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## **The Pan American (2008-01-31)**

Sandra Gonzalez

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■ DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

## Rwandan hero: 'We are still silent'



Sidney Meadows/The Pan American

**BRAVERY** - Paul Rusesabagina speaks to a full crowd Tuesday about his famous 1994 experience in which he housed more than 1,000 people in his Rwandan hotel to save them from genocide. He is the third speaker in the UTPA Distinguished Speaker Series.

### Speaker admits Africa still in peril, America should set good example

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

The crowd was virtually silent; Paul Rusesabagina's voice reverberated

off the auditorium walls as he told his story about a time of turmoil and desperation.

The Rwandan hero's recollection of a divided nation and the death he saw spread across the region only added to the message he came to tell at The University of Texas-Pan American: do not be silent, but instead aim for a peaceful lasting solution.

In 1994, Rusesabagina sheltered 1,268 Tutsis and moderate Hutus in the Mille Collines Hotel, of which he was

the manager. They were sheltered there for 100 days, and if they had not, they likely would have been killed by the Interahamwe militia, which had taken over Rwanda.

On April 6, 1994, the genocide by the Hutus against the Tutsis began. Rusesabagina, the third of the year's Distinguished Speaker Series, said he remembers exactly what he was doing.

"I was having dinner with my brother, my wife was not there though, when she called to say to come home

and said 'please,' we left our dinner where it was and left," he said.

His recollection of the genocide is so burned into his mind that the only way he could relate the genocide to America is through 9/11.

"If I ask you about 9/11, I'm pretty sure you remember where you were and what you thought," he said. "Each one of you remembers where you were when you saw those twin towers come down."

There is one moment during the

**See SPEAKER page 11**

■ FACULTY

## PAUF to meet with legislators on issues

By **ABIGAIL MUNIZ**  
*The Pan American*

In the last year, Pan American United Faculty has taken on a variety of issues ranging from raising salaries to aiding faculty in obtaining citizenship. It will soon take issues beyond the university and speak with state legislators.

A meeting Feb. 8 will give PAUF an opportunity to address key issues with Sen. Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, Rep. Kino Flores, Rep. Aaron Pena, Rep. Armando Martinez and others.

### THE ISSUES

A topic both PAUF President Mark Winkel and James Aldridge, the organization's vice president, said would certainly be discussed is collective bargaining, which is currently an illegal labor practice in Texas.

Many unions use this process rather than settling for individual employees negotiating contracts with employers. In it, employees elect a "bargaining agent" to negotiate an overall contract that applies to all.

■ **"Everything in a state university is political...Our advocacy affects every student every day, even when that isn't obvious."**

- James Aldridge  
vice president  
Pan American United Faculty

Aldridge said this is a process used by state university systems in California, New York and Florida, on which strengthens the employee negotiating position.

"[It] minimizes the extent to which management can play different employee groups against each other," Aldridge said. "[It] also results in a much more organized situation where everyone knows the rules."

Only firefighters and police are

**See PAUF page 11**

■ ALUMNI

## Former student hits it big

### Advertising grad to head overseas for competition

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

Like most people, recent college graduate Franco Caballero has wanted only one thing in life: a promising future filled with joy, love and direction. But landing a job at the nation's top Hispanic

advertising company is doing more than just promising that, it is granting him the opportunity to be atop the advertising hierarchy.

The Reynosa native and University of Texas-Pan American advertising/public relations graduate will be competing in France, at the Cannes International Advertising Festival-Young Lions competition this July.

Caballero's employer, Bromley Communications in San Antonio, gave the young copywriter the opportunity to make Cannes a reality alongside team-

mate and co-worker Victor Noriega, a San Antonio native.

Noriega has worked at the company for years and brought home a win for Bromley last year after competing in the U.S. Hispanic Young Creatives competition in Miami; a moment which Caballero, 23, said he remembers fondly.

"I saw him walk in through the elevator, everyone clapping. It had been only a few months since I had joined Bromley," Caballero said. "Cat Lopez, the chief creative officer, yelled out in

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THIS WEEK

### NEWS

Homecoming Week spurs mixed feelings

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Class enchants students with Medieval theater

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### SPORTS

Predictions made as Super Bowl nears

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# OPINION

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January 31, 2008

THE PAN AMERICAN

## ■ PONDERINGS

### Celebs weasel their way out of the law again

BY: JEANETTE PEREZ

Without homework to worry about and only television on my mind, I was getting my daily fix of celebrity gossip on the CW's *TMZ* two weeks ago. After telling me about Britney Spears and Lindsay Lohan for more than half of the 30-minute show, the *TMZers* brought to my attention actor Keifer Sutherland's release from prison.

I was startled at first and somewhat dumbfounded as I struggled to recollect when Mr. Sutherland even landed himself in prison. I am not a *24* fan or a fan of his (although he did make for an excellent psycho in *Freeway* with Reese Witherspoon). So when I first heard of his 48-day sentence after his DUI conviction about two months ago I giggled a

bit and found myself shaking my head in disbelief and amusement.

Following in the steps of Lohan, Paris and Nicole Richie, Mr. Big Shot Sutherland was forced to pay his debt to society, but unlike the aforementioned media-whores (excuse my language), Keifer actually went through with it for a good, solid while. I mean after all it was his SECOND DUI.

The thing I cannot understand as a civilian and average person is how big-time celebrities with so much moolah to throw around can't even afford a chauffeur when they are out on the town getting plastered! Why spend all that money getting into the hottest, exclusive clubs and get all messed up, downing bottles of hard liquor but then skimping out on a taxi fare and daring to drive drunk?

It's no surprise that celebrities, the majority with their heads up their behind, think they are invincible and exempt from I don't know...what do you call that which governs our society and punishes what's unjust? Oh that's right, the law. Paris may have gotten her skinny butt out of jail earlier than she should have but not because she deserved it. So why was it that the *24* star actually went through with his sentence without any interference, or much media coverage for that matter?

Drunken driving is not justified by any means. Sutherland should be embarrassed that he was too cheap to pay for a ride home. Skipping out on cab fare cost him a nice 48-day stay in jail.

Unfortunately, not everyone is bound to the law. Brandy, although not

under the influence, caused a multiple-car crash on Dec. 30, killing Awatef Aboudijah, a mother of two, but was just recently cleared of charges.

It never ceases to amaze and astound me how celebs, no matter what crimes they commit, are always one step above the law. Their charges are always reduced or usually non-existent. But there has been that one exception - Mr. Robert Blake. While Blake may have been acquitted by the jury and not sentenced to his wife's death, his name has been tainted forever. Maybe he had the same jury as O.J.

■ **Think celebs have taken drinking too far? Let me know: fae\_myst@yahoo.com**

## ■ REALITY CHECK

### Semis, cell phones and Starbucks gone bad

BY: VERONICA GONZALEZ

Once again, my car takes the beating for my selfish actions. After a stressful day of birthday partying I was going to meet up with some friends at Starbucks on Tenth Street for some down time. The only problem, which is the case at any Starbucks nationwide - parking.

(Now that I think of it, this sounds like someone ranting about UTPA parking. I may go make a Facebook group for fellow fans who feel the same way. Don't be surprised if I invite you to join 'Starbucks parking bites'.)

Anyway, to my dismay, the car in front of me took up two parking spots. I had to go all the way around and park in the back of AutoZone, with a semi truck taking up most of the space. (I wonder now if it was even legal for him to be parked there.)

So of course, I attempt to squeeze by and park on the side, like two friends before me had done. If a mini-van could fit, surely a Pontiac Sunfire could.

Now, let's add a cell phone into the equation. (Yes, I was on the phone at the same time I was trying to park. Let me tell you, that was not the smartest move.)

As I was trying to maneuver my way through, the semi hit me. It wasn't moving of course. Okay, it didn't hit me; I miscalculated just how much space was between my passenger door and the truck.

Stressing out is something I've become really good at lately. If they had a career field in the art of stressing, I'd be making way more than what I get paid now. This event was no exception. It didn't help that some strange African-American man popped out of the passenger side.

He came out of nowhere, which was way too weird.

Nothing happened to his truck of course. It was pure metal. My little tin toy car on the other hand suffered some damage (a large dent with some scratch to it).

To make the long story keep from getting longer, I finally managed to park.

I ran around to meet up with my friends to get that darn cup of coffee...which was the very reason why I found myself in the predicament I was in. Who the heck does all that for a cup of coffee at \$4?

A few years ago I would have never done that for a cup of coffee. Starbucks has done something to catch people, hook, line and sinker. Coffee, liquor, teas and ice cream. Soon enough we'll have Starbucks-flavored meat—all for the low price of \$30 a pound.

I'm sure there are plenty of others out there who've had their own experience in a Starbucks parking lot for the

same reason. They just refuse to admit it.

In an article on MSNBC, Starbucks stock price fell. It's only worth half of what it was. Newly re-instated CEO Howard Schultz blames the company's hasty growth.

In a memo to his company, Schultz said: "We have had to make a series of decisions that, in retrospect, have lead to the watering down of the Starbucks experience, and, some might call the commoditization of our brand."

Commoditization is right. It's no longer unique. A taste test conducted by Consumer Reports hailed McDonalds cheaper regular coffee with the better taste.

Wow. Maybe Starbucks should get a few ideas from them.

■ **Got a thing for the commodity? Let me know: vdgonzalez@gmail.com**

## Savethesedates

January

31

Homecoming Variety Talent Show Student Union 7 p.m.

February

1

Student Union Super Bowl party from 4 p.m. to 10

3

Free outdoor concert at Archer Park in McAllen starting at 6:30 p.m.

## Newsinbrief

### ■ DANCE CONCERT

The University of Texas-Pan American will start off its annual concert series ALEGRIA 2007-2008 this Feb. 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the Fine Arts Auditorium. The concert series is under the artistic direction of Francisco Munoz, a UTPA dance professor.

ALEGRIA's 24 dancers will be accompanied by music from *Mariachi Mexico Lindo* and will showcase traditional dances from places like Tamaulipas and Jalisco.

The concert series will also be held Feb. 2-3 at 2 p.m., Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m. with a weekend finale Feb. 9-10 at 2 p.m. Advance tickets are available at payments and collections for \$8. Ticket may also be bought at the door for \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and students with ID.

JANUARY 31, 2008

THE PANAMERICAN

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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.



## STUDENT LIFE

### Recent grads defy odds as family duo

By ANA VILLAURRUTIA  
The Pan American

While some children do anything and everything to keep their parents out of their personal life, Elizabeth Martinez and daughter Connie Martinez share a different kind of relationship. Not only are they each other's best friend but this past December, both graduated with master's degrees from The University of Texas-Pan American.

With Elizabeth graduating with a master's in education and her daughter graduating with a master's in clinical psychology, both are prepared to face what lies ahead. However, Elizabeth said getting this far was no walk in the park but was well worth it.

#### HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Growing up in a single-parent family with two sisters to care for, Elizabeth had to grow up fast. Her mother was always busy working long hours as an LVN in Edinburg.

"She tried to nurture us as much as she could but it was very hard," Elizabeth recalled. "So I had to practically raise my sisters by myself."

Like many young girls, Elizabeth found herself still in high school and pregnant with daughter Connie. Graduating at 17, she soon after gave birth and married Connie's father but after six years of marriage, they divorced.

"It was a difficult time, our marriage was in turmoil," she said. "There was domestic violence and I made the sacrifice of walking away from that marriage."

Elizabeth found herself just as she had seen her mother years earlier: working at a hospital and raising a daughter as a single parent. Despite the difficulties, pure attitude has carried this 43-year-old through 25 years of motherhood, a divorce and even cancer recovery.

Now remarried to husband Julio, she was working at McAllen Regional Hospital as a receptionist for years until she was diagnosed with skin cancer in 1994, causing her to take a new perspective on life.

"If God said he was ready to take me, the only thing I asked for was time to prepare my daughter," Elizabeth said. "I didn't want her to grieve, and to give

See DUO page 12

## CAMPUS

### School pride alive...for some

By J.R. ORTEGA  
The Pan American

Keeping with tradition, student organizations and the general study body gathered in spirit this week to celebrate and honor The University of Texas-Pan American. With familiar events like Bronc olympics, yard art and a tailgate and reunion party, some look forward to the fun-filled week while others say they lack spirit or feel somewhat left out of the tradition.

Other events this year include holler for a dollar, a scavenger hunt, basketball shoot out, a variety talent show and a coronation ball that will feature music, prizes, homecoming week awards and the presentation of 2008's homecoming queen and king.

As a computer graphics major Danny Zamarripa, a 21-year-old from Edinburg, said most of the free time he does have is devoted to projects and everything graphic.

"I'm constantly busy with projects and I don't really have time for the events," he said. "If I did have the time I would probably like to attend one or two events but I'm not so sure I really if I really would go in the end."

Zamarripa added that he's noticed in the past that it is either student organizations or fraternities taking part in the festivities which he said would make him feel out of place.

"I never really notice everyday people I see in class join or talk about the events," he added. "I usually just see similar t-shirts and think of campus organizations."

However other students like Stephanie Trevino, a 19-year-old psychology major from San Juan has no problem with the festivities and thinks if people would like to attend that is great but she has studying and work to think about.



Nick Dodd/The Pan American

ROYALTY - (From left) Peter Ehimika, Yuri Bazan, Houston Gomez and Ashley Munoz, Homecoming king and queen nominees, spend time campaigning during Bronc Olympics Wednesday afternoon.

"I'm taking 15 hours right now and hold a part-time job, even if I wanted to attend the events I have really no time," she said. "In high school I never really made it an effort to be 'spirited' but I do understand how so many people can become fired up during this week."

Trevino added that if she had more time in her schedule she would try attending some festivities to get a taste of feeling like she is part of campus life rather than just another student attending UTPA.

#### MAKING AN EFFORT

Newer additions to the festivities list like the talent variety show and scavenger hunt show that homecoming week is attempting to get recognized and reach all students on campus.

Milena Melo, University Program Board (UPB) spirit committee chair said this money is what students pay at the

beginning of the year in fees, so UPB and other student organizations are just trying to give campus life their money's worth.

"UPB is trying to make the most out of homecoming for students," she said. "We involve student organizations in order to let them show off their pride and participate in some friendly competition."

Other organizations and departments involved in organizing homecoming week include the Alumni Association, President's Office, Student Union, Office of Student Development and Athletics.

"There are also lots of great prizes and cash awards to be won for both the student organizations and students," Melo added. "UPB is trying to give this campus spirit by providing fun activities to get students pumped up about their university and the homecoming games."

Exiting homecoming queen Bonnie Bustos said that her time as queen was

something she will never forget and encourages students to at least try one of the events instead of just not going.

"Homecoming belongs to everyone, not just organizations," she said. "I really think homecoming is the time for students who maybe aren't involved to come out and meet new people and possibly get involved."

Bustos added that she loves UTPA so much and that the highlights of her year are when the school comes together as a student body.

"I really believe that if each student took the time to attend at least one homecoming event, we would dispel a lot of this apathy that our students feel about UTPA spirit," she said. "I hear a lot of students saying that we don't compare to other, larger institutions, but we do, we have stuff going on, we just need warm bodies to attend the events and show our UTPA Spirit."

## CampusViews

### Is Homecoming important to you?



"It's a waster of student funds, you have to get music and decorations, and it's a better use of our funds if we start a program to help out students, like a campus/community program."

-Celina Martinez junior, art



"It's just an event, just to keep tradition alive, if you don't, tradition is real important especially in a place like the Valley."

-Mauro Gonzalez III sophomore, international business



"I'm indifferent; its okay I guess, it's just campus life."

-Andrea Nino sophomore, psychology





By VERONICA GONZALEZ

*For Samantha Garcia, Movimiento Estudiantil Chicana de Aztlan is not just another club membership to add to her resume; it's a chance for her to stand up and change society.*

By holding a screening of "The War on Democracy," a documentary film by John Pilger, MEChA hopes to spark student interest in the current relationship Washington has with Latin American countries such as Venezuela, Bolivia, and Chile.

The film also follows Hugo Chavez, president of Venezuela, and tells the story of his struggle for power and resentments toward democracy.

MEChA, a group that has become known for presenting controversial issues, sponsored the free film showing on Tuesday, with high hopes of a good turnout.

"We always try to show something informative and educational and have

discussions afterwards," Garcia said. "We used to show anti-war films when the war started, people were not happy about it. Now the attitude towards what we do is different."

Not since the turbulent '60s and early '70s have students been so involved with political movements. In post-9/11 America, however, activism is once again gaining momentum on campuses nationwide.

Last Saturday, The World Peace Alliance held a march from the Hidalgo County Court House to Burger King on University Drive to alert the public to the fast-food chain's alleged unfair practices. They claim the chain purchases produce from distributors who under-

pay their farm workers.

Garcia, who says she became active because of the War on Terror, wants students from all walks of life to understand what's going on outside of their self-contained world.

"We all have different political persuasions. We didn't want [it] to just be Chicano rights. We wanted to incorporate [it] all. Student rights, worker rights, civil rights, anti-war," the biology graduate student said.

Today, MEChA will host a reading of Cherrie Moraga's "Queer Aztlan: The Reformation of the Chicano Tribe" at 5 p.m.

The group also hopes to start showing anti-war films in late February and

early March, due to the anniversary of the start of the conflict, March 19.

"We want to have an evening called Artists Against the War. We want anyone from poets to musicians to veterans come and voice their opinion about the war," she explained.

According to Garcia, MEChA was established on campus in 1996, but had its beginnings way before then. The group began at a conference in Denver during the 1960s through the inspiration of the political efforts of the time, especially the civil rights and Black Power movements.

"It began with a bunch of different dynamics that came together...It wasn't just one single thing," Garcia said.

With more than 400 affiliated chap-

ters within the national organization, MEChA hopes to continue the movement by encouraging students to be active. Members lead by example; becoming involved with other organizations within the community.

People for Peace and Justice, Students for Peace and Student Farm Worker Alliance are only a few of the activist groups within the community that come together on a frequent basis, with a distinct campus feel.

The groups joined others in the community to rally together against the Burger King exploitation crisis.

"All generations should be proactive in something," Garcia said. "It's all about social participation."

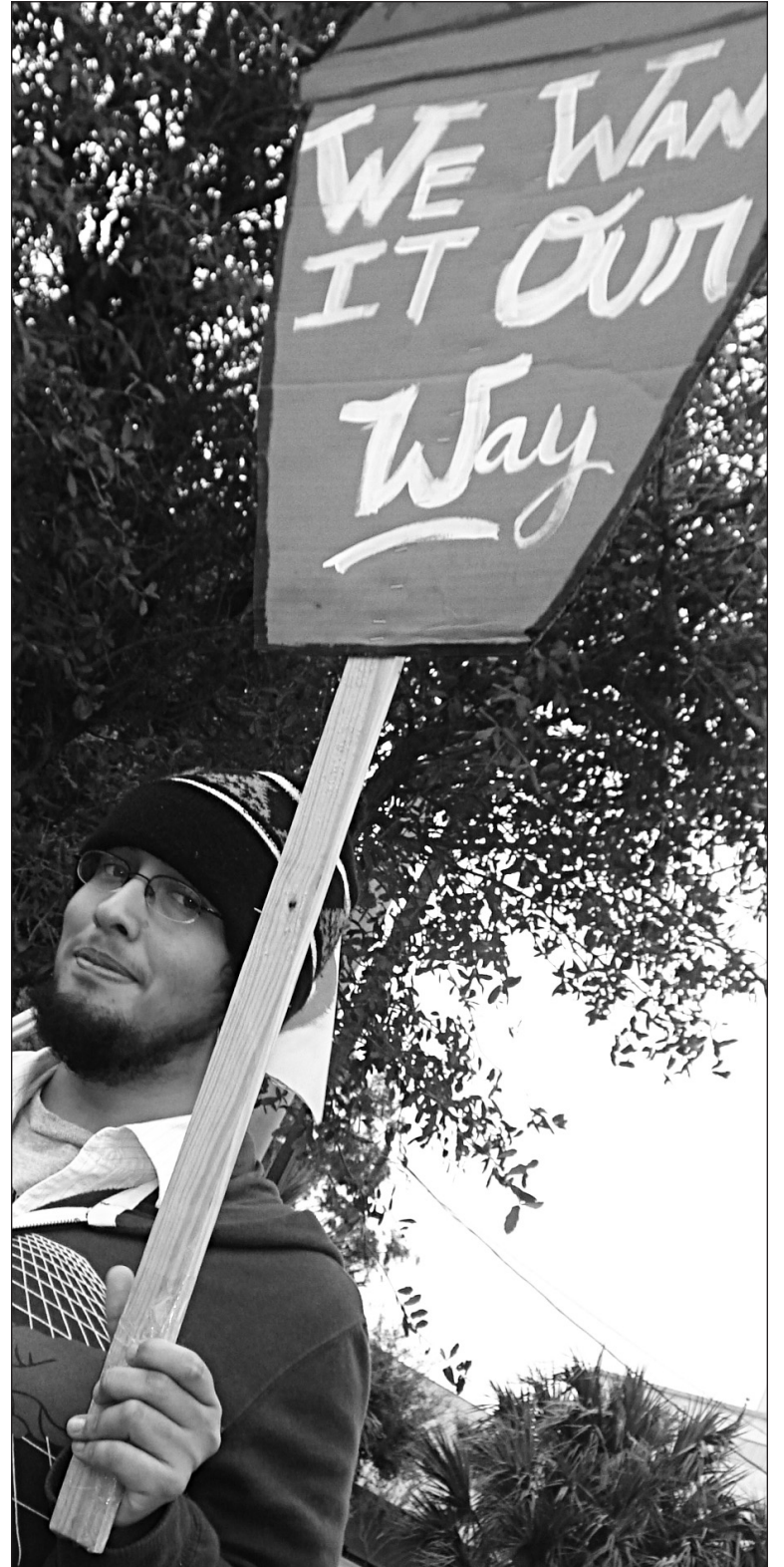






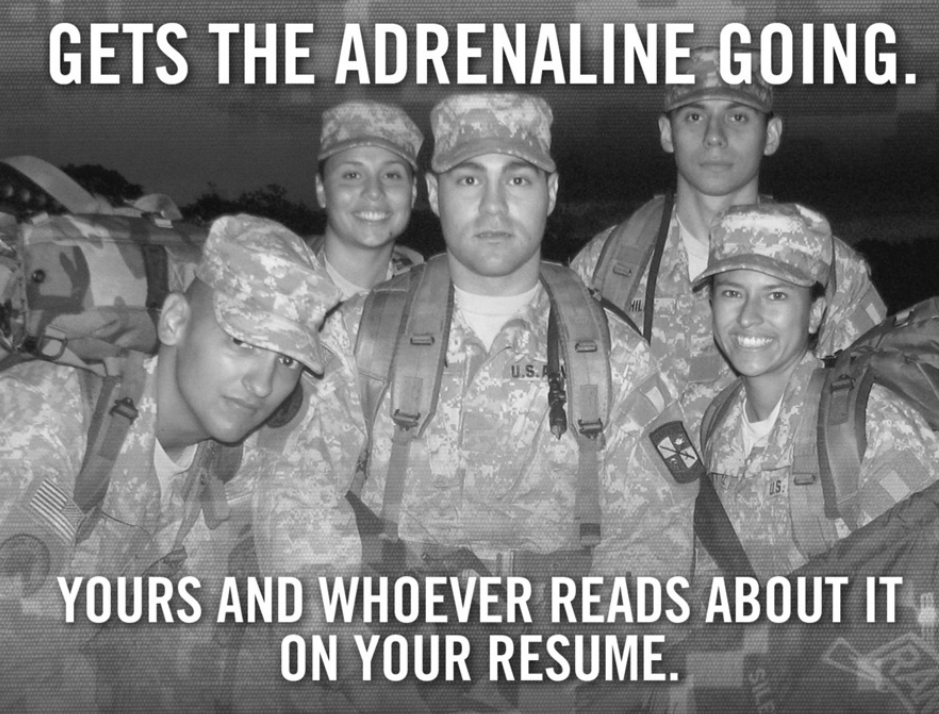
**ACTIVISM** - (Clockwise from top) Students from The University of Texas-Pan American and community members marched Saturday from the Hidalgo County Courthouse to Burger King on University Drive. Jairo Hernandez, member of the World Peace Alliance, was one of about 25 marchers. The group alleges that the fast food chain purchases produce from distributors whose farm workers are underpaid. On Tuesday, about 15 students showed up for a screening of "The War on Democracy," which addressed Latin American relations.

all photos  
Nick Dodd and Sandra Gonzalez  
*The Pan American*






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# CAMPUS LIFE

Education Beyond Your Degree

Thur. Jan. 31 Homecoming: Holler for a Dollar  
From: 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Chapel Lawn

Homecoming: Variety Talent Show  
Starting 7:00 p.m. at the SU Theater

National Popcorn Day  
At the SU Commons


Fri. Feb. 1 Homecoming Coronation Ball  
From 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Ballroom

Sat. Feb. 2 Homecoming Tailgate  
From 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Fieldhouse parking lot

Homecoming: Men's b-ball game  
Starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Fieldhouse

Homecoming: Women's B-ball game  
Starting at 8:00 p.m. at the Fieldhouse

Sun. Feb. 3 SU: Superbowl party  
From 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm at the Student Union



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■ COMMUNITY SCENE

## Valley celebrates 73rd annual citrus fest

By **LESLIE ESTRADA**  
*The Pan American*

Conway Avenue lit up Saturday night as 200 floats designed by local residents marched down the street in a parade to celebrate this year's Texas Citrus Fiesta in Mission.

The majority of the floats represented aspects of Mission's history such as the railroads, La Lomita Chapel and the area's agricultural tradition that was built on the citrus industry. The celebration was particularly important because the city turns 100 years old in 2008.

"We do have two floats to pay tribute to Tommy Thompson," said Berta Filut, executive director of the festival. "He was a Mission citrus farmer and Texas Citrus Fiesta board member and his family was a pioneer family in this area."

Thompson has been recognized as being one of the first to pave the way in the citrus industry.

Filut mentioned that as a way to honor the city's centennial celebration, it was decided to have the parade in the evening as opposed to the other activities which begin in the early morning.

"For the first time ever we are having the parade after dark," she said. "We wanted to start the year with

something different and spectacular for the centennial."

The Parade of Oranges, which began at 6 p.m. Saturday was enjoyed by local spectators, but also some who came from Mexico, Canada and all over the United States.

"It is a very unique celebration," said Norma Rodriguez from Monterrey, Mexico. "I liked how the floats were decorated with oranges and other fruits that represent the area."

Rodriguez, in the Valley visiting relatives, said that her kids enjoyed the parade and the other events that took place throughout the day.

"My children were very entertained watching the parade," she said. "Although we come often to visit my family, we had never had the opportunity to come to this festival, but I am glad we did this year."

Onesimo Romero, a senior majoring in biology at the University of Texas-Pan American, said that he has heard about the festival but never had the opportunity to attend.

"I know about the Texas Citrus Fiesta because my little cousin participated in the parade once, but I had never gone to any of the events," he said. "It sparks my curiosity how they use citrus fruits to decorate floats and design costumes. I guess I'll have to go



Nick Dodd/*The Pan American*

**FIESTA FAIR** - Clide Guerra shovels coal to keep the pit burning for the Texas Citrus Fiesta public during the weekend festivities.

next year to find out."

Since 1932, when the Young Men's business League introduced the first Texas Citrus Fiesta, the event has served as a way to attract attention to the winter harvest of grapefruits and oranges. The

first Fiesta was held outdoors with citrus trees serving as backgrounds and John H. Shary, considered the father of the Texas Citrus Industry, reigning over the one-day celebration. The celebration was a way to spread the word about the winter harvest of grapefruits and oranges domestic to the Valley.

While the celebration has been held annually, there were two exceptions that prevented the fiesta from occurring. The hurricane disaster in 1933 and the years following World War II, 1942-1947 did not allow for the South Texas festivities.

A tradition that started with the first Fiesta is the coronation of King Citrus and Queen Citrianna. This year the title of Queen Citrianna was taken by Jessica Murillo.

Aside from the Parade of Oranges and the coronation, the fiesta had many events available for the whole family. Attendees had the opportunity to take part in the costume show where contestants showed off their ingenuity by presenting costumes made of oranges.

The last event of the Fiesta is the Texas Citrus Fiesta Golf Tournament, which is scheduled to take place in the Shary Municipal Golf Course March 8 and is being held for charitable causes.

For more information on the remaining event, please visit the Web site at [www.texascitrusfiesta.net](http://www.texascitrusfiesta.net) or send e-mail to [texascitrusfiesta.net](mailto:texascitrusfiesta.net).

■ CULTURE

## Cajunfests bring taste of Mardi Gras to Texas cities

By **LAURA GARCIA**  
*The Pan American*

As we all know, Texans are no strangers to food, music and fun and this year many will have the opportunity to share in some genuine Big Easy entertainment during the annual Mardi Gras celebration. Although Mardi Gras officially takes place Feb. 5 in New Orleans, some Texans will get a chance to have the experience.

Locals have a chance to attend a similar Cajunfest in Edinburg on Feb. 8 at the Echo hotel hosted by the Edinburg Rotary Club. Tickets are \$100 per person and include all-you-can eat Cajun food, an open bar and music. All proceeds go to help local charities and programs.

"The people enjoy the change in food and lifestyle for a night, it reminds them of all the fun in New Orleans," said J.P. English, a member of the ERC.

Some would like to see Mardi Gras on a bigger scale here in the Valley for those who aren't able to travel to Louisiana or upstate to enjoy the fun.

"It would be a great opportunity for those of us who never leave the Valley to experience different customs and traditions and open our eyes to what everyone else has to offer," said Ernesto Guajardo, a teacher at Memorial Middle School in Edinburg.

**OTHER CELEBRATIONS**

The Cajun French Music Association chapter of San Antonio is putting on the show for a second time, complete with a Royal court and the King's cake, at Hermann Sons Hall in San Antonio.

No matter the mutual likes of big entertainment, it is obvious that Mardi Gras in San Antonio is a blending of two very distinct cultures. Even though the people are different, many share the same background and have similar lifestyles and traditions.

"In a world that is seemingly now so small, it is important that we learn about every kind and type of person, eventually



Nick Dodd/*The Pan American*

**IN A COOKIN' MOOD** - Marina Garcia, part of the Wild Rascals Cooking team, joins in on the old-fashioned feel of the 73rd annual celebration Fiesta Fun Fair Jan. 26.



# Medieval Theatre

Story by: Russen Vela

Design by: Juan M. Torres





# New course offers in-depth look into Medieval drama and literature

It is a remarkable fact that back in Medieval Times, comedic and dramatic plays as well as literature in Europe were mainly centered on the Church. There were exceptions, such as infamous and often told Anglo-Saxon tale of *Beowulf* which featured demons and unholy rituals.

As well, while women were mostly characterized during the time period as the ones who stayed home and had children, feminism was a factor. *The Lais of Marie de France* was written by Marie of France, a poet in late 12th century whose short stories consisted of courtly love and women becoming equally powerful as men.

Such facts of one of the most exotic illuminating periods in history can now be illustrated for students at The University of Texas-Pan American by the wizardry of English professor Frederick A. Von Ende.

Von Ende, who is teaching "Street Theater Class: Medieval Theater" for the second time, is eager and excited about the course.

"The idea is to explore the nature of drama before Shakespeare and his fellow dramatists of the Renaissance," said Von Ende, who has been at the university for over 30 years. He also explained that, "Medieval drama began in the Church, but eventually evolved into a community activity where civic groups would put on plays, usually in outdoor settings (thus, street theater) and often on movable stages called pageant wagons."

The ties were all about street performances and theater plays, with music as a key factor; instruments used were the lute, pan flute, and mandora. A mandora is a type of 6- or 8-course bass used mainly for accompaniment. The use of this instrument originated in Germany and Austria particularly during the 18th and early 19th centuries.

As the tone of the tune went, so did the action.

If the music was cheerful and upbeat, the audience expected a happy tale of love or a comedy. If it was serious, and almost eerie, they were in for a drama or a horror play. But since the Church was

behind most of the plays being shown, the actors and musicians kept the story simple and upbeat with some Biblical elements incorporated.

The study of this particular era already has drawn the attention of students.

"I am fascinated with this time period," said junior Janie Betancourt, a public relations/marketing major. "The clothes, the music, the plays. It's so unique in its own way, it's weird how fashion has changed."

Indeed, clothes were a big part of the Medieval Theater. Adorned with jewels and rich velvet, the costumes were often either stolen from aristocrats, or donated by them to help the plays succeed.

The class also involves a chronological exploration of how early drama developed from about the 10th century through the early 16th.

"I have also taught special topics courses in one of my other favorite areas of literature - the legends and literature of King Arthur," said Von Ende. "I think the Medieval period is not very well understood. American students are more likely to be familiar with the Renaissance and afterward. But I think the period is fascinating, so I like to teach courses based on it."

Von Ende has had the opportunity to experience how a typical play during that period in time was produced and is ecstatic to share with his students.

"I have been fortunate to have attended recreations of the Medieval 'mystery' plays in Chester and York in England, so I am able to bring photographs and videos of those recreations to illustrate how the plays were performed in the medieval period," said Von Ende, who plans on attending those plays in Chester in the summer.

While the class is relatively new, it does satisfy one-third of the nine-hour core requirement in English. Von Ende's class currently has "15 highly intelligent, interested, and high-performing students, many of whom have taken other classes with me."

Junior Jennifer Bermudez, an English major, is taking the class this semester and is very pleased

with what she is learning.

"I learned from high school, that the Medieval Period had a lot of culture in it, and I wanted to learn more," said the Edinburg native. "What makes this class so interesting and fun is that Professor Von Ende gives the assignment of doing a play in which we as a class learn how to write a script, how to set the tone of the play, and how to do everything for ourselves instead of having a list of instructions from our teacher instructing us on how to do it."

Junior Pamela Hinojosa thinks the class would make a great elective for anyone.

"I have seen a lot of flyers around the COAS building," said the rehabilitation major from Edinburg. "I have not taken an elective yet, I was going to take costume sewing or something like that. But this sounds way much more fun and interesting."

While the class may seem like a theater course, it actually deals with many issues, including media of communication; most people in the era were not literate, and got their literature by hearing it in poems, ballads, and romances, or seeing it in plays.

"I think theater students could benefit from the class," said Von Ende. "I have encouraged the students in the class to go see theater productions like *Macbeth* so they can see what Medieval theater evolved into."

While the class may benefit those highly interested in the literary field, Von Ende feels anyone can gain from the course.

"I think it is fun, great fun - for me, at least. I enjoy the subject matter," he said excitedly. "It allows us to look at the plays as both literary works and as dramatic productions, so we can examine how these plays were put on before there were theaters or stages or any of the modern equipment used today in play production."





## MOVIE REVIEW

# Untraceable: average cyber-crime thriller

By **RUSSEN VELA**  
*The Pan American*

Mixing Internet and conventional moviemaking into a cool New-Age type of cinema has not been successful so far. Anyone remember the stinker *The Net* with Sandra Bullock?

Audience perceptions of thrillers has changed, either because the plot is too predictable or the actors are simply miscast. Director Gregory Hoblit, who brought us smart intellectual cat-and-mouse thrillers such as *Fracture* and *Primal Fear*, breathes new life with his clever, smart *Untraceable*.



imdb.com

**TRACKED DOWN** - Diane Lane's character is a detective on the hunt for an Internet psychopath who becomes part of the murderer's evil games.

Some may call it predictable (aren't thrillers like this almost always predictable?) but with a smart cast, and excellent script, *Untraceable* could easily be credited as this generation's *Silence of the Lambs*.

Jennifer Marsh (a sexy and dominating Diane Lane) is an FBI agent investigating cyber-crime and encounters a Web site featuring live animals being tortured to death. The next subject to be tortured is human and the site promises each hit will increase the level of torture until the victim dies. When family and friends become targets, Marsh becomes desperate to shut down the site, learning

in the process that whoever logs on to the site becomes an accomplice to murder.

Lane, who was nominated for an Oscar in 2002 for her erotic and haunting performance in *Unfaithful*, brings a hard, tough-as-nails character to the screen. Anyone who sees the film may compare her Marsh to Jodie Foster's Clarice Starling in *Silence of the Lambs*.

Jennifer is a complex character. Not only is she trying to track down the killer, she is also attempting to balance her life as a widow and mother to her young daughter. Her sidekick, agent Griffin Dowd, is played by Colin Hanks (whose dad is Oscar winner Tom Hanks).

His role as the dorky sidekick makes the film feel more relaxed and not too serious. His quick remarks and funny one-liners will help the audience relax and take the edge off the impending bloodshed. Billy Burk (*Fracture*, *Ladder 49*) lends strong support as a Portland cop who aids in the investigation, and Joseph Cross (*Running with Scissors*) is both compelling and formidably creepy as the Webmaster from Hell.

Director Hoblit is no stranger to the thriller genre and moves things along at a satisfying pace. His use of camera techniques - such when Lane is in her car talking to the killer on her phone and all

of a sudden someone rises from behind her - will leave audiences gasping.

The brilliant and polished screenplay by Robert Fyvolent, Mark R. Brinker and Allison Burnett (who have been writing scripts for all the installments of the *Law and Order* series) balances the clever plot twists with above-average characters. This is no *Seven* but more of a taut, less gory or over-the-top *Saw*. The actors make the script work, providing warmth, intelligence and of course fear; the audience can relate with them, and virtually dive into their situation and try to come out of it.

Given the serial killer's grisly means of putting his captives through Hell: acid baths, megawatt sun-lamps, Japanese water tortures, the excellent script, the fine performances, and the impending doom in a rainy Pacific Northwest setting, will no doubt give *Untraceable* the comparison to such thrillers such as *Seven* and *Silence of the Lambs*. Sure this film is hardly in the same league as David Fincher's influential thriller, or Jonathan Demme's Best Picture winner. But it does keep the audience consistently uncomfortable and disturbed in all the right ways, while sustaining interest and maintaining suspense throughout.

## TV CORNER

# What You're Not Watching



"Friday Night Lights"

By **JEANETTE PEREZ**  
*The Pan American*

Stuck at home in front of the boob tube on a Friday night? Forget Bob Saget and the already tiresome *I Vs. 100*, NBC's *Friday Night Lights* is the show to watch.

Don't like sports? Don't let the name fool you. The dramatic series, based on the 2004 movie and book of the same title, is all drama, humor and intensity with the occasional football game, all centered on the fictional Dillon Panthers football team of Texas.

With his return from Austin back to Dillon, coach Eric Taylor (Kyle Chandler) once again takes charge of the Panthers and finds himself caught in a web of problems, all while attempting to lead his team to victory.

Now you can enjoy football and drama even when the football season is over. Don't miss out on a single play or the football-teenage drama unfolding Friday nights at 8 p.m.

## INDIE FILM

# Texas film examines loyalty between brothers, state

By **JEANETTE PEREZ**  
*The Pan American*

As Texans, driving from the Rio Grande Valley to somewhere like San Antonio or Austin is usually not something to put much thought into. The distance isn't much to worry about and usually getting there doesn't take much effort, but what if the only way to get to someone was by walking across the state?

In their independent film, *Coyote Funeral*, proud Texas filmmakers Jason May and Phelps Harmon explore the relationship between two brothers through an unexpected, unpredictable trip across the Lone Star State from the Sabine River to the desert lands of El Paso; a journey of 857 miles.

The indie film, which was originally filmed, produced and screened in 2004 by the two friends, was just released on DVD. The film, with its unique take on rekindling the relationship between brothers Casey (William "Jono" Young, May's younger brother) and Dustin Cannon (Zach Freeman) brings more than the usual drama and rivalry between siblings.

"One of the brothers is holding some secrets and sees the sign and sort of undertakes it as a challenge and eventually drags his brother along the way,"

said 28-year-old Houston native May. "Really it's about the two brothers and them trying to restore their relationship."

The idea of incorporating the "distance between the brothers" through a literal trip across Texas came to May and Harmon during one of their drives back to the state from Virginia.

"Phelps and I went to undergraduate school at Washington and Lee. Driving back we would pass the sign at the border of Orange, Texas, that read 'El Paso: 857.' I thought it was ridiculous but somehow it's very Texan at the same time. It just tells you a whole lot," explained May about the film, which was first screened in Beaumont. "We got to talking about how long it would take to walk, what you might see along the way and I kind of knew there was a story there."

The film not only leads the audience through the impulsive trip on foot by the two brothers, but it allows for a greater look at and appreciation of the relationship between siblings.

"[It's mostly about] exploration. The theme probably comes down to familiar loyalty, the large exploration of passion versus reason," continued May. "I would hope that they [the audience] sees characters they can identify with. That it feels true and that maybe

they think about certain things in different ways. But that in the end it's a fun, enjoyable experience."

Characterizing Texas played a significant factor in the film's distinct theme and storyline.

"It adds an entire new layer. Texas comes out as a character," May said about the state's role. "We use landscapes and cultures with the story instead of as the backdrop. It makes you stop and think about how big the state is. I had never appreciated before."

Freeman who plays Dustin, the older brother led astray by Casey, found comfort and in the Texas travels.

"As a Texan, just the exploration of the whole state, all you can experience within the boundaries of one state, is the best part. Driving through the long stretch gets kind of boring, but seeing it on film it looks impressive," said the 24-year-old originally from Dripping Springs, outside of Austin. "But if you're going to take a trip across Texas, you should probably never walk."

Young, who plays the adventurous, stubborn younger brother, couldn't get enough from the experience of exploring the Texas lands, or more importantly its people and culture.

"It was really neat to travel across Texas and see all the different land-

scapes and personalities our great state has to offer. It just made me appreciate how hospitable our Texas culture is," said the 23-year-old who currently resides in Los Angeles. "Whether it was local giving us T-shirts to use in the movie, helping us film the bar scene, seeing if we needed any help, showing us how to ride bulls or the great crowd we had at Gruene Hall, everyone across the state was more than eager to help us out."

Pride in Texas, aided by the soundtrack full of 'original Texas sounds,' which includes Robert Earl Keen, Cross Canadian Ragweed and Charlie Robison is what makes the journey and connection in the film that much more valuable, said Young.

"It's a whole lot easier to make a movie about a state if you really love that state, and I love Texas," explained Young. "Native Texans can celebrate their local culture. Non-Texans are generally amazed and a little jealous of how much we value our culture and heritage. It's great to show the rest of the country how we do it in Texas."

For more information on the movie, please contact Jason May by e-mail at: [jason@coyotefuneral.com](mailto:jason@coyotefuneral.com), by phone 713-822-5639 or visit the film's official site, [www.coyote.funeral.com](http://www.coyote.funeral.com).

## CAJUN

continued from page 7

we will all work and associate with people who are different from us and we must expand our horizons," said Fred Diaz, Kaptain of the Krewe of Alameaux for CFMA.

Diaz observed that the Rio Grande Valley is a whole new world south of Corpus Christi and that Valley newspapers are very local-oriented, which sometimes makes residents unaware of different things that take place beyond the area.

"You have Texas and then you have the Valley, it is a region all on its own. It should be fun to learn about other people outside of your own culture, and in the process we may find out how much we all have in common," said Diaz.

Something that might be a culture shock for non-Cajuns would have to be the array of food and the acquired taste for much of the cuisine.

Jazz music is also a far cry from the Country Blues and the too-fast-to-understand lyrics of the hip-hop genre that many Texans and Valley natives are more accustomed to.

One profound similarity is between the King's cake and the *pan de Rosca*, which has become a staple north of the Mexican border. Both cakes have a baby Jesus hidden inside. The Cajuns believe that those who found the baby in their slice would gain good luck for the rest of the year.

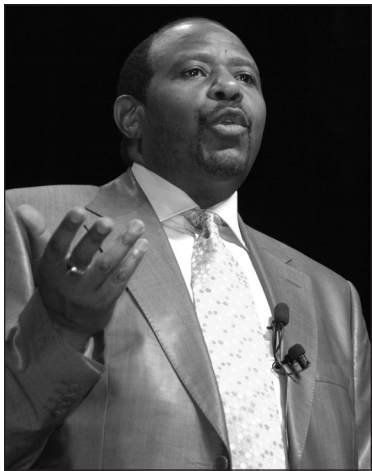


# SPEAKER continued from page 1

genocide that Rusesabagina can never forget. He was leaving his home in a van filled with moderate Hutus. As they were headed to the hotel, they ran into two jeeps blocking the road ahead. Two militia men pointed a gun to his head calling him a "traitor" and said his life would be spared if he killed the people he was harboring.

"For five minutes I stayed speechless and said nothing," he said. "I told them I do not know how to use a gun and I don't see any reason why I should kill these men."

After a two-hour discussion with



Nick Dodd/The Pan American

**PACKED** - Rusesabagina spoke to a near-capacity crowd in the Fine Arts Auditorium

■ **"I had never been so scared in my life, I learned the most important lesson in my life: how to deal with evil."**

- Paul Rusesabagina  
Rwandan humanitarian

the militiamen, an agreement was finally made and he was able to go on ahead with the people who had sought shelter with him.

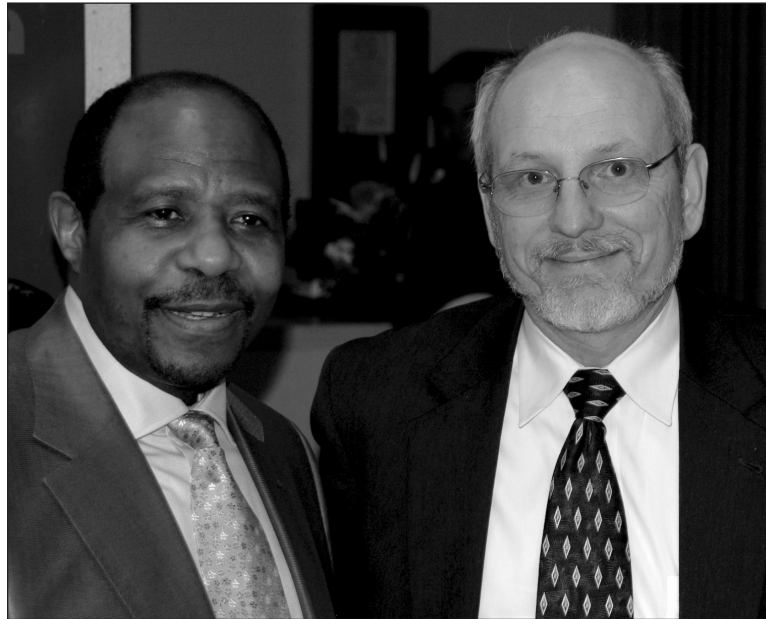
"I had never been so scared in my life, I learned the most important lesson in my life: how to deal with evil," he said.

Rusesabagina believes that the most important lesson a person can learn is how to come to an agreement, especially in a world so taken with using guns and military to solve problems. He believes nothing is a stronger weapon than communication.

"I will never fight with guns, I will fight with words," he stated. "Any simple word can be the best and worst weapon."

The conflict began after a plane carrying the Rwandan president along with the Burundian president was shot down sparking the genocide. Before that time, Tutsis and Hutus lived together in harmony through neighbor contact and intermarriage.

During his speech, the African hero



Nick Dodd/The Pan American

**MEET AND GREET** - Paul Sale (right), provost/vice president of Academic Affairs, was among those in attendance at a reception in the Visitor's Center after Rusesabagina's speech.

asked students to make their voice known, stressing that changes can happen. He added that if the world used words instead of guns and weapons it would be one step closer to attaining world peace.

He asked students to take themselves out of America and imagine living in a place where there is no food, no shelter and no security.

"You may be surprised if you went there today," he said of his homeland. "Eighty percent of women are widows because their husbands and sons are now dead."

The fourth and final speaker of the 2007-2008 series is Denise Chavez, author of *Loving Pedro Infante*. She is scheduled to speak March 25, at the Fine Arts Auditorium.

# PAUF continued from page 1

exempt from the Texas stance against collective bargaining so faculty hopes to get their wishes granted by Texas legislators.

"We think college faculty and staff should have the same rights as these other groups," Aldridge said.

Aldridge noted another issue on the agenda is Gov. Perry's recent push to have college and university funding coupled with student performance, much as it is done in primary and secondary schools.

"After we heard about it, we bumped that to the top of our list," he said, adding that the union is against the tactic.

Perry designated a task force to examine such incentive funding programs in higher education, according to a recent press release. The incentives will be based on student and institutional achievements according to state and regional priorities.

"Most people I know in public schools think this has diminished the quality of public education in Texas because now teachers are forced to turn away from real education and focus only on what is asked on the assessment test," Aldridge said. "If this is done in universities... I think it will diminish the value of a Texas degree."

It was time that these pressing issues were brought to the attention of local legislators, Aldridge added, saying that the union would cooperate in a collective spirit and try and negotiate some positive decisions.

"Everything in a state university is political," said Aldridge, a member of the statewide Texas Faculty Association committee. "Whether we're talking about financial aid, tuition and fees, faculty salaries, or attempts to control what is taught. Our advocacy affects every student every day, even when that isn't obvious."

The meeting will not be open to the public.

PAUF is a local chapter of the TFA, an organization that works out of Austin, and has been at UTPA for over two decades.

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## DUO continued from page 3

up on life, because when loved ones die people tend to shut down."

Elizabeth wanted Connie to grow strong and confident so after the diagnosis, she found herself re-evaluating life-time goals. Fortunately, the cancer stopped spreading in 1998 and has been in remission since.

This was the break Elizabeth said she was looking for and in the wake of her sickness, she decided to get a college degree.

"When I was given the news that I was going to be OK, I said now it's time to establish some educational goals," she said. "Since I emphasized a lot to my daughter on education, I wanted to do the same. I wanted to be a role model."

In 1998 she decided to attend what was then known as South Texas Community College (STCC) with the support of her daughter and husband.

While her mother was at STCC, Connie was an honor roll student at Nikki Rowe High School and a part of concurrent enrollment. Ironically, Connie was able to help her mother with schoolwork.

"I felt honored... when I was doing my undergraduate I would have her [Connie] proofread my papers because she was in high school and she was an honor roll student," Elizabeth said. "I took advantage of that and I never had to pay anyone to help me."

Connie said she found their situation to be mutually beneficial. "I was there to help her, it was an inverse that we found was funny, but we were helping each other," she noted.

"She [mom] was my main motivator for what I became, my mom did that because she wanted to inspire me," she said.

### ENDEAVORS

After earning her associate degree in business administration in 2000 from STCC, Elizabeth found herself wanting to further the education. In 2001, she began attending UTPA along with Connie who was a freshman at the time. This was an experience that Connie said she grew comfortable with.

"It was [awkward] at first but I was

already accustomed to her being in college," said Connie. Through the years they both have inspired each other and grown even closer.

After graduating in 2003 with her bachelor's in sociology, Elizabeth took a job with the La Joya public school system as a fourth-grade teacher. She said teaching was an extension of the support and role modeling she'd been doing for her daughter all these years.

"I wanted to help people look forward to every day, because one day it could end," she commented. "And that's what motivated me to become a teacher because a lot of kids need support."

After becoming involved with so many students, Elizabeth realized she had a special ability to relate to students on their level. A co-worker convinced her to look into the counseling profession.

"As I got involved with my students, a school counselor where I was employed said, 'I've seen you with your students and they respect you, you nurture your kids...have you thought of becoming a



Elizabeth Martinez

**TOGETHER** - Elizabeth (left) and Connie Martinez graduated with master's degrees in December, in spite of obstacles.

counselor?" Elizabeth related

After looking into the idea, Elizabeth made the tough decision to quit her job as a teacher and try for an advanced degree.

"I left teaching for a while two years ago to attend school," said Elizabeth about going to graduate school.

Elizabeth is no stranger when it comes to devoting her time to family and

school and now has the master's in education with specialization in guidance and counseling to prove it. As for her daughter, she is currently a case manager with Tropical Texas Behavioral Health, providing mental care.

In the face of difficult odds, Elizabeth said she knows she has risen above, taking a path that was anything but certain. But somehow, she just made it work.

## CANNES continued from page 1

celebration, then looked at me straight in the eye and said, '...and next year, you're going.' Since then, my dream began. I wanted to go. I wanted to win."

The dream was not far from reach. After one year of working with Bromley, Caballero was selected to join Noriega in a New York competition in which 12 other teams fought for the chance to win them the ticket to the Cannes competition, one of the world's prestigious advertising competitions.

However, it was Caballero and Noriega that won.

With confidence and experience, the team will represent the U.S Hispanic market at Cannes competing against 30 teams

from 30 different countries also selected to attend the competition. The United States is the only country, however, that is allowed two representatives, one for the Anglo market and one for the Hispanic one. Contestants must also be under the age of 28. Competitors will create an advertising campaign within 24 hours.

Caballero said he first became interested in graphic design, creativity and advertising at 11 years old.

"One of my classmates showed some business cards he had, I went back home that same day, and asked my dad to buy me a design program," he said.

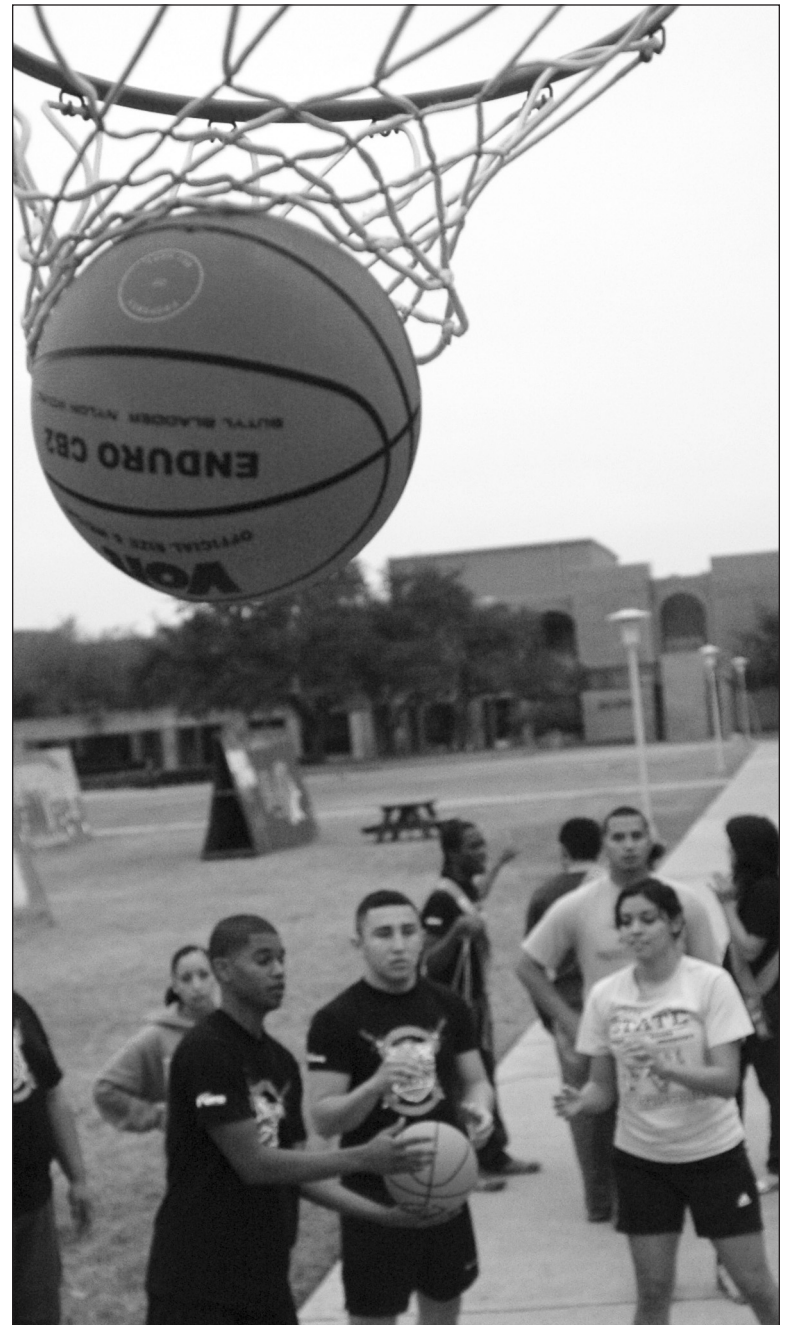
However, it wasn't until he attended UTPA that his passion grew. Caballero

found himself working for various student publications and grew in knowledge and experience, a large part which he said he owes to professors and advisers.

"I had the freedom to do anything... I had their support in pursuing all kinds of opportunities outside of the classroom," he said. "Their effort served as a constant guidance and challenge, and inspired me always to keep questioning the norm."

"Advertising is the vehicle I stumbled upon, and I'm gonna ride it as hard and fast as I can to see how far it takes me," he said. "There is always the wish in everyone to make it big...don't know if I will, but every day that future seems more attainable."

## ■ HOMECOMING WEEK IN PICTURES



Nick Dodd/The Pan American

**FESTIVITIES** - Homecoming Week gave students a chance to show school spirit in various events to gear up for the big game this weekend. Events included Yard Art, Holler for a Dollar, basketball shoot-out, scavenger hunt and Bronc Olympics. The Coronation Ball will take place Friday from 7 p.m. to midnight.



## ■ TENNIS

# Men struggle on the road, women surprise Air Force

By **GABRIEL SALDANA**  
*The Pan American*

It was an action-packed weekend for the University of Texas-Pan American tennis teams as they hit the road for Lubbock and Austin to take on Texas Tech, Clemson and Air Force Academy.

Lubbock was the first stop where the men and women were pitted against Texas Tech and Air Force respectively. The ladies began the event Friday by posting a 4-3 upset over the Falcons after coming in as underdogs.

"The women pulled a real upset against Air Force," Coach Robert Hubbard said. "We were as close to losing as you could get. We were down 3-0 and had lost the first set of number two singles. So we were one set away from losing the match. And then we swept the last four."

Mexico native Luisa Cantu was the player of the hour as she won the deciding point for the Green and Orange. After the lights at the McLeod Tennis Center unexpectedly shut down, play resumed 20 minutes later and Cantu posted a win of 6-2, 6-3 over Erlyn Rudico to garner the most significant victory of her career.

"She did great," Hubbard said. "All the girls played well. Brazil native Julia Cirne-Lima lost the first set but she didn't let it unnerve her and she came back to win the second and third set which really put us on a role. The rest of the ladies won their matches in straight sets so it was a good win."

The women fared less favorably on day two against Texas Tech, suffering a 7-0 defeat.

"Overall, I was proud of the girls this weekend, coming from a late night game last night and picking up a win over Air Force was huge," Hubbard said.

In men's action, the Broncs dropped matches to the Red Raiders and Clemson, 7-0 and 6-1 respectively.

Southern transfer Ivan Avila and India native Nirvick Mohinta fell 8-3 to nationally ranked Christian Rojmar and Bojan Szumanski in the top flight of doubles action against Texas Tech. The rest of the team followed suit to close out the action in Lubbock.

"We actually did pretty good over there," Avila said. "We need a little more experience in more tournaments and they're going to come. My team is good right now. We just need more experience

as a team and we will be really good."

During day two in Austin against the Tigers, Austin High School grad Brett Bernstein recorded the only singles victory of the day in action against Derek DiFazio in the number five position.

Bernstein and freshman India native Ashwin Vijayaragan pulled an 8-4 victory against Ike Belk and Kevin Fleck in doubles action.

"I thought the team played well," Bernstein said. "We knew it would be tough going into it. We came close in a few but couldn't pull them out. I just need to get match tough right now and get ready mentally for when I step out onto the court."

Hubbard commented on his team's performance.

"Clemson is ranked in the top 30 of the country so if you look at the individual results we were toe to toe with them in a number of positions," Hubbard said. "The doubles got away from us right toward the end. It was primarily due to our youth."

The team will set pace for Nacogdoches and Prairie View Feb. 1-3 for play against Centenary College, Prairie View A&M and Stephen F. Austin University.



Onydia Garza/*The Pan American*

**UNDER PRESSURE** - Sophomore Luisa Cantu prepares to advance the ball during a practice Tuesday. Cantu helped her team post a dramatic 4-3 upset Saturday over the Air Force Academy with the deciding game point.

## ■ LOCAL SPORTS

## All-America City race gives new meaning to Edinburg native

By **RAMIRO PAEZ**  
*The Pan American*

On Saturday, the City of Edinburg will celebrate its 26th annual 10K and 2-mile run beginning at 11 a.m. next to Cano Elementary School.

The race has evolved into a popular, well-known event that takes place every February, showcasing some of the greatest athletes from across the globe, while others participate merely for the pleasure of achieving the obstacle of 6.2 miles.

People who have participated in the event in previous years are familiar with its aspects, but most are probably unaware of its history. The University of Texas-Pan American had an enormous contribution to the race's evolution, impacting one man's life forever.

### HISTORY

David Chavana, race director and

co-founder of the 10K run, currently finds himself on a path that many youths are striving for. In May, the local resident will try to add to his accomplishments by running for Justice of the Peace, however the competitive running he has done for 32 years possesses greater meaning.

"It (race) is very close to my heart because I've seen it from the very first time that it started," Chavana said. "It's like having a 26-year-old son or daughter that you see growing throughout the years and gotten to the point where it is."

Growing up, the Edinburg native was never really interested in running and it wasn't until the summer of 1976 that he was first inspired to try it, by some professors at Pan American University, as UTPA was then called. Chavana needed direction and kinesiology professors Tom Semper and Layne Jorgensen were there to assist him.

"We didn't inspire, he just picked it (running) up," Semper said. "I don't know if we were inspirational. We were there at a time when he was ready to be touched; accept something to change his lifestyle."

"It was a casual run, nothing organized. David would show up and for a while he would struggle behind us. Like anybody else after a long enough time you get better and better until he got where he was and is today. We didn't inspire him. He got his shoes on and got out there and ran. We were there as part of the vehicle, but he was self-motivated."

The idea for the 10K came to Chavana back in 1983 when along with Mitchell Sawyer, a current UTPA kinesiology instructor, and Frank Garza, the assistant city manager for Edinburg, sat down and discussed the possibility of an event like the 10K.

Chavana says the proposal took off and now 26 years later, the list of partic-

ipants has grown close to 1,000 compared to only 250 in its first year.

### WHAT TO EXPECT

In a unique way to begin a race, the UTPA ROTC will also join the 10K, firing a cannon to signify the start. Many Bronc runners and professors have participated in the past, with UTPA's NCAA All-American Wesley Keating and standout Hector Gandara committed to run this year.

Chavana expects Keating and Garanda to "throw elbows with the rest of the field." Since 1983, only three Valley runners have claimed the top prize, with one winner coming from UTPA. Lori Guerrero, an all-time great in track and field from 1983-1984, won back-to-back races while attending school.

First place has often been dominated by international athletes and this year about 50 to 80 males and females from

across the world have signed up to compete, adding credibility to the race and significance for the youth, according to Chavana.

"It (range of athletes) gives your race credibility to the state because these are some of the top runners in the state and U.S.," the Edinburg High grad of 1971 said. "Number two, the young children can see these athletes and one day you never know, we might have a world-class runner from here."

Cash prizes will be given out to the top 25 male and female finishers in the 10K race. The top five male and females in each age division will receive trophies, while all 2-mile finishers will receive a medal, giving importance for everyone.

"I'm a Libra. I like things balanced, so I feel like if we take care of the elite runners, we can also take care of everybody else that's just there for their own reward," Chavana said.







# WRSC INTRAMURAL SPORTS



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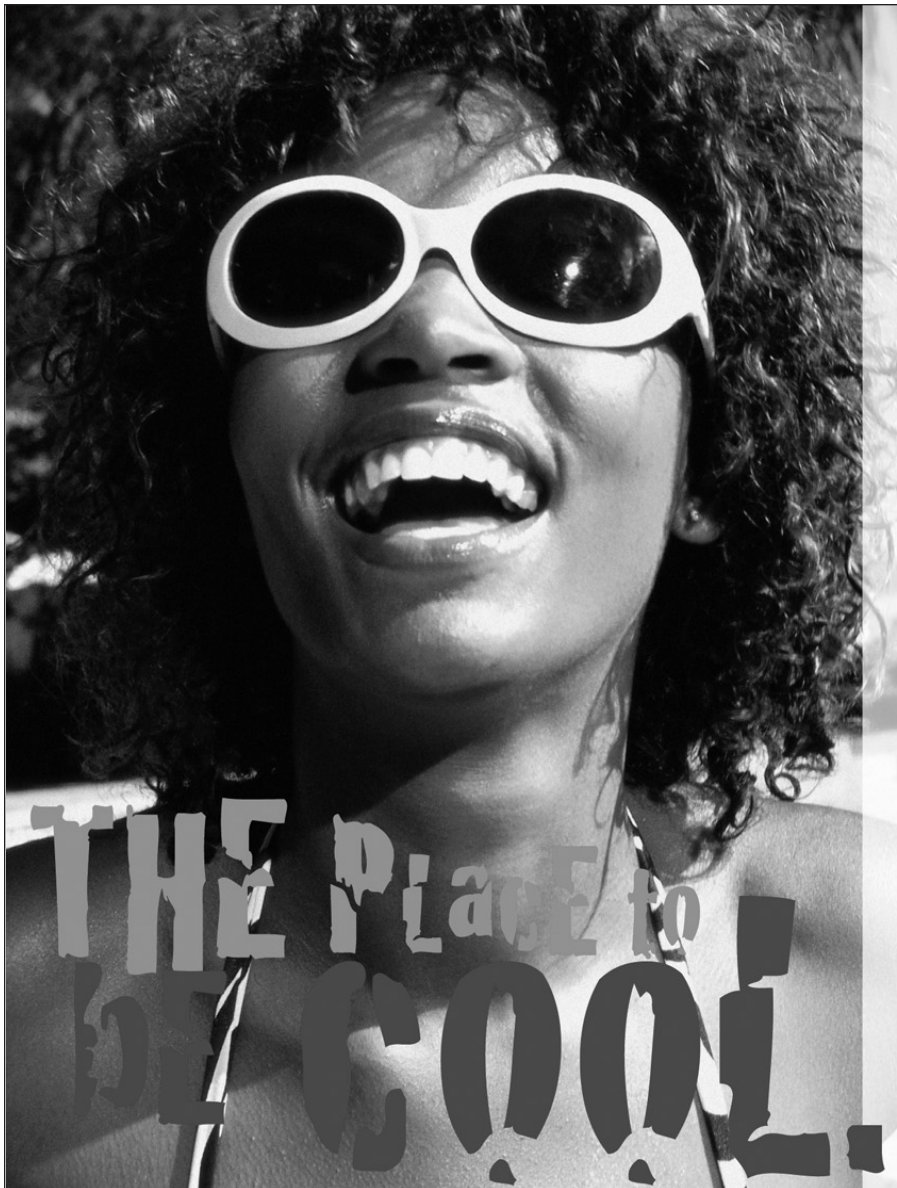
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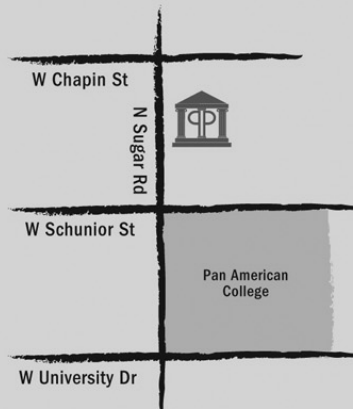
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■ TRACK AND FIELD

# Track and field standouts looking to make impact in 2008

By **GABRIEL SALDANA**  
*The Pan American*

As the 2008 track season gets under way, assistant coach Hugo Cervantes is preparing his teams for what he hopes will be one of the school's most successful campaigns.

"We're looking good and we're ahead of where we were last year so that's a good sign," Cervantes said.

The former Bronc said he expects some athletes on the men's side to be standouts.

"Gilroy (Castillo) is coming up. He's working hard and looking impressive. JJ (Hernandez) and (Luis) Nava are looking outstanding," Cervantes said. "These guys have really impressed me and they're looking pretty good right now."

Nava, a La Joya High School grad, and PSJA High School alum Hernandez were leaders in cross country last season and now look to bring their talent from the terrain to the track.

"The way the workouts look show that we're in top season form," Hernandez said. "We can only get better from here on. We're running a little tired right now from putting on so much mileage, but things are looking really good."

Nava talked about some of his personal goals for the season.

"My goal this season is to qualify for regionals," he said. "I want to do my best and leave it all on the track. In the meantime, work hard, be on time to practice and do the workouts coach tells us and we'll see the results."

Some of the team members have experienced injuries but Cervantes expects the group will be up to par in time for the Houston Invitational on Friday.

"We're coming out of some little injuries here and there but nothing major," he said. "We got a couple of guys who are banged up but we're trying to get up to about 90 percent [capacity] for this next race."

The Broncs will receive an even bigger boost in field events with UTPA All-American Will Littleton returning to the lineup. Last year, the Cuero native earned four outdoor championships during the season and broke a school record in the high jump with a leap of 7-1.5. He placed seventh overall for his height jump at the NCAA Division I Indoor Track and Field Championships.

On the women's side, head coach Dennis Darling said the squad is prepared to compete at full capacity.

"I think the women are going to do a lot better this week than last week (Leonard Hilton Memorial)," said Darling. "They came off the Christmas break slightly out of shape but now we're back and we should have a better

meet this week."

Darling mentioned some of the girls who are expected to perform well during the 2008 campaign.

"Of course Vanessa (Brown) and Carolina (Izaguirre)," he said. "Michelle (Elizondo) made a personal record at our first meet and hopefully she still improves. I want our high jumpers to do something this week. There are just some all around good performers on the women's side."

Brown will compete in the 400 and 200-meter dash where she recorded 10 top-10 finishes last year. Elizondo will anchor the shot put throws as the Laredo native claimed her first championship last year at the Bobcat Open.

Cervantes talked about some of the training strategies he is employing on both the men's and women's squads.

"I've made a change from last year," he said. "Last year we didn't focus too much on speed until later in the season. We focused more on strength early on this year we're still focusing on strength but we're also doing a little speed work to have a nice balance. We've been doing 200s and 400s after our workouts to help us out in that aspect."

Feb. 1 marks the men's and women's return to the track as they travel to the University of Houston for the Houston Invitational.



Onydia Garza/The Pan American

**ONE-TRACK MIND** - The men's track and field team looks to make some noise this year with many key athletes returning from last year's squad. After their acceptable display to open up the season, the women look to build on their performance at the Leonard Hilton Memorial on Jan. 18.

■ MEN'S BASKETBALL

## Northwestern snaps Broncs' seven-game winning streak

By **RAMIRO PAEZ**  
*The Pan American*

If there's one thing University of Texas-Pan American men's basketball coach Tom Scuberth wanted this season, it would have been a signature win.

On Jan. 22, the men recorded their fifth straight win, over Houston Baptist University, and during post-game discussion Scuberth said his goal for the upcoming road trip was to get at least two out of the three games, eyeing the concluding game against the Northwestern Wildcats.

The road has proven to be an

unwelcoming comrade in previous games this year for UTPA, but the Broncs took note of Scuberth's objective and though their seven-game winning streak came to an end Wednesday in Evanston, Ill., against the Wildcats, the men were able to capture the first two contests.

A look at the most recent hoops action:

**NORTHWESTERN**

Although the Wildcats did not sport a winning record, a signature win over a Big Ten school certainly would

have raised eyebrows for those conventional doubters.

During the first half, an upset was brewing at the Welsh Ryan Arena as UTPA, now 14-11, had the Wildcat fans on their edge of their seats, taking a 25-21 lead into the locker rooms. But Northwestern awoke in the second and went on a demoralizing 24-4 run midway through to put the game away in a 68-59 victory.

The Wildcats led 48-43 before a 9-0 spurt occurred and the Broncs were never able to recover, though senior guard Paul Stoll finished with 16 points

and four assists.

**CHICAGO STATE**

After dominating for most of the game, the Green and Orange came close to blowing an 11-point halftime lead in the second half, but key back-to-back 3-pointers by senior guard Brian Burrell secured the seventh straight win, 85-76 victory over the Chicago State Cougars Tuesday.

"I'm so proud of these guys, everybody," Scuberth said. "The bench did a big-time job of coming in and keeping our guys in the game... These kids could have hung their heads. We're a better team on the road because we get away from distractions."

The pace that the Broncs played throughout the night was asserted from the opening tip-off as 34 seconds into the game, the men got off to a 5-0 advantage. The Cougars cut into their deficit to 19-18 midway through the period, but UTPA closed out the half on a strong 16-6 run.

The Cougars roared back in the second half and tied the game at 53 on David Holston's 3-pointer, but a game-changing 7-0 run by Emmanuel Jones and Burrell's field goals from behind the arc lifted the men to victory.

The Broncs shot 59.6 percent from the field on 28 of 47 shooting with Stoll recording a team-high 24 points to go along with 11 assists, six rebounds and three steals. Zach Trader added 14 points, while Jones came away with 11.

"Seven in a row, undefeated in 2008, 14-10 and way above the standings in Independent basketball, you have to give these guys credit," Scuberth said. "Our six seniors are so special, but the young kids are coming along."

**NEW JERSEY TECH**

Just four days after recording his career-high of 37 points, Stoll once again set another career high but this time in the steals category.

The Michigan native's nine steals helped the Green and Orange prevail over the Highlanders in a low-scoring 54-42 win Saturday afternoon.

It took almost four minutes for the first basket of the game, claimed by UTPA. The men built a 10-point halftime lead and began the second half on a 12-0 run, giving them a 40-18 advantage with 7:55 remaining.

Nathan Hawkins led the way for the Green and Orange with 15 points.

### UTPA vs. Northwestern box score

##	Player	POS	MIN	FG	3FG	FT	OFF	DEF	TOT	AST	TO	STL	BLK	PF	PTS
15	Shankle, Dexter.....	G	30	1-4	0-2	0-0	1	4	5	3	1	0	1	2	2
2	Hawkins, Nathan.....	F	24	2-4	0-0	4-8	2	4	6	0	1	0	0	3	8
4	Stoll, Paul.....	F	38	5-9	5-9	1-5	0	4	4	6	4	2	0	2	16
13	Burrell, Brian.....	G	37	8-18	5-13	0-0	1	2	3	3	3	0	0	5	21
32	Trader, Zach.....	F	27	1-7	0-1	0-0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	4	2
10	Jones, Emmanuel..	20	3-7	0-0	1-2	1	3	4	1	0	1	1	1	1	7
1	Puente, Danny.....	12	1-1	1-1	0-0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	3	
24	Smith, Ben.....	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
12	Weiermiller, Nick....	12	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>21-50</b>	<b>11-26</b>	<b>6-15</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>59</b>



# SPORTS

■ FOOTBALL



By **ALVARO BALDERAS**  
*The Pan American*

Unless you've been living in a cave for the past couple of weeks, chances are you've been well informed either through word of mouth or the media about Sunday's Super Bowl XLII matchup between the New England Patriots and New York Giants.

The Patriots reaching yet another Super Bowl has come as no surprise to football fans at the University of Texas-Pan American because of the dominating results they obtained during the regular season. On the other hand, a wild-card New York Giants team reaching the big game has certainly caused much amazement among students.

Coming into the post-season, the majority of fans believed that in the grand stage the NFC could definitely be represented either by Valley favorite Dallas Cowboys or the Green Bay Packers, so when the Giants

knocked both the 'Boys and Packers out of the championship chase, fans were astonished.

"I'm not surprised with the AFC, I'm surprised with the NFC," junior communication studies major David De Anda said. "In the AFC everyone new that the Patriots were going to go. I'm surprised in the NFC."

Predictions for this week's game seem to be lopsided, with majority of Bronc students believing the game will be a boring blowout in favor of the Patriots. A few believe the game will be a nail biter until the end, with both teams having a chance to win. Those rooting for the Giants either seem to be clinging to false hope because of their dislike of the Patriots, or seem to want the David vs. Goliath situation take place.

These two teams played each other recently, of course, but this one is for all the marbles.

"The last game these teams played against each other was one of the best

games I've seen in recent history," Intramural Assistant Art Cabrera said. "I think the Patriots will dominate from the get go because of the record and history they're chasing. Now that the Super Bowl is here, I'm happy that we're going to see a great game but also sad because after it's over what will I do after there's no football."

**WHAT'S HAPPENING**

With the big game just around the corner, UTPA students have commenced planning their parties and family get-togethers for what has become an annual American tradition, the biggest sporting day of the year.

"Whether its barbeques or *botanas*, Super Bowl Sunday has become sort of like a modern American holiday," senior and history major Noel Ramirez said. "*La raza* (people) in the Valley look for any reason to turn on their pits, throw some fajitas on the grill, and enjoy some

beers. Watching the game is just a good excuse to do so."

Many students will be watching the game either at family gatherings or at a friend's Super Bowl party. But even those who don't follow football will still be tuning in, whether for the entertaining commercials or the always unpredictable halftime show.

"Even though I'm not a fan of football I enjoy this event because it gives me the rare opportunity to spend fun time with my dad," freshman international student Marisa Rodriguez said. "I also look forward to the game because of the halftime show performance."

New England will attempt to do what only the 1972 Miami Dolphins accomplished, that is, going undefeated for the entire season. Of course, before the Patriots start popping champagne bottles, they must face the formidable Giants squad which undoubtedly will be trying to ruin their potential history-making season.

**StatsAtAGlance**

22

The day in February when the UTPA baseball team will open up the season

26

The day in January when the women's tennis team posted a 4-3 upset against Air Force

4,300

The average price for one Super Bowl ticket on the Internet. Regular NFL prices range from \$700-\$900

**ShortSports**

■ WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

It continues to be more of the same story for the University of Texas-Pan American women's basketball team.

After a first half that saw the Lady Broncs lead by as many as 12 points, UTPA could not keep the momentum going into the second against the New Jersey Institute of Technology Lady Highlanders, resulting in a 65-56 loss.

The Green and Orange dropped their seventh straight game in the concluding stand of their three-game road trip and fell to 8-13 on the season.

Lekeisha Gray finished the night with a team-high 14 points, while Maria Ben Erlingsdottir added 12 points.

Even with three Lady Broncs scoring in double figures, the women could not cling to their four-point halftime lead. As in their previous two road games, the second half once again plagued the women as the Lady Highlanders outscored UTPA 43-30 in the period.

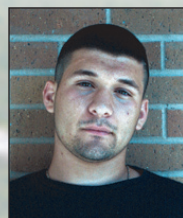
The women will return home for back-to-back home games beginning at 7:05 p.m. Friday against Longwood University. On Saturday, they will tip off at 8:05 p.m. against Chicago State University.



**Gabriel Cabrera**  
sophomore  
mechanical  
engineering

**Favorite team:**  
Dallas Cowboys

"I hate both teams, but I hate the Giants less than I do the Patriots. And since I don't want the Patriots to go undefeated, I am going to go for the Giants. I think Tom Brady will break his leg and the Giants will win by default."



**Jaime Trevino**  
sophomore  
business finance

**Favorite team:**  
Dallas Cowboys

"I'm more of a Cowboys fan, but if it's going to have to be between the Giants and Patriots, I would have to go for the Giants just for the fact that the Patriots are undefeated and I want them to lose."



**Josey Salazar**  
junior  
public relations

**Favorite team:**  
Dallas Cowboys

"I know New England is going to win. They're undefeated and I just think that they're really snobby. I don't like them."



**Fanny Guillen**  
freshman  
biology/ pre-dent.

**Favorite team:**  
Dallas Cowboys

"It's for sure that the Giants are going to win. The Patriots are going to be winning by probably a touchdown, and at the end of the game the Giants are going to win. I'm predicting the score 32-24."



**David De Anda**  
junior  
comm. studies

**Favorite team:**  
San Francisco  
49ers

"I think that the Patriots are going to end up winning which sucks because I want them to lose, but it's going to be pretty good. I think the Giants are going to give them a little run for their money."



**Robert Tellez**  
sophomore  
political science

**Favorite team:**  
San Francisco  
49ers

"It's going to be a pretty good game. I think the Manning family is going to win it. I don't know if you saw the Giants-Packers game, that was a pretty good game and I think the momentum is going to carry against New England into Arizona."



**April Flores**  
junior  
history

**Favorite team:**  
Dallas Cowboys

"I think that the Patriots are going to win. I think it's going to be an awesome game. I'm going to watch it at my house with my husband and my kids."



**Ashley Munoz**  
junior  
comm. disorders

**Favorite team:**  
Washington  
Redskins

"The Super Bowl is going to be pretty good this year. I'm going for the Patriots; I'm a Brady fan. The Patriots are going to win. They've always won. They're undefeated."