</p> |
| <p>Tues., Jan. 22</p> | <p>Homecoming Variety Show Auditions
From 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the SU Theater</p> |
| <p>Wed., Jan. 23</p> | <p>Speaker: Deanna Latson-Eat Right. Feel Good. Look Great!
From 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the SU Theater</p> |



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CRUSADE continued from page 1

share the story of Jesus Christ. The bracelets had six colorful beads, each one telling a different part of the story.

It looked like story time in kindergarten, as each child stared attentively to what was said, with the exception of that one precocious child that couldn't keep her hand down. She had one too many questions.

The parents just watched from the doors and windows, wondering what it was that these white people could possibly want with their children. Eventually, they did warm up to the group and came out talk.

"I was surprised that parents didn't keep their children from playing with us.

I was expecting them to be guarded about people randomly coming in to talk to their kids, especially about religious things," Bowen said. "But these parents were like, 'hey you all can play with them, whatever you want to do.' They were very open to us coming in."

Bowen was able to talk to a few of the parents, and realized they were so excited to see their children getting the attention they needed. It was a good change to see them all playing together instead of ignoring one another, one parent told her.

"These kids are just longing for the attention because they're apart of huge families with five or eight kids," she

said. "You know that the parents probably have to work so much that they're not able to give them the attention they need. It was great for our group to be able to come in and provide that, even if it was for a few hours."

Bowen and the others had to admit that they were scared about going into the area, since it is popularly known for its high rate of drug abuse and gang activities.

"I was pretty confident going in, but one of the leaders started talking to us right before we went out and I started getting nervous," Bowen said. "He started telling us to be guarded and careful."

With the day almost done the jump-roping, football-throwing and

piggy-back riding had to come to an end. The group said their final goodbyes.

As they walked away, the group could only hope that they somehow made an impact on the neighborhood, for the better.

■ **"You know that the parents probably have to work so much that they're not able to give them the attention they need..."**

- Charity Bowen
President of UTPA Campus
Crusade for Christ

BIRDS continued from page 1

the feathered residents and Physical Plant employees.

From sticky gel to needled nests, nothing has proved as effective as the gas cannons.

"They gave us quite a bit of work when it came to power-washing the sidewalks," Villarreal said.

The gas cannons, powered by the same gas cylinders used for outdoor grills, have been questioned by animal rights activists on campus. But Villarreal assures that they have no intentions of harming any creature.

"What we're doing is just a management system" he said.

CARDENAS continued from page 1

some UT System trips. And we also have a situation where the Board of Regents is coming here. So, I won't have to make that trip to Austin. And I will cut back. I'm being conservative with the traveling.

You weren't around for a good part of last semester, but I'm sure you still heard a lot about some of the hot-button issues. One of those was the debated core curriculum. Is that an issue that has died down?

Making choices about what will go into a degree program is always tough. I'm not sure where it is right at the moment but we're trying to cut down the number of hours in degree programs because many of our programs had grown in terms of the number of hours required...that happens typically because it's a process whereby well-meaning faculty who are passionate about what they want students to learn will add requirements to degrees because there is new information and new ways to looking at subject matter.

I remember when I was a faculty member the mid-management program I taught in had a human relations course and a course in parent and community engagement and they had decided those two could be an either/or course. Well, I felt very strongly that both of those courses should be required. They happened to be the courses I taught (laughs). But I felt very strongly that in a school district that human relations and personnel issues, that's what it's all about. So there are always strong feelings and they are usually feelings that come out of the passion faculty has for what they think students should learn. What we have to do is to rethink courses so that we're teaching the content and achieving the learning goals that we have for students.

So I don't know. I anticipate the faculty will wrestle with these problems, there will be tensions, conflict, but ultimately they'll come up with the right answers.

I know the UTPAdvantage pro-

gram was recently extended, what other measures are you working on to alleviate the tuition and fee burden on students?

You know, the issue of reducing the number of hours in our degree program is a cost issue, among other things. Those are costs to our students. Having better advising reduces the number of course students will take and pay for that aren't useful to them. That's a way of reducing costs.

We have spent a lot of money and foregone income through our concurrent enrollment programs. That's a way of reducing costs to our students.

We've done a lot of things that are management issues where we've attempted to cut costs. Some of them are non-academic. For example, we've just absorbed, if you would, the lighting around the campus because we were having a lot of trouble getting the company to service lights that burned out. So, now we will be able to control that and the cost of campus lighting. That's a way to alleviate the cost to the students. It's a constant push to reduce costs so we can give more of the quality service that we want.

We were paying very large amounts of money in workman's comp[ensation]. And we have put in place measures that reduce the workman's comp claims. It was a management effort and a well done effort by the people in our Physical Plant. That cuts costs.

We're doing a better job of utilizing classrooms. By doing that we cut costs. If we spread out the attendance so we were using the university more throughout the day that would also cut costs. So we're trying to see how to cut costs across the board so we don't sacrifice quality.

That lighting measure is very unique. Whose idea was that?

We'd been fighting the company for almost two years. They were not replacing the malfunctioning lights fast enough. It

was a safety issue, but we were under contract. And finally we were able to get out of the contract and now we own them. So now, if I see a light that isn't functioning, I can call and complain and they can't say 'Oh, it's the company who's not responding' (laughs).

The economy is also having an effect on the cost of that lighting.

Our energy costs have gone up very significantly. UTPAdvantage is just one of ways we're trying to address the affordability issue.

And are those rising costs going to have any effect on ongoing construction projects here?

Well, I don't know. It may be that the price of building materials will not increase as much as it had in the past because we've been through a building boom in the country and a building boom in the Valley and that raised the cost of materials. And maybe that will

slow now that there is a slowdown in the housing industry. I don't expect that the cost of labor will go down, but I'm much more worried that a slowdown in the economy will have an effect on the families of our students because that will add pressure on our students, so I hope that doesn't happen. I know the cost of gasoline has affected students very negatively, so we're trying to be sensitive to all those issues. At the same time, our costs are going up. The cost of faculty, the cost of energy, as I said, technology costs are going up.

One of the areas we're having to spend money in that I don't think anyone would have anticipated is in the area of IT security. That has become a very big issue.

And of course the issue of security on campus has become very costly. We all became very sensitized to the need for greater security because of the Virginia Tech incident. So we have taken

a very significant number of measures to address those security issues. But I don't just want to talk about costs. There are a lot of very exciting things that will be happening this semester...

NEXT WEEK

In Part Two of *The Pan American's* one-on-one with President Blandina Cardenas, she talks about the upcoming semester, her hopes for 2008 and even the presidential election.



Nick Dodd/The Pan American

LEADING - UTPA president Blandina Cardenas, who underwent heart surgery in September 2007, is back to full duty and ready to tackle the many issues facing the growing university.

SACS continued from page 3

Ana Rodriguez, senior vice provost for undergraduate studies, headed the student learning outcomes part of the assessment. She remembers feeling a sense of relief upon being informed UTPA had been accredited.

"I was elated. It was a load off my shoulders," Rodriguez said. "I spent hours and weekends on my desk working on all these reports I had to write."

Some of the reports focused on plans to improve student success. Also part of the Quality Enhancement Plan committee, Rodriguez said this group went to work on improving student success, as well as on gaining accreditation.

According to the QEP's Statement of Need, 77 percent of first generation students enrolled in Math 1300, failed to pass the course.

With the approval of the president, UTPA's QEP topic then developed into the so-called gatekeeper mathematics course, which students can take in lieu of the usual and difficult algebra class.

Judy Davidson, head of the QEP committee, said developing the program to target mathematics failure rates was "sort of like writing a dissertation."

"But we got good remarks from the SACS people and they were even supportive and excited about it," said Davidson, also the Writing Center director.

According to Rodriguez though, in

order to ensure the university continues in the right direction, everyone needs to "keep doing what we are doing."

"We have to keep up what we did because they (SACS) will be back in five then 10 years to see how we are doing. I wouldn't want us to start from scratch," she said.

UTPA has been an accredited university since 1956. In the December 2007 meeting SACS reaffirmed the accreditation of 36 institutions, including six from Texas. Baylor University in Waco, St. Edwards University in Austin, and The University of Texas-Arlington were among those who received a citation.

Now, those institutions can rest assured that their graduates will be received in the work place with the same baseline-quality reputation as the rest.

However, SACS either denied or took negative action on 16 institutions, two of which were Texas institutions: Texas Tech University in Lubbock and Texas Southern University in Houston.

The SACS commission placed the institution on probation for 12 months but continued accreditation of Texas Tech for "good cause" after ending its two-year monitoring period.

Texas Southern University was put on probation for 12 months after SACS reviewed the university's special report on finances.

TRACE continued from page 3

Cash Pawn on University Drive, said they have students shopping there all the time, though there were only three items identified as stolen last year.

"We use a very old system to see if an item has been reported stolen, we set it aside and report it to the police," said Castillo.

He added that even having a personal file of your valuables can be helpful to the police. Information such as serial numbers from electronic devices and detailed descriptions can make a lost or stolen item unique and traceable.

Loya said there is one sure-fire way to tell when merchandise is stolen. Trace.com gets information via the Texas Department of Public Safety, which receives its info from the local police department databases.

"When a deal is too good to be true

it probably has gone onto the system (Trace.com)," he said. "If it's an iPod going for \$80 and its usually \$200, its suspicious."

Ken Bouche, vice president of Trace.com, advises people to keep an inventory of items on Trace.com in order to increase the chances of recovering stolen goods.

"The best way to protect your property is to register in advance, so if it is lost or stolen and then recovered, it can be returned and the thief caught," he said.

The UTPA Police Department was invited to take part in the state's pilot program by the Texas Police Chiefs Association and the Texas Department of Public Safety.

In Texas, 500 other universities have started using this program.



SOLDIER continued from page 3

shared memory of his time in war and said that like Vietnam, these pictures had a tremendous impact.

Leal will be leaving the Marines in February after having been active in the Iraq War since 2004, and will pursue cinematography with BST Films, an industry he formed which has shot several commercials already, according to The Monitor.

A varied group of people filled the library conference room, including David Chavana, Edinburg North High School's in-school suspension director and a candidate for justice of the peace in March elections.

Chavana said that watching kids grow up is the best part of working with the public education system.

"You see them grow up and develop into young men and women who represent their school and city so well," said Chavana, who is also the race director for the Edinburg 10K coming up in March.

Minnie Cuevas, a self-employed Edinburg resident, said she brought her daughter Esmer to help her finish writing a report about the war. She commented that her daughter has become interested in photography as well.

"Seeing him in the pictures, I can imagine [him] in the middle of all that as he takes a minute to reflect in that moment in time," Cuevas said.

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■ TRACK

New coach, experience to lead track season

By **ALVARO GARCIA**
The Pan American

With less than a week to go before the start of the 2007-2008 University of Texas Pan-American men's and women's track and field season, much excitement and anticipation is swirling.

A new chapter is set to begin on Friday as Dennis Darling, a three-time Bahamian Olympian and assistant last year under Ricky Vaughn, prepares to take over the reins as head coach. Vaughn resigned to become assistant athletic director for academic support and student services in July.

"Coach Vaughn left the program in good shape, in a good predicament," Darling said. "Last year's season was OK but sort of disappointing because we only took one person to nationals. This year our goal is to take more than one athlete and hopefully a whole team to nationals."

High jumper and Cuero native Will Littleton was the only member on the Bronc squad last year to advance to nationals, claiming fifth place at the 2007 NCAA Division I Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Sacramento.

Both the coaching staff and athletes have been intensely preparing

from September through December hoping it will provide them a good start and positive results throughout the upcoming season.

The Broncs will open up Friday at the Leonard Hilton Memorial, hosted by the University of Houston.

The expectation to show improvement from last year is on the athletes' minds and for the Broncs' first meet, the coaching staff will be expecting everyone to go out there and use the competition to show what they can contribute to the team.

"If our athletes are not ready to go by the 18th, we won't have a problem leaving them home," Darling promised.

Darling and his staff believe that if they improve on last year's satisfactory season to a more successful one this year, excitement from the Bronc faithful will begin to form as the season goes along. That will depend on the desire, will and heart displayed by the returning core of freshmen and sophomore athletes, he added.

"UTPA fans should be excited this year because of the hard work our team is doing making us competitive and setting us up for success," senior sprinter David Sanchez said. "I think if we follow that, then the fans will sup-

port us."

Atop the men's side again will be nationals candidate Littleton along with distance runner Luis Nava, who finished with eight top-ten finishes last season.

This year the women's side is emerging as a very talented and experienced squad. It will be fortified with regional hopefuls such as seniors Amanda Ferris, hammer thrower, and Liliana Cavazos, long jumper. Junior discus thrower Stephanie Perez and sophomore sprinter Vanessa Brown also look to make an impact this season.

"Everyone's attitude towards the new season is positive, especially going into our first meet," freshman high jumper Abigail Garza said. "We feel somewhat nervous but mostly excited for the season to start. We're ready to see how the college level is, see where we stand, and what to work on to get better."

Houston will be the team's home away from home as they travel to the Gulf Coast seven times this year, including upcoming events on Feb. 1 and Feb. 16 for the Houston Invitational and UH/Run Sports All-Corners Meet, both hosted by the University of Houston.



Onydia Garza/The Pan American

READY, SET, GO! - Junior middle distance runner Sonya Rivera positions herself into the blocks. The track and field season is set to kick off Saturday at the Leonard Hilton Memorial hosted by the University of Houston.

■ TENNIS

Tennis programs return with familiar, new faces

By **GABRIEL SALDANA**
The Pan American

With the first matches of the 2008 campaign fast approaching, and two new international players signed, head tennis Coach Robert Hubbard is prepared for what he hopes will be the most successful season to date.

"We're looking for the best season from both teams in a long time," Hubbard said. "We want to put up our best numbers and feel that we're going to be competitive in the Southland Conference. Last year we made a big stride and we're in even better shape this year. The idea is to compete strongly at the Division I level."

The tennis season kicks off at home Jan. 19 as the men and women

duke it out with College of the Southwest at home in the Orville Cox Tennis Center at 3 p.m.

Performance on the men's side is expected to be bolstered by the addition of two new players along with senior and Mexico native Ivan Avila, and sophomores Nirvick Mohinta and Shashank Vij.

India native Ashwin Vijayaragavan was the first to be inked to the men's team. The freshman is ranked in the top 150 players on the International Tennis Federation junior world list.

"I'm delighted to be a part of the Broncs," Vijayaragavan said. "Considering that I've had considerable exposure on the ITF circuit in Asia and Europe, I'm eagerly looking forward to competing in the college championships

in the United States."

New Zealand native Andrew Irving followed suit by signing a letter of intent. Irving was ranked among the top 10 junior players in New Zealand.

"I believe that Coach Hubbard has put together a good team with a great playing environment," Irving said. "I am looking forward to a successful year and can't wait for the season to begin."

The entire 2007 women's team will be returning for the 2008 campaign, including key seniors Julia Cirne-Lima, Giana Oliveira and Silke Buksik.

"We have four seniors, four sophomores and two juniors returning," said Hubbard, who stressed the success of the women's side during the fall season. He plans for a reprise.

"We had the best season here for

the women's team last year in a decade," Hubbard said. "And I feel we're playing better than last year. Our girls felt that there were a couple of matches that got away and that they could've done better. We will be more productive than last season."

Focus for this season has been placed heavily on strength training and conditioning. But the holiday season was cause for some concern.

"We were worried that over the winter break, while the kids were gone that they might sit idle," Hubbard said. "We encouraged them to stay active and most of them did that and even played some tournaments. They kept up with their training. The first practice was Tuesday and they started the strength and conditioning again with

Matt Taylor."

Tuesday's practice yielded positive results and left Hubbard optimistic about the outcome of the impending campaign.

"They looked good and they really held up in practice well. It looks like everyone did their homework and we're happy about that," he said.

Hubbard discussed some of the obstacles that are expected to arise in the coming weeks.

"Next weekend it gets hot and heavy because both teams play Texas Tech whose programs are both nationally ranked," he said. "We've got some other tough ones like Air Force and Clemson whose men are in the top 25 percent in the country. It's going to be a tough season and it will be pretty interesting to see how it goes."

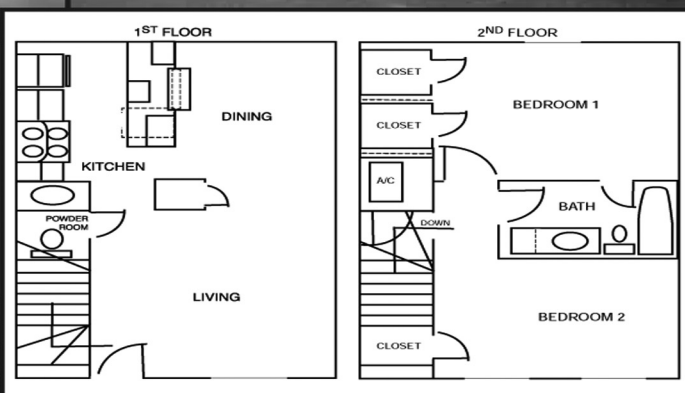


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ENTRIES DUE ON FEB. 8TH!!!



6 VOLLEYBALL

M, W, C DIVISIONS

PLAY BEGINS FEB. 5 **ENTRIES DUE ON FEB. 1!!!**

Captains meeting Feb. 1st 5pm at the WRSC 2nd floor.

5 BASKETBALL

M, W DIVISIONS

PLAY BEGINS JAN. 28TH **ENTRIES DUE ON JAN. 25!!!**

Captains meeting Jan. 25th @ 5pm @ the WRSC 2nd Floor!!!

FOR MORE INFO. CONTACT ART CABRERA AT 292-7808 OR RECSports@UTPA.EDU

■ NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Lady Broncs lose fourth straight, against Lady Roadrunners

Women drop record to 8-10 for the season

By **RAMIRO PAEZ**
The Pan American

Unlike the rollercoaster ride the men are experiencing, the University of Texas-Pan American women's basketball team is quickly heading in one direction: a slump.

After a 4-2 start, the women have only posted four wins in their last 12 matchups since and now take a wounded 8-10 record on the road for a three-game standing beginning Saturday against Chicago State University.

CAL STATE-BAKERSFIELD

On Saturday night, the Lady Broncs hoped to get back to their winning ways after losing three straight games, but the Lady Roadrunners' offense was too much for the women to handle as they ran UTPA right out of

the building with an 87-62 win at the Field House.

"I think offensively we didn't make some open shots in the beginning of the second and Bakersfield continued to make some shots," Lady Broncs coach DeAnn Craft said. "Our kids are hurting right now; we're looking for the answers."

Craft continued to express her concern for leadership.

"We've got to have another player step up other than Keisha because people know she's our captain," she said, referring to senior guard LeKeisha Gray. "At this level, you've got to have multi weapons. We're just right now not playing with enough sense of urgency at the right time of the game."

Up until the 2:52 mark of the first half, the game had gone pretty smoothly for the Green and Orange. The women responded with key baskets every time Cal State-Bakersfield made a run, but after two free throws by Aleeya Grigsby pulled UTPA to within four at 32-28, the Lady Roadrunners ended the half on a 12-3 sprint and damaged the hopes for

the home team's ninth win of the season.

The Lady Broncs shot a respectable 44 percent from the field in the first half on 11-of-25 shooting, but went ice cold in the second, only scoring 18 points. The women managed one field goal in 9:15 over one stretch.

Grigsby broke the dryspell with 10:12 remaining in the game to make the score 60-42, but it was too little, too late for UTPA.

The home team committed 16 turnovers for the game, with 11 of those coming in the first half. Cal-State forced six steals and shot 50 percent from the field while, the Green and Orange field-goal percentage dropped to 30.8 percent in the second half, plunging them to 37.3 percent for the game.

The Lady Roadrunners had four players in double figures, including Kelly Tarver who scored a game-high 24 points, with 15 of them coming in the first.

Maria Ben Erlingsdottir led the Lady Broncs with a team-high 12 points, while Gray added 11 points to go along with three assists.

Holiday Season Roundup

Dec. 8	@ Wichita State, L	Dec. 28	vs. Lafayette, W
Dec. 13	vs. McNeese State, W	Dec. 29	vs. St. Louis, W
Dec. 15	vs. Troy, W	Jan. 1	vs. Oral Roberts, L
Dec. 16	vs. Texas A&M-CC, L	Jan. 4	@ Texas, L
Dec. 20	vs. Florida Gulf Coast, L	Jan. 9	vs. NJIT, L
Dec. 21	vs. Loyola Chicago, L		



Onydia Garza/The Pan American

TEAM STRUGGLES - Women's head coach DeAnn Craft expresses her concern about the lack of effort the team displayed in Saturday night's 87-62 defeat against Cal State-Bakersfield.

■ NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Men make it three in a row with win over Roadrunners

By **RAMIRO PAEZ**
The Pan American

Anyone who kept track of the University of Texas-Pan American men's basketball team during the break would tell you that the team experienced a whirlwind holiday season after a 10-game road trip that covered 29 days, seven states and three tournaments.

During the concluding leg of their road trip that had the men claiming three wins in nine games, the Broncs looked forward to two dates: a Jan. 5 rematch in San Marcos against Texas State University, and Wednesday's home matchup against Southland Conference rival University of Texas-San Antonio.

The Green and Orange were able to capture both games and withstand the grueling road trip to improve to 10-10 on the year. They ride into tomorrow's 7 p.m. tipoff at the Field House against Houston Tillotson University with momentum.

TEXAS STATE

When it came time to conclude their 10-game road standing, the Broncs made sure to avoid a repeat performance of Nov. 21, a day they hoped to forget after the Bobcats embarrassed UTPA at the Field House in a 102-75 blowout that left the men with revenge on their mind.

On Jan. 5 they served up their cold dish on the Bobcats' home court with an 83-78 overtime victory.

"They're keeping a great attitude a

they come to practice to improve," Broncs coach Tom Schuberth said. "In a lot of ways, the road trip made us a better team. I think we embrace being away from home. There were less distractions, we were just out there playing and it's kind of us against the world."

UTPA showed their determination from the start as they lead by as many as 12 points, taking a six-point advantage into halftime.

They continued their dominance into

the second half, but a late rally by the Bobcats forced the game into overtime. The Bobcats held a 76-73 lead early in the extra session, but the men were able to prevail with key baskets down the stretch.

Four Broncs scored in double figures, including Emmanuel Jones who scored a career-high 19 points with eight rebounds, three assists and one block.

UTSA

The Green and Orange made their

way back home with momentum on Wednesday for their only meeting against UTSA and for a second, it looked as though the Roadrunners would travel back home with the win.

With 9:53 remaining in the game, UTSA had built its largest lead at 47-41, but behind a tremendous second-half effort by senior guard Paul Stoll, UTPA was able to rally and claim a thrilling 71-63 victory.

"I'm so proud of these guys,"

Schuberth said. "We went zone and it paid off for us."

They hung in there, made a few plays and then it happened.

"Paul Stoll just gets on fire. When he's determined and you give him a look, you better watch out," Schuberth said.

Despite scoring only two points in the first half, Stoll was one of the main contributors for the team's comeback as he torched the Roadrunners for 18 second-half points, including four 3-pointers and a crucial basket from beyond the arc that got the men back in the game at the 9:37 mark.

Tied at 57 with 4:07 remaining after a 3-pointer by UTSA's Travis Gabbidon, who scored a game-high 31 points, UTPA went on an 8-0 run and a 14-6 streak to end the game.

The Broncs lit up their offense in the second half after scoring only 25 points in the first, shooting 65 percent from the field on 13-of-20 shooting and 7 of 11 from 3-point land.

The Broncs now stand at .500 with "a couple of home games to try to get a winning record," Stoll added.

"I just let the game come to me. Coach always says let the game come to us and we'll get shots and make shots," he added. "If we take good shots and move the ball offensively, we're pretty tough."

UTPA will conclude its three-game home stand on Jan. 22 against Houston Baptist University before leaving for three straight.



Onydia Garza/The Pan American

COME BACK KID - Senior guard Paul Stoll drives to the basket for a layup in Tuesday night's bout against UTSA. Stoll scored 20 points to lead the Broncs to their 10th win of the season.

■ MENS BASKETBALL

THE SUPER BASKETBALL BROTHERS

By **GABRIEL SALDANA**
The Pan American

Jacob Trader always had the dream of playing on the same court as his older brother Zach, but their timing never quite worked. But that's all about to change as the pair prepares to make a debut as a duo at The University of Texas-Pan American.

"I never got a chance to because he was two years older," said Jacob Trader. "When I started playing my junior year he was already at college. Last year, I really couldn't because I red shirted but it's been fun traveling with him and rooming with him because it's just like at home."

Originally from La Porte, Zach, a 6-foot-7 senior, and Jacob, a 6-9 freshman, are currently on the UTPA men's basketball team; the elder Trader is among the team's leading scorers and rebounders this season. They discussed the opportunity to play on the same team and what it meant to each of them to play with the other.

"We've had the whole year to play with each other and Jake has learned the ropes and has gotten better," added Zach Trader. "Usually it's like I've got 12 brothers out here but he is really my brother. It's fun sitting with him on the bench and practicing with him out here, and our parents love it."

The Traders' parents have been instrumental in the brothers' upbringing in sports, they said. And at 6-1 and 6-6, their mother and father both had sports experience to contribute.

"We inherited that height," said Zach Trader. "Our dad coached us growing up whether it was football, basketball or baseball and they never missed a game no matter what. That means a lot. All you can really ask for is your parents to support you like that."

The brothers talked about some of their experiences in basketball and their backgrounds in other sports.

"Jacob's a football player also and I played baseball," Zach Trader related. "I played basketball throughout high school and I played AAU basketball."

Jacob Trader, a frequent attendee at Zach's AAU practices, was prompted into playing by Zach's coach.

"I didn't play my ninth or tenth grade

years in high school," the younger player said. "My high school coach started talking to me about it and I started playing a little bit when I was a junior and got signed early for college."

He talked about his influences in continuing with basketball and listed his older brother as a main inspiration.

"It just really came from watching Zach," he explained. "Also AAU and my high school coach would just talk to me and I started getting letters [from colleges]. It made me want to keep working hard at basketball and get a scholarship for it."

Head basketball coach Tom Schuberth, said that the Trader brothers are projected to be instrumental in the success of the 2008 campaign as it continues this spring.

"Zach's been here four years and he's done a great job accepting the leadership role," he said. "Jake's a redshirt freshman and he's getting better every day. We haven't called on him yet to be in the trenches but... Jake is the future of our program."

Schuberth stressed the relationship he has witnessed between the brothers on and off the court.

"They've been doing great and I like their attitudes," he said. "You definitely see the love there. I always see Zach looking out for his younger brother and I think Jake has a great role model to take after."

The Traders talked about their goals for the 2008 campaign with the Bronc squad.

"Coming into the season we want to win 20 games," said Zach Trader. "As an individual I want to do what I can to help the team... and concentrate on defense. Defense doesn't show up in the statistics but that's what wins games. If we come out and just play hard we can have a winning season and maybe even hit that 21-win mark."

The younger man says no matter how much time he get on the court, he will contribute his all.

"I know my role coming into the season isn't going to be getting 30 minutes a game but if all I get is two minutes a game to help my team out than that's what I need to do," he stressed. "Whether it's cheering on my teammates or helping them in practice, I need to come in and play my hardest to be better in the coming years."

StatsAtAGlance

6

Number of months track star Marion Jones will serve in prison

40

Number of days left until the start of the 2008 University of Texas-Pan American baseball season

5

Wins required to surpass the 2006-2007 total for the men's basketball team. There are 11 games remaining in this season

ShortSports

■ UTPA MEN'S B-BALL

TEN-GAME ROAD TRIP RESULTS

Dec. 7 - Jan. 5

Dec. 7	vs. Jackson State	W, 70-64
Dec. 8	vs. Drake University	L, 83-55
Dec. 15	vs. Tulsa University	L, 90-61
Dec. 17	vs. Missouri State	L, 64-53
Dec. 19	vs. Alabama University	L, 75-65
Dec. 22	vs. Bethune-Cookman	L, 56-54
Dec. 23	vs. Texas Southern	W, 78-60
Dec. 30	vs. Long Island	L, 95-83
Dec. 31	vs. NJIT	W, 76-61
Jan. 5	vs. Texas State	W, 83-78 OT

FIRST TIME A CHARM - Jacob (left) and Zach (right) Trader play center and forward positions, respectively, for the UTPA Bronc basketball team. Jacob, a freshman, and Zach, a senior, have never played on the same team until this season.