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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - PAN AMERICAN™

65 YEARS

THE PAN AMERICAN

Volume 65, No. 23

THE PAN AMERICAN

March 12, 2009

ATHLETICS

# Schuberth's hoops contract not renewed

By Ramiro Paez  
THE PAN AMERICAN

If two resignations in mid-December weren't enough to shake up the University of Texas-Pan American's athletic department, a dismissal and resignation last week certainly captured the attention of many around the Rio Grande Valley and UTPA communities.

Men's basketball coach Tom Schuberth was released from his position Friday after the athletic administration decided not to renew his contract for a second term. Hugo Cervantes, former cross country and track and field assistant coach, became the third director in less than three months to resign from his duties, giving official notice of his decision March 5.

SCHUBERTH

Schuberth was let go only three days after the men's basketball team concluded its season, when the Broncs recorded a 63-49 road victory against the New Jersey Institute of Technology, wrapping up a 10-17 year. Interim athletic director Ricky Vaughn says Schuberth's quick dismissal from the program is similar to the situation of former baseball coach Willie Gawlik, who was released three

days before his second three-year contract was set to expire last July. He notes that the decision was carefully and thoroughly considered.

"In all honesty, I'll go back to Coach Gawlick when we didn't renew his contract. We were put in a situation and it was almost a few days when his contract expired," Vaughn said. "We wanted to give those individuals time to where they can go out and pursue other opportunities."

"The official decision is that we wouldn't renew his (Schuberth) contract. At this time, that's all I'm going to say."

Schuberth was placed on administrative leave with pay until his contract expires March 31. Vaughn says the search for a new head coach will begin immediately and UTPA hopes to name a candidate by some time in April.

SEE CONTRACT || PAGE 5

FINANCES

# University faces tight economic constraints

By Brian Silva  
THE PAN AMERICAN

The current recession, what some administrators call a possible depression, will no doubt have a significant impact on what the university receives from the current state Legislative session. And with the university's finances running in the red for the past four years, President Charles "Chuck" Sorber has made something he calls "cost avoidance" an immediate priority.

Sorber has formed six Cost Avoidance Committees, to be headed by each vice president and composed of faculty, staff and students. The groups will focus on ways to save the university money.

Through the University of Texas System, UTPA has requested \$124.5

million for the 2010-2011 biennium. That is almost a 2 percent increase from the previous biennium; however, administrators caution that there's a good chance the university may not receive what they requested.

Over the past four years UTPA has run a combined operating deficit of 11.1 percent, running below the line 1.8 percent for fiscal year 2008, 4 percent for fiscal year 2007, 3 percent for fiscal year 2006, and 2.3 percent for fiscal year 2005, according to Budget Director and Assistant Vice President of Business Affairs Juan Gonzalez.

That's not all. Gonzalez said the university's investments have declined by about \$10 million in the past year. Investments are managed by UTIMCO, a UT System-affiliated

SEE UNIVERSITY || PAGE 5

STUDENT ACTIVITIES



Brian Silva/The PAN AMERICAN

A MEMORY - Senovia Alvarez of Pharr pins a button of her son Julio C. Cisneros-Alvarez on his combat boots at the Eyes Wide Open exhibit on Thursday.

SEE MORE ON PAGES 8&9

ADMINISTRATION

# UTPA selects Stearns as police chief

By Brian Silva  
THE PAN AMERICAN

If all goes as planned, the University of Texas-Pan American will hire Roger Lee Stearns as its police chief, as an offer has been extended; the candidate is now undergoing additional screening for the job.

Stearns is likely to take the helm of the UTPA police department March 13, pending details, according to As-

sistant Vice President for Business Affairs Juan Gonzalez. He currently is a major in the Vanderbilt University Police Department in Nashville, Tenn.

Stearns was one of three finalists named by a search committee that was charged with finding a replacement for former chief Howard Miller. Miller was terminated from his position back in October at the conclusion of a University of Texas System investigation.

The three candidates were on cam-

pus two weeks ago for interviews with the committee and administration. The other two were Operations Commander Michael Andrew Hanna of the UT-El Paso Police Department and Chief of Police James E. Adams of the Angelo State University department. The committee's work was then handed to Vice President of Business Affairs James Langabeer, according to Gonzalez.

SEE CHIEF || PAGE 5

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

# SGA elections committee announces running tickets

By J.R. Ortega  
THE PAN AMERICAN

On Tuesday, the Student Government Association elections committee met and debriefed the five president/vice-president tickets running for the 2009-2010 administration, which will take over April 15.

At the noon convention, the po-

tentials were notified about university rules and regulations regarding SGA campaigning tactics before being sent out on their near month-long campaigns, according to SGA president Marcos Silva.

"I did not expect so many of them," Silva explained. "All were very attentive and did not want to get

SEE SGA || PAGE 6



# OPINION

Page 2

THE PAN AMERICAN

March 12, 2009

## Opinion

### Waco's visiting 'Jesus freaks' are relatively tame

Ana Villaurrutia  
Associate Editor

Singing, dancing and lounging in the sun; sounds like a beach blanket movie from the 60s, but instead it's the scene currently happening at our very own quad by an army of 600 Mission Antioch Church crusaders.

The church members were from Waco, a town already known for its cult fanaticism, to spend their Spring Break teaching the ever so nagging word of Jesus and the big G. They came to our area, which a friend of mine pointed out held the highest in the state in STD rates, however was recently dethroned of highest teen pregnancies in the country, to speak out against the dangers of premarital sex.

Since their arrival several UTPA students have come back with horror stories of having to dodge, duck, and evade the morale bullets shot out by these crusaders of Jesus. My first reaction as I stepped out the safe barracks of the Pan American newsroom was to find an alternate route or fend them off

with my overt cursing.

But as a reporter I had to investigate and see what the enemy was all about; so I went with my very own backup who unfortunately had to flee as soon as the crusaders marched up to us. I was packed with a good excuse, "gotta go to class," but as the conversation unfolded between me and the crusaders, I realized they weren't that bad. The two were quite lax and frankly their friends were making the campus lawn look friendlier by simply laying and interacting on it—and here I thought those fields were cursed.

Sure they sing and act out the corniest skits, and their friendly dispositions make it hard for some to just blow them off, but really they aren't that bad. I believe that topics of religion and faith are private and should not be enforced but rather come or not come naturally to the individual, but hey I've met a fair share of Jesus freaks and these kids are pretty tame.

And Mom, if your reading this I didn't mean nagging, I'm a good Catholic girl.

## Illustrated Opinion

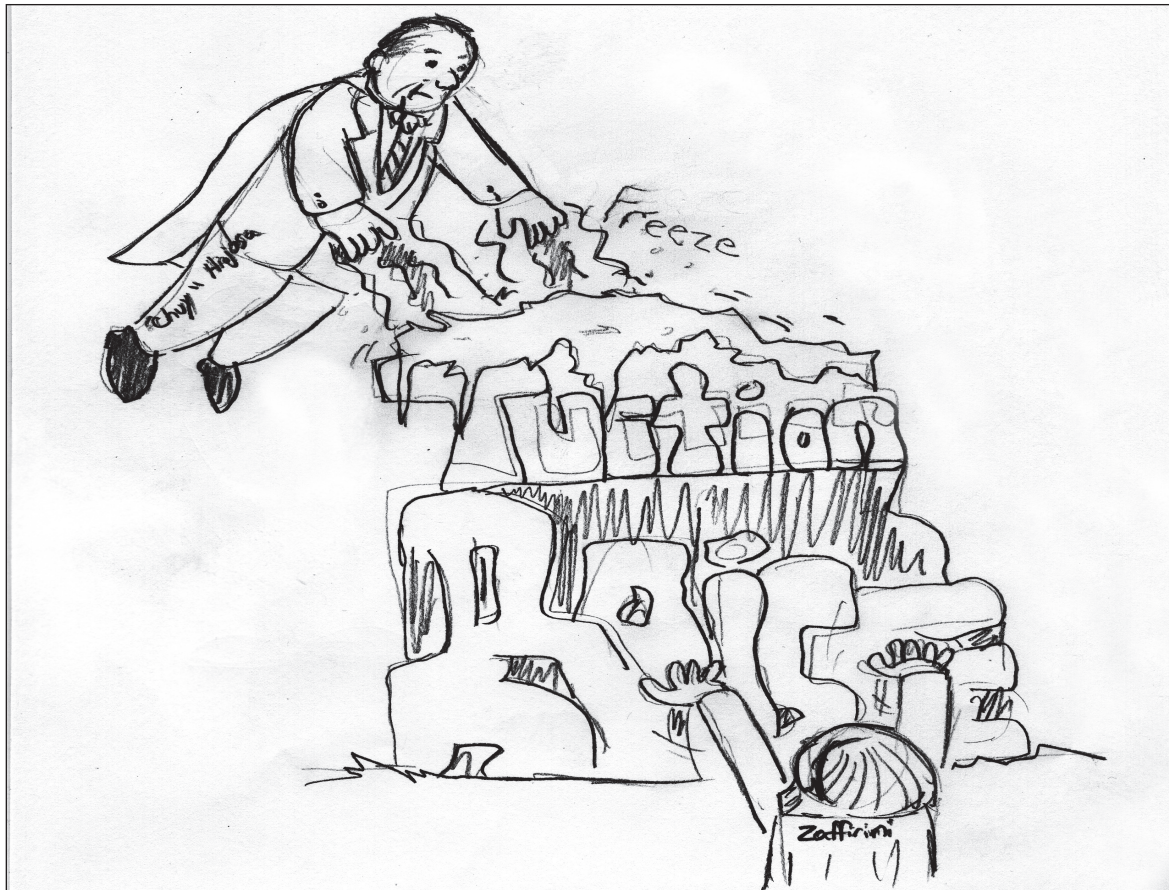


Illustration by Anthony Salinas

## Editorial

### Fees should be spent wisely

It's been about a month since it was announced the University Program Board would be putting on a concert April 25 at Edinburg Baseball Stadium. Opening up the concert will be Ok Go!, and the headliner will be Dashboard Confessional. The concert as a whole is expected to cost around \$125,000 to host.

We take a certain degree of concern with the way the financing of this concert is being handled.

The money will be spent on various expenses like renting the stadium, hiring security, clean-up, renting sound equipment, and paying for the bands' costs. True, these items are rather costly and the total amount is probably a fair price.

However, how is the university coming up with an eighth of a million dollars to pay for all of these expenses? Well, they're getting it from a loan.

UPB was loaned \$125,000 by the Student Affairs Advisory Committee, the group that governs the pool of money accumulated by student activities fees included in your tuition.

But, when you take a closer look at

how exactly the money will be used and repaid, it may seem a little flawed.

The concept for repayment is essentially to have everyone who attends the concert pay for what the concert costs. This means that the \$125,000 they took out in loans from SAAC they expect to generate from the ticket sales. Thus the money earned will go toward repaying SAAC.

However, what if they don't sell enough tickets to make up for the cost? Every student at UTPA is then left with the burden of picking up the tab for this concert.

In order for concert finances to break even it must sell around 5,000 tickets. So, 30 percent of the school's student population must go to the concert in order to break even.

Even with the most optimistic attitude, it's still unlikely that our school will generate enough enthusiasm for 5,000 students to attend. Granted, the university is allowing community members to buy tickets as well, for only a mere \$5 more. However, there still may be a good chance that UPB may fall short of its goal.

In a time of immense economic

hardship for the country, and individual students, this is a debt risk too heavy for students to bear. Just this week our university president sent us all a note that we're going to have to tighten our belts in every facet of university life.

It must be said, though, that we must admire UPB's efforts to raise the school's spirit and pride. Increasing school spirit is something we firmly support. However, the financing and funding of the concert may have needed some deeper thinking and analysis. Perhaps some sort of business sponsor would have aided in alleviating the debt burden for students.

Students as a whole shouldn't have been made to carry this debt burden. If in the end ticket sales come up short, we will all pay, and if that is the case, then the concert might as well have been free.

We realize the event is already set. But for the future, we'd encourage all students to make sure their student government representatives are on top of how money is being spent. Make sure our money is being spent wisely.

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65 YEARS  
THE PAN AMERICAN

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Thursday at noon

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

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Pan American 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.



**Resident halls closing**  
Friday, March 13  
6 p.m.  
Unity and Heritage Halls

**Resident halls re-open**  
Tuesday, March 22  
Noon  
Unity and Heritage Halls

ADMINISTRATION

# UT System intends to appeal Medrano case

By **Naxiely Lopez**  
THE PAN AMERICAN

Although The University of Texas-Pan American cannot formally appeal the *Dr. Hilda Medrano vs. UTPA* ruling just yet, UT System lawyers have stated they are going to do so.

Medrano, who served as the College of Education dean for eight years starting in 1997, filed a gender discrimination suit against the university in May 2005 after being demoted to

a professor position in January of the same year. She claimed she was not paid as much as her male counterparts.

According to her attorney, Katie Pearson Klein, Medrano was initially seeking reinstatement to her former position and was claiming wrongful termination after former UTPA President Blandina Cardenas demoted her in what the university described as a move to make UTPA a more research-intensive institution. Klein says the

suit was modified to dismiss that claim after learning that a university president can terminate a dean.

On Feb. 23, a jury awarded Medrano \$37,857 for the difference in pay from any male employee who did comparable work and \$26,800 for unused vacation pay that the university did not pay her when she was demoted.

According to Klein, under the Equal Pay Act, if the majority of the jurors find willful violations, or reck-

less disregard for the law, as was found in this case, double back pay is awarded.

"Because 10 out of 12 jurors agreed that the university had not acted in good faith and had willfully violated the Equal Pay Act, those amounts will be doubled," Klein said.

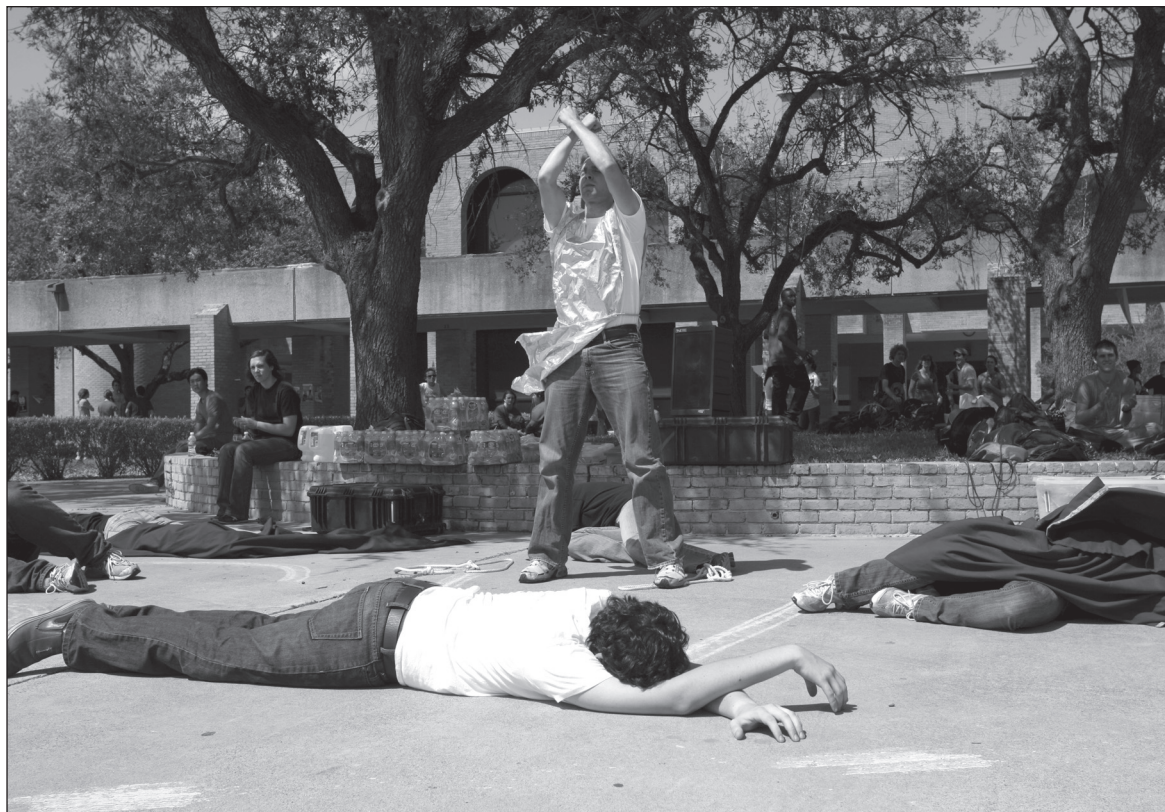
In addition to that amount, Medrano was awarded \$100,000 for mental anguish and a final decision is pending that would award an extra \$100,000 for legal fees and \$20,000

more for legal representation in case the state wishes to appeal, totaling almost \$350,000. However, a judge must first approve the damages in order for the jury's verdict to take effect. Until that decision is made, Klein adds, the university cannot appeal.

However, Barry Burgdorf, vice chancellor and general counsel for The University of Texas System, says the System is preparing to do just that.

SEE MEDRANO || PAGE 6

SEEN AND CAPTURED



Byanka Salce/ THE PAN AMERICAN

**BRINGING FAITH TO CAMPUS** - A Mission Antioch church group from Waco performs a Christian drama for students in the Quad Tuesday afternoon.

INFRASTRUCTURE

# Two parking lots now closed for construction

By **Abby Flores**  
THE PAN AMERICAN

For University of Texas-Pan American students, facing the inconvenience of parking is a daily upset, especially if there's construction or a parking lot is closed due to a campus event.

As of Tuesday, parking lots C and P were closed various times throughout the day until next week. Physical Plant will be conducting electrical work to increase the brightness of light fixtures in these areas.

Parking lot C is located across from the Wellness and Recreation Sports Complex, south of Edinburg Baseball Stadium, and is one of the busiest lots on campus. Lot P is located west of the WRSC. Oscar Villarreal, director of facilities and maintenance, said that though the lots will be closed, addressing a problem with lights is a necessity.

"We have received several con-

cerns that lighting in these parking lots was dim," said Villarreal, whom has worked at the university for 19 years. "A lot of students go to the Wellness Center late in the evening, and we want to improve the lighting for students."

The problem has been felt by the student body. According to UTPA Police Department crime records, from January 2008 to March 2009, 13 suspicious cases were reported in Lot C, a burglary of a vehicle and nine incidents at the Wellness Center.

"Our crime rates are low compared to other universities, but we want to continue to make sure students are always safe," said Sgt. Delma Lopez, UTPA police officer who has worked at UTPA for 20 years. "We try to reiterate to all students that there's always someone watching, they just need to call us, and we'll be there to help."

SEE LIGHTING || PAGE 6

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

# Bronchitis postpones Shepard's Series visit until April 7

By **Ana Villaurrutia**  
THE PAN AMERICAN

On Monday the Distinguished Speakers Committee announced that Judy Shepard would not appear due to a case of bronchitis. Her speech on Tuesday, which would finish the Distinguished Speaker series for the school year. However, a new date was also set.

The new date is April 7 and the speech will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Auditorium. Student Union Director Edna Zambrano apologized for the delay and all reservations for the

Distinguished Speaker dinner will be kept and held at the same time, 5:30 p.m.

"Same time, same place, just a different date, we apologize to the people that got out of work or class to come to the speech," Zambrano said.

E-mails were sent out on listserv, and UTPA's Twitter and Bronc Notes was updated with the new date. A notice was also written in *The Monitor* on Wednesday.

Lesbian gay bisexual and transgender friendly organizations and programs on campus had dedicated the previous week was to educating the university on the issues that

Shepard would speak on.

The civil rights activist cancelled her speech titled "The Legacy of Matthew Shepard" due to a case of bronchitis. Shepard became an activist after her homosexual son was murdered and tortured in 1998.

Her son, Matthew Shepard's murder trial became widely publicized and sparked action in the legislature from Shepard, gay rights activist and members of congress to move for a new bill on hate crimes, or crimes committed out of prejudice.

A bill called the Matthew Shepard Act, which was introduced to con-

gress on March 20, 2007, tried to make hate crimes more punishable but was vetoed by former President George Bush.

She was set to speak to the community on hate crimes and tolerance.

"Her message is about hate crimes and keeping the world safe," said Zambrano about Shepard's anticipated topic. "She has worked so hard to try to pass legislation on these crimes."

The Distinguished Speaker Series is in its fifth year, is funded by student fees, and is open to surrounding communities.

Speakers this year have included

animal conservationist Jeff Corwin, former First Lady of Egypt Jehan Sadat, and Titanic discoverer and oceanographer Robert Ballard.

## JUDY SHEPARD

APRIL 7  
FINE ARTS AUDITORIUM

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. UTPA Students get priority seating but the public is welcome to come for free. The speech lasts until 9:30 p.m.



EVENTS

CAMPUS LIFE Education Beyond Your Degree

- Thur., Mar. 12
  - ALLY Training  
From 3:00p.m. to 6:00p.m. at the Bronc Room
  - Movie: Role Models  
From 7:00p.m. to 9:00p.m. at the SU Theater
- Fri., Mar. 13
  - Movie: Role Models  
From 7:00p.m. to 9:00p.m. at the SU Theater
- Mar. 16 - Mar. 20
  - Spring Break Week
- Tue., Mar. 24
  - FIFA '08 Tournament  
From 3:00p.m. to 4:00p.m. at the SU Game Room
  - SBW- Risk Management Makeup  
From 5:00p.m. to 6:30p.m. at the UC 307
  - UTPA's Bronc House of Comedy  
Featuring: Justin Worsham  
From 7:00p.m. to 9:00p.m. at the SU Theater
- Wed., Mar. 25
  - Game Room "Happy Hour"  
From 3:00p.m. to 5:00p.m. at the SU Game Room
  - Climbing Wall Clinic #4  
3:30p.m. to 9:00p.m. at the WRSC
  - Havana Night "Sabrosura"  
From 6:00p.m. to 9:00p.m. at the Library Media Courtyard
- Thurs., Mar. 26
  - Mario & Sonic Olympics Wii Tournament  
From 2:30p.m. to 3:30p.m. at the SU Game Room
  - Scrabble Tournament  
From 2:30p.m. to 3:30p.m. at the SU Commons
  - "StrengthsQuest" hosted by Rebecca Gadson  
From 4:30p.m. to 6:30p.m. at the SU Palmetto Room
  - Spring Break Splash  
From 6:00p.m. to 9:00p.m. at the WRSC Pool
  - UPB Movie: Yes, Man!  
From 7:00p.m. to 9:00p.m. at the SU Theater



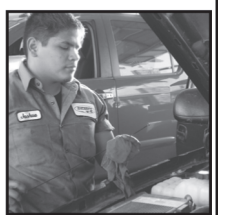
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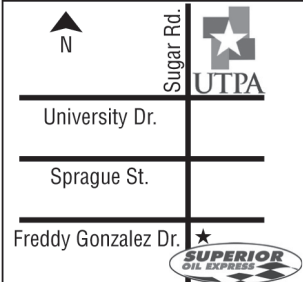
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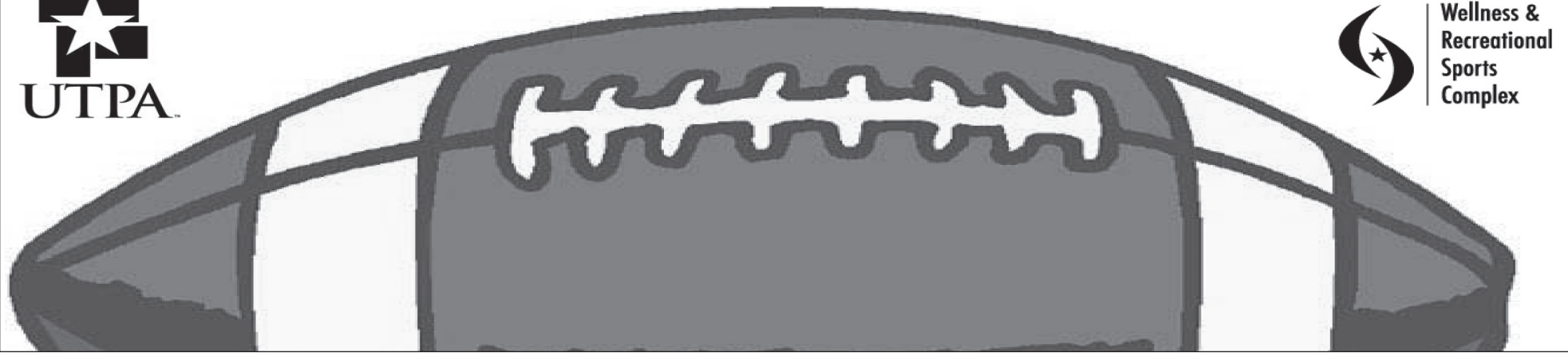
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# ARE YOU READY 4 FLAG FOOTBALL

PLAY BEGINS 3.30.09

## ENTRIES DUE MARCH 26TH

### Captains' Meeting at 5pm





# UNIVERSITY continued from Page 1

ed organization that governs over all System investments. However, Gonzalez said that losses would not become real unless the university sells them.

"If we are forced to cash in these investments, then we would be at a loss of 10 million," he said. "It really tells you the situation we're in."

Other administrators say that though the university faces some money woes, the proper person has taken over to deal with the trouble.

"He (Sorber) is aware that we have been running on the negative side of even over the past several years," Vice President of Business Affairs James Langabeer said. "He wants to make sure he leaves the institution with a positive margin."

Langabeer said all institutions in the UT System have been asked by Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa to tighten their spending habits.

"We're in a recession, if not a depression," Langabeer noted, adding that because of the state of the economy, legislators would be less likely to help the universities, even though universities are receiving less money from all revenue sources. He noted that all higher education appropriations will be decided within the last several days of the session, which began Jan. 13 and wraps up around May 30.

## BUCKLING DOWN

Administrators from UTPA to System are focused and concerned about this session because of the tenor of the times, Sorber said. The recession means the university will receive less funding from non-state revenue sources, like tuition and development.

These circumstances have caused the university to become proactive with efficiency, hence the cost-avoidance idea, according to Sorber.

Among several items that may be immediately affected is merit pay, a yearly tradition on campus that outstanding faculty have gotten used to vying for.

"We may not have any merit raises for the first time in a very long time. I think it would be a disadvantage," Langabeer admitted. "However if we don't get any new money that's probably one of the first things we'd consider (suspending)."

Some of the cost-avoidance measures that may be implemented are things like raising the air-conditioning temperature in buildings and turning on only a certain number of lights, according to Langabeer.

Another money-saving measure issued by System is a flexible hiring freeze for all staff, which means not a total freeze, just a warning to be judicious.

"We should be very cautious about filling vacant positions and extremely cautious when creating new positions," said Langabeer, who commented that the university will try to wait until after the legislative session to fill positions, depending on the outcome of appropriations.

Something else that may complicate funding the university is the hot legislative topic of a tuition freeze. State Sen. Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, D-McAllen, pre-filed legislation that would freeze it for two years. There are also several other bills in the House and Senate that provide for a similar type of halt to tuition, which has gone up an average of nearly 110 percent, including fees, across all public universities since tuition was deregulated in 2003.

Although the idea of such a move is widely popular among legislators, Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, does not support it. The chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee advocates financial aid as a means for helping students attend college. One of the measures she is supporting is an increase in the availability of funds for the Texas Grant.

District 41 State Rep. Veronica Gonzalez feels that a combination of the two is the appropriate solution.

"There should be a tuition freeze in order to allow students and fami-

lies to afford college," said Gonzalez, whose district is located in the Valley. "But because UTPA has one of the lowest tuition rates in the state and would be able to collect less with a tuition freeze, it needs to be coupled with more funding for the university."

However, an additional complication in funding has come from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, which made a recommendation that the Texas Grant be converted to a merit-based system instead of a need-base one.

Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost Paul Sale said the proposed formula changes by the Coordinating Board would have a disproportional effect on the students of the Valley region.

"It is a change that would likely be detrimental to the students of this university," Sale stressed. Eighty percent of UTPA students get some sort of financial aid.

Rep. Gonzalez agrees that tinkering with the Texas Grant would have a negative effect on Valley students.

"I believe the changes to the TEXAS Grant will adversely affect minority and low-income students by focusing more on merit, rather than financial need," she claimed. "Many students that I represent currently qualify for the TEXAS Grant and my goal is to provide them with op-

portunities to advance their academic careers."

Gonzalez expressed that she wants the highest retention and graduation rates as possible at UTPA. But she commented that students have to get into college first before they can be retained and/or graduate.

"We should appropriate monies for student assistance programs to ensure retention and graduation rates," she offered as an alternative.

Meanwhile, administrators will wait and hope for the best.

"If they do have a freeze, I hope they have an ability to make up the amount of money that would have been generated," Langabeer said. "We're not going to go away just because there isn't any fresh money in the streets."

Gonzalez expressed some optimism due to the fact that two South Texas politicians have places on very powerful committees governing finances and higher education.

"The fact that two Rio Grande Valley senators sit on the Senate Finance Committee and the fact that a Laredo senator chairs the Higher Education Committee fares well for South Texas," she said. "Of course, monies are extremely tight during an economic downturn, so the amount requested by all higher education institutions may be reduced."

# CONTRACT continued from Page 1

Assistant coaches Bruce Martin and Todd Russ were also released by the athletic department, while Grant Leonard, director of basketball operations, left by personal choice. Mark Donnhoff, who was in first season at UTPA, remained as the sole assistant coach on board.

Shortly before the 2008-2009 campaign began, the men's program was hit with an internal investigation in late October for possibly violating NCAA rules and regulations. Vaughn chose not to comment on the specifics concerning the investigation, and says it is still an ongoing case.

Vaughn says he still cannot comment on the matter because doing so is prohibited by the NCAA, but hopes the issue is complete within the next two to three weeks. The Compliance Group out of Lenexa, Kan., is assisting UTPA with the investigation and also cannot release any information about the pending case, according to founder Chuck Smrt. TGC provides an array of intercollegiate compliance and other services to institutions and conferences, as stated on its Web site.

There has been speculation that the investigation was solely an effort to tarnish Schubert's name and remove him from his position since allegations were tipped from an anonymous source and not the NCAA. Some have also claimed that a rift existed between the interim AD and Schubert, but Vaughn refused comment on whether that claim is true.

Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services Dr. John Edwards, who also oversees the athletic department, elected to deny remark on why

Schubert's contract was not renewed as well. Edwards wouldn't comment on the proceedings of the investigation, but did state UTPA signed a \$25,000 contract with TGC to aid them in the search.

Edwards said once the investigation is complete, they will present its findings, if any, to the NCAA, where in turn will examine the reasonableness of its conclusions.

Schubert led the Broncos to a 42-45 record during his three-year stint after arriving to a dismal program in 2006. The men were 14-15 in Schubert's first season, an eight-game improvement from the previous year, which made the Broncos the NCAA Division I top regular-season turnaround team.

Last season, the Broncos recorded their best record in recent years after finishing 18-13, which led them to the Independent championship and Schubert to the Independent Coach of the Year award. This year, however, the Broncos finished with an RPI rating of 331 out of 343 Division I programs, according to [ncaachampionships.com](http://ncaachampionships.com).

Senior forward Emmanuel Jones, who played two seasons for the Broncos and was part of the Independent championship team, said he was shocked to learn the news about his former coach after hearing from some teammates.

"Since I've been here with the program, he's been a pretty good friend," Jones said. "He was a good coach of mine. I guess it just is what it is."

Vaughn admits Schubert's success his first two seasons was weighed into the board's decision, but that it was felt the program needed to move in a

new direction.

Schubert denied commenting on any matter during the past week.

## CERVANTES SPEAKS OUT

Cervantes served as the assistant cross country and track and field coach for three years, but decided to step down from his duties, despite helping lead the Broncos to the first-ever Great West Conference Cross Country Championships in November. He joins former cross country and track and field coach Dennis Darling and men's and women's tennis coach Rob Hubbard, who both resigned in mid-December for other job opportunities.

"After three years of working there and not seeing any results, pay raise or stuff like that, it kind of starting getting to me," Cervantes said. "After the other coach [Darling] left, things started taking a different direction and I was just not being pleased."

Last month, the athletic department hired Dave Hartman as Darling's successor and from that point Cervantes knew it was time to move on with his career since he didn't know if his job was going to be in jeopardy for the future. Cervantes, a UTPA alumnus, says it was hard for him to keep working under the adverse conditions of the athletic department, since he felt he earned some personal demands after guiding successful seasons during his stay with the Green and Orange.

"It's not a very conducive environment for a coach," he said. "(Even) if you're a Pan Am graduate, it doesn't matter. You're expendable. That's one

of things that I didn't like. As a former UTPA graduate and (having) a successful season, there was no raise, no bonus, nothing. It's hard to work under those circumstances. The university should take a really good look at what's going on and get the right people with experience that know how to take care of their people."

Cervantes says he felt like he was overlooked as possibly becoming the next full-time head coach for the cross country and track and field programs, something he was striving for. He wanted the opportunity to give back to his university that gave him so much during his illustrious running career.

He knew he had to start from the bottom, taking assistant positions at Austin Peay University and Texas A&M-Corpus Christi before traveling back home, but when he saw no promise for a head coaching position at UTPA he decided he needed to do what was best for his future.

Vaughn said Cervantes never submitted an application for the head coach position and also stated that the former assistant never approached the athletic department about a possible pay raise, but notes that the budget wouldn't allow for one if he did.

Cervantes says the reason he never applied for the position was because Vaughn made a comment about not trusting in him, so he didn't bother seeking the higher employment.

Cervantes is currently unemployed and has received offers from other universities, but has denied them because UTPA is where he originally wanted to

coach. He says he is considering looking into coaching positions at the high school level.

"At the moment, I'm kind of taking some time off right now," he said. "God willing everything will return to place and something will come up."

# CHIEF continued from Page 1

"He's very well qualified," Gonzalez said of Stearns. "They (the committee) felt he had strong evidence of working closely with the university community."

Gonzalez said Stearns would collaborate with the criminal justice department to provide students with opportunities to learn and grow with experience.

This is not Stearns' first time in the UT System. He served as a sergeant with the University of Texas at Dallas police department from 1997 to 2007.

"He comes well recommended... we've heard very good things about him," Gonzalez said.

Stearns received his bachelor's from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and earned a professional certificate from the FBI National Academy. He's currently working on his master's in managerial science at Amberton University.

Stearns received his bachelors from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. He also has a professional certificate from the FBI National Academy. He's currently working on his masters in managerial science from Amberton University.



## SGA continued from Page 1

anything wrong.”

The five tickets are current SGA vice president Raghuvier Puttagunta as president with vice president potential Shaney Flores, a 20-year-old English and psychology major; president potential Joshua Trevino, a 21-year-old sophomore English and history major with vice president potential Leis Behmer, a 25-year-old creative writing graduate student; president potential Evan Perez, a 21-year-old senior biology major with vice president potential Nicholas Carmona III, an 18-year-old sophomore biology major; president potential Peter Ehimika, a 23-year-old senior biology major

with vice president potential and brother Miki Ehimika, a 20-year-old junior political science major; and Marco Setien, a 20-year-old senior pre-med biology major with vice president potential Shirley Edinborough, an 18-year-old sophomore biology major.

Polling and campaign policies discussed at the election committee's first meeting with the potentials, according to Silva, include not campaigning indoors on campus as well as not blatantly stating “vote for me” indoors..

“You can't help them, you can't give them advice,” Silva stressed about all current running candidates.

With five tickets, Silva said he expects a final run-off between the top two tickets after the first voting date.

“We are thinking the tickets will get 20 to 30 percent of the voting and then we will run off the top two tickets,” he explained.

If held, the run-off would take place on April 6-8, according to Silva.

The Trevino-Behmer ticket will concentrate on transitioning the university into a more on-campus experience and finding a better way to afford and textbooks.

The Perez-Carmona will aim for more environmental/physical programs and campus safety programs with UT-PD.

The Setien-Edinborough campaign will focus on SGA and student accessibility and expanding university programs for a better UTPA experience.

The Puttagunta-Flores campaign will attempt to keep tuition and fees at a low and continue to revamp the printing quota.

The Ehimika-Ehimika will place it's strengths on increasing student involvement and raising community involvement.

As mentioned in an article last-week in *The Pan American*, one of the bigger concerns for Silva about the campaigns was the less than 10 percent of student voters.

“I really encourage everyone to vote...we work closely with the ad-

ministration and really need student support and interest in the organization so we can be better advocates of what the students need and would like to see change,” he said.

Regardless of campaign regulations and low voter numbers, candidates have a variety of campaigning tactics such as the more conventional, meet and greet, handing out of fliers and poster placement and more technological approach with MySpace, Facebook, YouTube and other collegially-targeted Web sites.

Voting is still set for March 30 to April 3, with a candidate debate March 24 and a “Meet the Candidates” event on March 26.

## LIGHTING continued from Page 3

The project will not only improve safety in these parking areas, it will also perk up lighting in intersections and pedestrian crossings. Examples include the crosswalk on Sugar Road in front of Unity Hall, the crossing between the WRSC and Lot C, and the crosswalk between the baseball stadium and parking Lot C, at times the busiest places for traffic on campus. Villarreal said student distress with the poor lighting has made the upgrade a reality.

“This morning, I saw one student in a hurry to get to class and moved a barricade. We haven't even started the project,” Villarreal said. “We don't

want to make this a big inconvenience for students, but if they don't cooperate, we can't do our job and we'll need to call the UTPA Police Department.”

According to Villarreal, students who park in blocked-off areas or choose to move barricades, cones or signs will be violating parking and traffic rules and regulations; in these cases, the driver may be cited with a \$15 fine or towed.

He added to be cautious and aware when walking along through campus or any parking lot, especially at night.

“I've heard of several incidents that happen in the parking lots, especially at night,” said sophomore Spanish ma-

yor Laura Gutierrez. “When we get out of night class, it's a bit scary, especially being that I'm a girl and sometimes walk alone to the recreation center. But, it's a great idea that they're going to improve the lighting problem.”

All other parking lots are in compliance, but depending on future need, the Physical Plant will be ready to improve lighting anywhere around campus. The main concern is doing so without increasing electrical consumption. The new light fixtures, do consume more energy, due to brighter lighting. UTPA maintenance staff is in charge of buying and installing all the fixtures.

## MEDRANO continued from Page 3

“We are definitely looking at our options,” Burgdorf said in a phone interview. “But we have every intention on appealing this case.”

The university insists that Medrano was not discriminated against and that a dean's salary is not based on gender.

Administrative Services Officer Julissa Flores says that although there is no set guideline, salary is based on several factors.

“Good negotiation, qualifications, and credentials are taken into consideration,” Flores said. “For example, a business administration dean and a College of Arts and Humanities dean

will not be paid the same amount. They are two different markets.”

Medrano, who is currently a tenured professor at UTPA, received her Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin in 1985. From 2003 to 2005, Medrano raised close to \$175,000 in scholarship funds for the College of Education.

In case of an appeal, Klein said she will continue to legally represent Medrano.

“I'm with her till the end,” she said in reference to possible future representation,” she said. “And as far as Hilda, she's ready to do whatever she has to do.”

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# A WALK

Story by: Isaac Garcia

**T**wo Marines walked up to Senovia Alvarez's home. As she greeted them, her first thought is that the men are bringing a gift, her son's early return from Iraq. But reality soon sets in as she realized that the men have news of her son's death. Her excitement turns to devastation.

"Losing a son is really painful. Nobody knows how I feel—unless they have been through what I've been through," Alvarez said.

Julio C. Cisneros Alvarez, 22, from Pharr, wanted to be a doctor. Instead, he is among the more than 4,000 American military casualties in Iraq since the war began in 2003. He was killed in a bombing attack along with four other soldiers traveling in a combat tank.

Helping bring a memorial to Alvarez and the American military

casualties in Iraq is an exhibit, Eyes Wide Open, founded by The American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker organization. The organization is committed to peace and social justice and, since 1917, has worked in war zones across the world where it claims to have gained immense knowledge of the horrors and costs of war.

The exhibit premiered in January 2004 in Chicago, Eyes Wide Open displayed 504 pairs of army boots representing fallen soldiers who died in Iraq; in proximity to the boots was a wall in remembrance of the more than 11,000 Iraqi civilians who have been killed since the start of the Iraq war.

The exhibit became a memorial and a place for grievance among family members and friends of lost loved ones as it traversed fields across the country.

Mary Zerfel, national coordinator of Eyes Wide Open, explained that the exhibit grew immensely, garnering interest and solidarity from friends, families and strangers attending the exhibit.

"In 2007, the exhibit became too large to tour in its entirety because, unfortunately, the casualties had increased so much," said the Chicago Peacebuilding program director. "We then split the exhibit up and created 48 state-based exhibits that have boots that represent the casualties from that particular state."

On March 5 the Texas chapter of Eyes Wide Open made its way to The University of Texas-Pan American to display more than 300 pairs of combat boots representing soldiers from Texas who have perished in the ongoing conflict. The exhibit moved to Archer

Park in McAllen the next day.

In attendance along with her aunt was 18-year-old Angela Rodriguez, an interdisciplinary studies major at UTPA. She came to show respect for her cousin, Julio Alvarez.

"It was really sad to see the boots laying down on the ground and I didn't want to cry, but then I just couldn't hold it anymore," Rodriguez said. "I remember all the good times I had with him."

Rodriguez acknowledged that Eyes Wide Open brought some sort of closure, but mostly it's a great form of remembrance that people provide to survivors in honor of her cousin and other dead soldiers.

"We know that people still remember them. Not just because they're dead they're forgotten," Rodriguez said. "It helps that people are willing to listen to my



Isaac Barrientes/THE PAN AMERICAN

**WATCHFUL EYES** - A volunteer for the Eyes Wide Open exhibit watches as students visit the Quad's more than 400 pairs of combat boots.



Brian Silva/THE PAN AMERICAN

**LONE BOOT** - Weslaco native Sargeant Juan Calderon Jr.'s shoes along with a photo are one of the more than 400 boots at Thursday's exhibit.



# IN THEIR SHOES

family and care about how we feel. We're just getting a little bit of closure for losing him – it's really painful and we're always going to remember him."

While some might interpret the boots as an anti-war sentiment, the AFSC maintains that Eyes Wide Open is a sole-

ly a memorial.

"Over the years our exhibit has encountered many different responses from the public. We always try to maintain a respectful atmosphere so that people can come and interact with the exhibit no matter what their feelings," Zerkel said. "I would say that the vast majority of visitors to our exhibit have appreciated the exhibit for calling attention to the human cost of war."

On March 4, the AFSC released a statement on its Web site commending President Barack Obama's new direction in the Iraq policy.

In late February, Obama stated his intentions to withdraw all American forces from Iraq. Obama plans to bring combat troops home in 2010 followed by the remaining troops in 2011.

Still, Zerkel remains focused on keeping the exhibit touring across America.

"We have made a commitment to keep the exhibit going until the war is over, when the war ends I am sure we will look into permanently displaying the boots somewhere," Zerkel said.

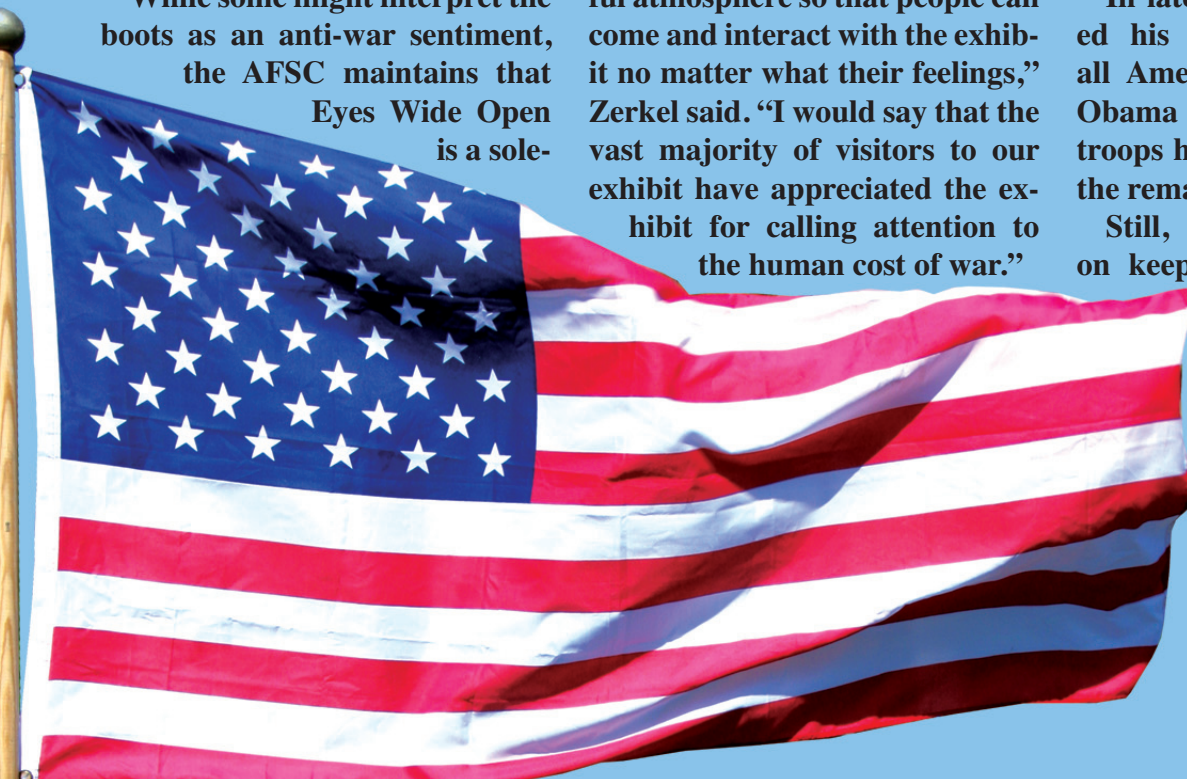
Despite her loss Rodri-

quez believes that the exhibit is therapeutic and aids in the healing process.

"I really believe that this exhibit will help other families honor loved ones that they have lost," she said. "I will definitely attend next year if it comes again and I hope so, I'm really thankful to see how the fallen troops have been honored."

Since 2004, Eyes Wide Open has toured the country and Zerkel is grateful to those who continue to support it.

"Over the years we have met many, many families and friends of those who have been killed in the Iraq War," she said. "We have had great support from many military families and 14 families have actually donated their loved ones actual boots to the project."



**Brian Silva/THE PAN AMERICAN**  
**HELPING HAND** - Irene Szedlmayer, a volunteer with the exhibit, helps Senovia Alvarez place the pin of her son who died in Iraq in 2005.



**Isaac Barrientes/THE PAN AMERICAN**  
**SOLEMN MEETING**- Gloria Lazo, a psychology major, kneels down to read a letter left on one of the many boots lining the Quad Thursday.



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CAMPUS

## FESTIBA features classic novel 'Bless Me, Ultima'

By Marco Carbajal  
THE PAN AMERICAN

According to Congressman Rubén Hinojosa, more than three million Texans are considered to be functionally illiterate. In addition, one in four Texans lack reading and writing skills, ranking the state 47th in reading and writing literacy. As the number of national readers declines, the largest federal literacy program has kicked off this month right here in the Valley.

The University of Texas-Pan American, along with the McAllen Public Library and the Dustin Michael Sekula Memorial Library in Edinburg, will host The Big Read, an initiative launched in 2007 by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to restore reading to the center of American life.

Each year, a Reader's Circle composed of distinguished writers, scholars, librarians and professionals recommends a new list of Big Read books for American communities to share. Selected organizations receive

grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$20,000 to support their prospective projects. Grantees then choose one book selection from the list and participants are given books and materials free of charge but must pledge to participate in activities such as read-a-thons, book discussions or lectures to follow. UTPA has joined 208 communities nationwide to host Big Read activities from last September through this June.

Dr. Steven P. Schneider, professor of English and director of new programs and special projects in the College of Arts and Humanities, applied for the grant and serves as project director. Schneider chose one title in particular because of its relevance to the area's unique cultural and geographic region. Schneider also adds that copies in both English and Spanish were handed out.

"The Big Read book we selected, 'Bless Me, Ultima' by Rudolfo Anaya, is a classic Mexican-American novel with many culturally relevant themes and symbols," Schneider said. "It was the only book by a Mexican-American

author on the list and has references to *La Virgen de Guadalupe*, *La Llorona* and *curanderos*. We want to hook people on reading and a good way to do that is with culturally relevant literature."

"Bless Me, Ultima" is a coming of age novel set in the 1940s that follows 7-year-old Antonio who lives in Guadalupe, New Mexico with his family. His father is a *vaquero* who comes from a family of cowboys. His mother comes from a family of priests and farmers. As Antonio struggles to choose a life path, cowboy or priesthood, a *curandera* named Ultima comes to live with them. As the bond between Antonio and Ultima grows, several tragic events force Antonio to examine life and death and good versus evil.

So far, two discussion groups have taken place at the McAllen Public Library. One in English was held March 5. Another in Spanish was led by UTPA assistant professor of English Dr. José Skinner March 10. Tonight, a special teen book discussion is featured; youths are encouraged to bring a digital

photograph that best illustrates the theme of the novel. Another discussion for City of McAllen employees will take place March 19 in the commissioner's room at City Hall and will be broadcast on public access television.

Kate Horan, branch manager of the Palmview Branch Library in McAllen, led the English book discussion and says the discussions are designed to let people compare notes about what they thought about the material.

"People will offer their own opinions about the book and bring their own experiences into it," Horan said. "Reading for pleasure helps us to relate to one another, and understand each other and the book discussions only reinforce that."

José A. Gamez, library director for the McAllen Public Library, agrees and says that reading is usually a private pastime for most people, but that book discussions help bring people back to reading for enjoyment as well as reinforcing the idea that reading is good. Gamez also adds that it bonds one with

individuals who may also offer a fresh point of view.

"Even though every copy of the book has the same words from the author, because of our perspective, our education, our background, we may all interpret that information differently," Gamez said. "Sometimes we will interpret the same thing, and other times we won't."

During the week of FESTIBA, a full month of Big Read activities comes to a close with a special art exhibit at the University Gallery related to "Bless Me, Ultima." Another book discussion with Dr. Eliseo Torres from the University of New Mexico, Dr. Mark Glazer from UTPA, and Dr. R.C. Davis from The University of Oklahoma, all experts on such topics such as folklore, *curanderismo* and the featured novel, is slated for March 24 at noon in the Student Union Theatre. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information on the UTPA Big Read grant, or the upcoming keynote panel, contact Dr. Steven P. Schneider at 956/380-8775 or at [schneiders@utpa.edu](mailto:schneiders@utpa.edu).

TRAVEL

## Reality star shares tips for Spring Break on the cheap

Victor Ituarte  
THE PAN AMERICAN

The only thing tighter than what that hottie is wearing at the beach during Spring Break is a college student's purse strings, courtesy of the current affairs of the nation and the world.

Enter Leon Logothetis, creator and host of Fox Reality Channel's "The Amazing Adventures of a Nobody." Logothetis is a frugal traveling expert and he has done his own review of how clutching your cash can be easy.

The show took audiences on his journey across the United Kingdom in season 1 with only £5/day, from Times

Square to the Hollywood sign in season 2 with \$5/day, and from Paris to Moscow in season 3 with only 5 euros/day.

Restrictions that made the task more difficult included that money or gifts could not be saved after the day was over, he was not allowed to accept money from strangers, he had to earn each gift or favor by performing a task or favor, and he was given a day to move to a new area.

Overall, Logothetis suggests using the World Wide Web, which he considers a bargain hunter's paradise.

A Web site Logothetis recommends is CouchSurfing.com, which would eliminate any costs incurred with a hotel. The site is a networking tool for those offering a spare

couch, floor space, or a guest bedroom for travelers at no cost. CouchSurfers, he said, can be found all over the world.

Upon hearing about the service, 23-year-old Daniel Mejia from Mercedes said he would be willing to try it.

"In theory, it sounds really, really cool, but hopefully everybody is as excited about it as I am because, I mean, I think I would do that," said the business management major who is planning a trip to Monterrey for Spring Break. He said he would go by himself if his friends cannot join him due to work commitments.

"I like going by myself. It's a lot of fun; you get to explore and stuff," Mejia said. "I don't really have an itinerary of what I was

going to do when I get over there."

For travel options, he advised ridesharing and using Web site Mobissimo.com. A quick internet search of "ridesharing" will show a list of sites that offer a venue for connecting riders with those offering a ride. Think of it as digital hitchhiking. The only cost with ridesharing would be gas.

Mobissimo.com acts as a search engine for travel sites, like Travelocity.com.

"It's like Expedia.com, but in my opinion it's better," Logothetis said.

Sophomore Dana Orr, a Swansea, SC native, plans to hit South Padre Island during the break, but has not secured a place to stay.

"Right now I haven't picked a

spot," said the 20-year-old sociology/psychology double major. "I know of a couple of friends who have trailers and hotel rooms so I will probably just kind of live off of them."

Luckily for Orr, Logothetis frequents LastMinute.com, which provides last-minute deals on flights, hotels, and car rentals. Although there are good rates, he said, you risk not getting your flight.

Overall, Logothetis enjoys connecting with people when being thrifty.

"You don't know where the universe will lead you, and, by the magic of human connection, the more people you meet the more opportunities there are to have adventures," he shared.

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REVIEW

# Dark take on superheroes reaches the big screen at last

By **Russen Vela**  
THE PAN AMERICAN

Before anyone sees this film, Zach Snyder, the director of the epic and box office hit "300" should be given a pat on the back. He did what a dozen of rumored directors such as Francis Ford Coppola, Steven Spielberg, and Tim Burton struggled to do for 20 years; he made the comic "Watchmen" a movie.

It seems unthinkable that anyone could properly put the greatest graphic novel of all time on the screen. But Snyder has done pretty much that with amazing special effects, a great cast, and a strong hold on the source material that will have fans of the written text pleased.

The film opens in 1985 New York with the sudden and horrific death of one of the outlawed great superheroes The Comedian, played by Jeffrey Dean Morgan ("Grey's Anatomy.") By 1985, masked vigilantes, better known as superheroes, have been outlawed by the president. With rising Cold War tensions with the Soviet Union and a threatening nuclear war, the outlawed superheroes resign from their crime-fighting ways, and decide to stick with living a normal life.

With the police having no leads as to who might have killed The Comedian, another superhero in exile, Rorschach, played by Jackie Earle Haley ("The Bad News Bears 1976," "Little Children") decides to probe further. Discovering that The Comedian was a U.S.-employed hero, Rorschach believes he has found a plot to eliminate all costumed heroes still living. With this information, Rorschach visits all the living Watchmen including: Ozymandias played by Matthew Goode ("The Lookout;") The Nite Owl II played by Patrick Wilson ("Lakeview Terrace;") Silk Spectre II played by Malin Akerman ("27 Dresses;") and Dr. Manhattan played

superbly by Billy Crudup ("Big Fish,") who out of all the banned superheroes is the only one with superpowers in the literal sense. He lives outside ordinary time and space and can understand and manipulate matter in an almost god-like manner.

These superheroes, like many DC comic stars, have traditional crime-fighting outfits. Long boots and flying capes, extremely well-fitted bodices, and of course, the traditional mask. What makes these particular superheroes resonate are the performances from the actors and the classic source material.

Out of the six in the Watchmen crew, you most connect with Silk Spectre II, whose real name is Laurie Jupiter. She has to live in the shadow of her forgotten Superhero mother Sally Jupiter, played brilliantly and convincingly by Carla Gugino ("Sin City,") who was the first Silk Spectre.

Laurie has to endure her mom talk about getting old and never accomplishing what she wanted to accomplish, and also the disappointment a parent has when their child doesn't live up to expectations. Sally, who was once the beauty of the crime-fighting world, is now an old, battered, drunken woman who suggests that Laurie come out of retirement and fight crime in secret. But Laurie feels liberated, happy to be not fighting crime anymore.

In a scene which could prove pivotal to the film, Laurie asks Nite Owl II, whose real name is Daniel Dreiberg, if it was all worth it, the Watchmen dressing up to battle evil. Akerman makes Spectre II relatable and you can see that she has come to terms with the fact that fighting crime while in her blood, is her destiny, whether she

wants to accept it or not.

Even though many pages of the book were not included, Snyder did take the time to try and preserve other information by including short "historical" sequences in the fantastic opening title sequence, which moviegoers should get to their seats early to view. By this point, viewers will also have had a chance to appreciate the stellar, time-appropriate soundtrack. For example Snyder uses "Everyone Wants to Rule the World" in Ozymandias office lobby to enhance the tension that something might change with this character.

Some may also question Snyder's inclusion of gore not present in the book. While the comic does include its share of violence, Snyder overtly changed several scenes to be more violent. These changes, while flashy on film, may disturb squeamish moviegoers. However, changes aside, Snyder has captured the essence of the book and packaged it in a beautiful 160-minute delight.

Overall, it is a satisfying film experience for someone familiar with the

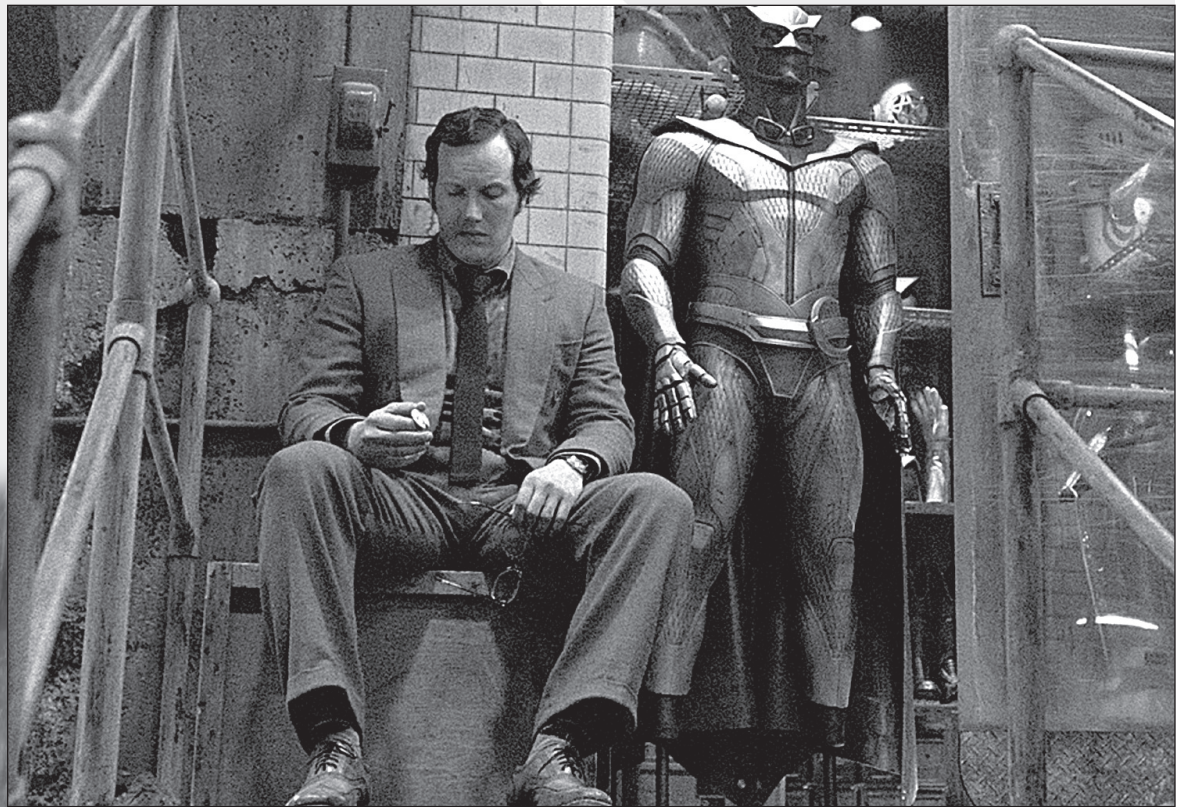
source material.

But let this be a warning, this film is not your average action-packed, comic book hero film. This is not "Batman," "Spider-man," or "Fantastic Four." This is raw, in-your-face people with real problems, a comic book film mostly for adults. Repeat, for adults. With sex, blood, violence, and some full frontal nudity from both male and female, please do not take your children or anyone under the age limit of rated R to see this.

This might be a different experience for anyone who does not know the book. There is a lot to digest, and the overwhelming visuals may distract some moviegoers from the bigger picture. The interaction of these unique characters remains an integral point to understanding the film, and when the book was pared down for the movie, the relationships of the masked adventures became a bit more forced. But you still get the emotions needed to better understand what the Watchmen want, and

what they need in order to survive in a world gone mad.

The ending has been altered a bit and some fans of the graphic novel might not take to it, but in full honesty, the ending the director and film crew chose best fits the film. Fans and those previously unfamiliar with "Watchmen" should go in with an open mind. Director Snyder has performed what Dr. Manhattan might deem a miracle, so it may take more than one viewing to truly appreciate this unique adaptation.



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**DARK TIMES - (ABOVE)** Dan Drieberg (Patrick Wilson) contemplates his glory days as the second Nite Owl after a meeting with Rorschach (Jackie Earle Haley.)

**MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT - (LEFT)** The cast of caped crusaders from left to right: Rorschach, Ozymandias, Dr. Manhattan, Nite Owl, Silk Spectre, The Comedian.



WATCHMENMOVIE.WARNERBROS.NET



### Baseball

Notre Dame Classic  
March 13 to March 15  
San Antonio

### Track and Field

Bobcat Open  
March 13  
San Marcos

## BASEBALL

# Broncs gain momentum as winning streak begins

By Sara Hernandez  
THE PAN AMERICAN

It has been a good week for the Bronc baseball program. After beginning the season with 11 consecutive losses, The University of Texas-Pan American nine defeated Texas A&M Corpus Christi three times in a row and put a stop to the worst start in 53 years.

The Broncs found victory for the first time Sunday at the Whataburger College Classic at the Coastal Bend's Whataburger Field where they defeated the Islanders 9-3.

After five close innings in which the Broncs only scored two runs, they took to the bat and notched six runs in the sixth. The Islanders couldn't muster a comeback and UTPA defeated TAMUCC.

The sixth inning was fruitful for the Broncs as they collected six hits, and finished an equal number of runs. The team came into the weekend just .235 collectively.

Garret Bivone was the first Bronc to score. After two hits, a wild pitch allowed the junior to score a third run for UTPA. Senior Jordan Rutenbar followed when he scored an RBI caused by Jose Salmon's walk to first base. This permitted Salmon, Billy Donaho, and Iradier Hernandez to load the bases.

A hit by Ryan Vest brought in senior Donaho and freshman Hernandez, and Vest was later plated on Jose Mendoza's hit; UTPA ended the inning ahead, 8-1.

Although TAMUCC got two runs in the bottom of the sixth inning, they weren't able to recover and UTPA got another in the seventh inning when Donaho scored on a hit by Mendoza.

First-year coach Manny Mantrana, who replaced former skipper Willie Gawlik this season, was pleased with the initial victory after a slow start in 2009.

"We had good pitching, our offense was also very good, we hit the ball very well and we played good offense, so all three phases of the game came together," he said. "That's what we have to do, which we haven't done."

Donaho finished the evening 2 for 5 with two runs while sophomore Andrew Perez went 3 for 4.

Right-handed pitcher Scott Wingo received the win after hurling nine innings, allowing six hits, striking out nine, and walking one.

"This win could be a turning point," said the junior from Garland. "It showed how good we can be if we all play together and play right."

The Broncs opened the Whataburger Classic Friday, suffering a 14-1 setback against No. 23 Alabama. Bivone scored the only run for UTPA, on a sacrifice fly by Vest in the fourth. The team managed just five hits against the Crimson Tide.

In the second day at Whataburger Field, the Broncs dropped a 12-7 decision against the Islanders, whom they later defeated. Although the Broncs opened the scoring in the bottom of the first inning with an RBI by Bivone that pushed Andrew Perez in, TAMUCC got ahead in the fifth, where it scored seven runs.

Down 11-2, UTPA responded in the fifth, when Rutenbar hit a two-run home run with Bivone aboard. It was just the Broncs' second round-tripper on the season. Perez finished 2 for 5 and junior Salmon later homered as well.

## TAMUCC DOUBLE-HEADER

The Broncs returned to Corpus Christi Tuesday, this time at Chapman Field to face the Islanders in a double-header and grab the second and third wins of the season 8-7, and 17-10.

In the first encounter, both teams scored consistently throughout the game, but UTPA finished up with three runs in the ninth inning.

Jose Mendoza and Gabriel Salinas scored when Rutenbar hit one to right center. Bivone, who advanced to third in this play, completed a run after Esequiel Garza flied out to center field.

Although the Islanders tried to come back, scoring four times in the first inning of the second game, UTPA caught up and overcame their opponent, 9-7 by the fifth. TAMUCC wasn't able to get any more, while the Broncs totaled 10 in the last three innings.

Mantrana explained that this will be a year of learning for the program, which has suffered eight successive losing seasons. According to Mantrana, adopting the system he is implementing will eventually take place.

"It takes a little bit of time for everything to be the way it should be at a Division I program," he said. "But the boys are good, they keep working hard, they understand what we're trying to do and that they're part of it."

Hoping for success in the UTPA baseball program, Mantrana assures that this weekend's triumph is part of a goal that will be accomplished in the following years.

"We're going to win here at Pan Am in the future and we're going to turn this program around," he promised. "There's no doubt that Pan Am baseball will win."

## Line Scores

### Texas-Pan American 17, Texas A&M Corpus Christi 10; March 10

	R	H	E
Texas-Pan American (3-11)	020	232	53 - 17 21 0
Texas A&M Corpus Christi (4-12)	411	040	00 - 10 19 2

E - Olivarez, E.; Greiner, J.(3). DP - UTPA 2; AMCC 3. LOB - UTPA 8; AMCC 9. 2B - Garcia-AB(5); Mendoza(1); VEST(3); Tefft(1); Hough(4); Flora, S.(6); Greiner, J.(2); Hernandez, T 3(4); Marek, J. 2(4); Montgomery.(3). HR - Flora, S.(4); Parra, M.(2). HBP - Rutenbar; Tefft 2; Montgomery, Famiglietti, SH - Donaho(2). CS - Hough(1).

### Texas-Pan American 8, Texas A&M Corpus Christi 7; March 10

Texas-Pan American (2-11)	003	101	003 - 8 9 1
Texas A&M Corpus Christi (4-11)	200	011	210 - 7 12 2

E - Martinez; Hernandez, T; Montgomery,. DP - UTPA 1; AMCC 2. LOB - UTPA 7; AMCC 8. 2B - Rutenbar; Olivarez, E.; Flora, S.; Perales, J.; Hernandez, T. 3B - Marek, J. HR - Perales, J.; Parra, M.. HBP - Rutenbar. SH - Salmon; Garcia-AB; Mendoza. SF - Bivone; Garza; Flora, S. SB - Garcia-AB; Marek, J.. CS - Hernandez.

### Texas-Pan American 9, Texas A&M Corpus Christi 3; March 8

Texas-Pan American (1-11)	001	016	100 - 9 18 1
Texas A&M Corpus Christi (4-10)	000	012	000 - 3 6 1

E - Perez(5); Liedka, J.(1). DP - TAMUCC 1. LOB - UTPA 8; TAMUCC 3. 2B - Perez(6); Bivone(1); Olivarez, E. 2(4). HR - Perales, J.(1); Flora, S.(3). SH - Garcia-AB(2). SF - Perez(1). SB - Perez(1); Garcia-AB 2(4); Donaho(2); Hernandez(1); Salmon(1); Flora, S. 2(2). CS - Perez(2); Perales, J.(2).

### Texas A&M Corpus Christi 12, Texas-Pan American 7; March 7

Texas A&M Corpus Christi (4-8)	001	370	001 - 12 13 0
Texas-Pan American (0-11)	100	120	003 - 7 11 2

E - Bivone(2); Mendoza(2). DP - TAMUCC 1; UTPA 2. LOB - TAMUCC 4; UTPA 5. 2B - Olivarez, E. 2(2); Parra, M.(1); Perez(5); Garcia-AB(4); Rutenbar(1); Hernandez(1). HR - Hernandez, T(5); Montgomery, 2(2); Salmon(1); Rutenbar(2). HBP - Garcia-AB; Bivone; Spears. SB - Parra, M.(2); Perales, J.(2); Mendoza(3). CS - Parra, M.(2).

### Alabama 14, Texas-Pan American 1; March 6

Alabama (7-3)	002	010	236 - 14 11 0
Texas-Pan American (0-10)	000	100	000 - 1 5 1

E - Garcia-AN(1). LOB - Bama 12; UTPA 6. 2B - Rhoden(1). HR - Jones(2). HBP - Rutledge; Matthes; Wilson; Kelton; Donaho; Garcia-AB; Mendoza. SH - Rhoden(1); Hough(2). SF - Wilson(1); Rhoden(1); VEST(2). SB - Donaho(1); Mendoza(2). CS - Kubal 2(2); Donaho(2).

## LOCAL SPORTS

# Wellness Center reaches out to community with 5k Run/Walk

By Ramiro Paez  
THE PAN AMERICAN

The University of Texas-Pan American's Wellness and Recreational Sports Complex hosted its second annual 5K Run/Walk event Saturday morning in an effort to keep promoting wellness to the Rio Grande Valley community.

Last year, the event saw only 65 runners participate in the 3.2-mile run, but numbers almost quadrupled this year after the WRSC totaled 250 entries. Jacqu Adams, fitness coordinator for the WRSC, says the experience from the race's first year helped garner enlightening marketing tools as how to better promote the second one.

"We used a site that posts different runs that go on in the Valley.

It's called runwithchrist.net," said Adams, director of the 5K along with marketing coordinator Colleen Price. "We posted (our event) on there and a bunch of Valley runners use that as their resource. We had fliers here, fliers up all over town, and posted it on our Web site. A lot of time with events like this, it's word-of-mouth."

Adams went on to note that almost half of the runners were not affiliated with UTPA, which is something the WRSC is trying to strive for.

"We always want to do campus outreach," she said. "Because wellness is not a concept you apply to an hour of your day, wellness is something you take home with you. Therefore, we want to be able to reach people in their homes too. It's not just a

student coming to the Wellness Center. We want them to be able to talk to their family about it. So we want to offer events to where their family, friends, whoever can get involved with it as well."

Even though UTPA students, faculty and staff were about evenly matched with the RGV community in numbers, it didn't stop student-athletes Roberto Najera and Deanna Schneyer from capturing first for male and female groups, respectively.

Najera, a sophomore from Mer-

cedes, is a member of the men's cross country and track and field team, and

recorded a time of 16:09. Schneyer, who concluded her career with the volleyball program last season, crossed the finish line at 23:20.

"For me, it was really easy because it was just a regular 5K and I'm used to running it in college," said Najera, who edged teammate Wally Gonzalez's time by seven seconds. "It was a slow time for me. I didn't really push myself. It was just for fun."

Adams says extending news about the event to farther parts of the RGV is definitely something they want to do for future runs. She says the WRSC will inquire as to how people received information about the 5K and build on that.

Beginning next year, Adams hopes to affiliate the 5K with a cause, where a percentage of the fees will go to that organization, but the primary emphasis will be kept on making wellness an enjoyable feat for locals.

"Just think of it as like a sporting event. They're all there for a cause and it's this camaraderie of people doing the same thing. It's motivating," she said. "They're taking initiative to better their health, better their wellness, better their activity level."

## Jacqu Adams Fitness coordinator





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## ■ FEATURE

# Madden '09 tournament creates new venues of competition

By Pedro Perez IV  
THE PAN AMERICAN

The rain poured on the field giving the players minimal visibility. The captains of the teams lined up and faced one another over the big blue star in the middle of Texas Stadium. But in this dream match for most Dallas Cowboys' fans, the Cowboys were squaring off against...the Cowboys in the final of "Madden 2009" tournament Monday at the Student Union.

The rules for the Monday video game event were simple. Each player picked a team at the All-Madden skill level, the highest default skill level available, with random weather was selected. The quarters were three minutes until the finals, where they lasted five.

Freshman Los Fresnos native Magdaleno Pena and sophomore Mission native Mario Peralez both picked the Cowboys and they were the final two out of 28 participants vying for the 50 Bronc Bucks at stake.

In the end Pena would reign victorious, making it the first time he had defeated Peralez. The two have played each other three times before, twice in tournament play and once in a non-competitive format.

"It was an easy tournament," Pena said. "This guy (Peralez) scored early



Byanka Salce/THE PAN AMERICAN

**GAME FACE** - Adolfo Hinojosa participates during the Union's Madden '09 tournament Monday afternoon. The Union hosts different game tournaments in the Game Lounge throughout the semester.

so I was scared a little bit but I just stuck with what I wanted to do and it worked."

Pena has been playing the popular video for about five years and for him competing comes with the territory.

"Every tournament that opens up, like at GameStop, I play," Pena said.

But ask Peralez about Pena's vic-

tory and he will tell it differently.

"The other tournament I beat him right away and he went storming out of here," Peralez said. "I've beaten him twice, but (today) I got behind and it got away."

Off and on Peralez has been playing for about four years, but he doesn't take it to the level Pena does.

"Just here (at the Union) and the tournaments they put on," Peralez said of where he plays.

Tournaments like this bring out all kinds of players from beginner to advanced but for some, Monday was like coming out of retirement.

"I started practicing when I heard about the tournament," junior crimi-

nal justice major Alex Sotelo said. "I would go home after school and practice about two and a half hours."

Sotelo, who got third, lost his match when attempting a field goal right before the first half was over.

"Going into the half I was going to kick a field goal but the button got stuck," Sotelo said. "At the beginning of the second (half) I got the ball, he scored a touchdown off a pick and I just couldn't come back."

Sotelo settled for 30 Bronc Bucks and Peralez received 40 Bronc Bucks for his efforts.

John Madden started his football-coaching career in 1964 when he was the defensive coordinator for San Diego State. In 1967 he became the head coach for the Oakland Raiders. During his tenure his overall record was 112-39-7 and led the Raiders to a 32-14 victory over the Minnesota Vikings in Super Bowl XI. He was Class of 2006 for the NFL Hall of Fame.

Twenty years ago Electronic Arts (EA) put out the first John Madden Football. It debuted for Apple II Computers and was the first football game with a realistic playbook, true game tactics, and 11-on-11 competition.

Today Madden Football video games are bigger than ever. According to EA's Web site, Madden 2008 sold over 3 million copies worldwide.

## ■ WOMEN'S GOLF

## Lady Broncs place seventh despite weather

By Kevin Stich  
THE PAN AMERICAN

Monday afternoon the wind whipped itself around Victoria Country Club as players tried their hardest to keep shots under the reach of the violent flurry. The University of Texas-Pan American women's golf team found itself battling 40 mph gusts while competing in the first round of Texas State's Claud Jacobs Intercollegiate Tournament.

The wind did little to tarnish their efforts as the Lady Broncs finished Monday with a 36-hole score of 628 in a tie for fourth place out of 14 teams, and 12 shots behind tournament leader Lamar University.

Senior standout Mariale Camey finished the first two rounds tied for fourth place after shooting a pair of 76's for a total of 152. Teammate senior Bronwyn Sandberg was not far behind after shooting a 79 and 77 for 156 and a share of 14th place.

Tuesday, with calmer winds, the ladies managed a respectable team total of 316, putting them at 944 for the tournament and a seventh-place finish. Camey finished the tournament in a tie for sixth with a three round total of 230.

"She played very consistent," women's head coach Ofelia Lopez said. "This tournament she went in and she actually had a different mindset. She went in playing for her team and knowing that she had to stick to



Ben Briones/THE PAN AMERICAN

**ON THE GREEN** - Freshman Sarah Kothny takes a second swing to make a birdie on the first hole during practice at Los Lagos Golf Course.

that. No matter what she did, it was going to either help her team or hurt her team and she fought hard."

After recording a 78 and an 83 in the first two rounds, sophomore Haley Hocott rebounded to fire a team-low 74 for a 235 tournament total and a tie for 17th. Sandberg shot a final-round 80 for a 236 total and a tie for 22nd.

"I think this week we actually played consistent," Lopez said. "We put ourselves in contention and now we just have to seal the deal. I'm very proud of them, I think they fought hard

for each other and fought hard for their team."

In a close finish, first-round leader Lamar could not hold off tournament host Texas State with the Bobcats edging out the Cardinals in a playoff after both finished regulation play at 920. Arkansas State University's Cassie Huffer was the tournament champion as she won by three strokes with a final score of 222.

The Lady Broncs' next tournament is the Baylor Invitational in Waco, March 16 and 17.

## ■ TRACK AND FIELD

## UTPA hosts own track invite for Kingsville, Corpus Christi

By John Gallagher  
THE PAN AMERICAN

The hopes are high for the upcoming competition of the spring for the track and field teams, a rare home event. The meet has been deemed the University of Texas Pan-American Invitational and will consist of a three-way bout against Texas A&M-Kingsville and Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Friday at 1 p.m.

21-year-old senior J.J. Hernandez, a general studies major from San Juan, is confident that he can beat the competition and win the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

"I should win, I've never lost to those guys before," Hernandez said. "I definitely don't plan on losing a home game."

Spring competitions are outdoors, unlike the winter events which are indoor. Since the meet is the first of the season, its purpose is to gauge individual performances for later competitions such as the Kingsville Invitational, the Rice Bayou Classic in Houston, and Texas Relays Competition in Austin.

Although Hernandez is confident, a major concern for the team is the difference between indoor and outdoor practices and events.

Assistant Coach Jennifer Leatherman stated, "The transition from in-

door events to outdoor events takes some practice, this early it's about getting adjusted to the new feel of the outdoor season."

Some differences are the change of weight in the hammer throw, the addition of discus and javelin, and longer events such as the 3000 meter steeplechase, an obstacle-jumping race similar to hurdling.

23-year-old Stephanie Perez, a criminal justice graduate student from Brownsville, throws for the team and believes the transition from outdoors to indoors should go smoothly.

"Our events are different but I think we're gonna transition pretty well," she said. "Our only problem I think is the higher-rep workouts, but we tend to do better outdoors."

Workouts are now more intense for the athletes; the increase in mileage and higher repetition workouts is due to the longer events the athletes participate in for the spring.

This season brings a more varied event list, but also attracts more athletes since individuals that only participate in outdoor events flock to the team. This meet is the first of many, but Leatherman is confident the team will do well in the long run.

"I know we'll be looking good in a couple months," she said. "It's just a matter of practice and determination."



LOCAL SPORTS

Sports Commentary

## TYING THE RECORD BOOKS

AS THE SEASON ENDS,  
LADY BRONCS TIE BEST WIN MARK

By Pedro Perez IV  
THE PAN AMERICAN

With the graduation of Tamara Vaughn, LeKeisha Grey and Tiona Wilson in 2008, at the beginning of this season the Lady Broncs were in a position to find new leadership and hopefully blend some new faces into molding a winning team.

This past weekend the final stamp was pressed as The University of Texas-Pan American women's basketball team competed in the National Independent Showcase, where it tied a school record for most wins.

"I thought it was a fantastic opportunity to be able to reward your team for their hard work throughout the season," said sixth-year DeAnn Craft. "It's just been a great season for our team, having lost so much experience from the

backcourt from our previous season, and I was just pleasantly surprised of the growth and maturity of our freshmen."

The Lady Broncs finished the 2008-09 campaign 14-16. The tying win came in a 65-60 victory over Longwood University. Unfortunately for the Lady Broncs, Chicago State and New Jersey Institute of Technology would end their run for a record-breaking season after that.

For the freshmen, this season was just the beginning for what Craft thinks is going to be a series of great careers.

"We're extremely excited of where we've positioned ourselves for the future," she said. "We wish we would have gotten one more for the record but to think that this freshmen group already has tied it in their inaugural year, that really is beyond what my expectations

were for that group."

For the season, freshman Arkansas native Epiphany Smith finished the season shooting 35 percent from the floor with 117 assists and was a 77 percent free-throw shooter. Oklahoma City newcomer Britney Demery shot 40 percent, averaged five rebounds a game with a total of 130 and was 70 percent from the line.

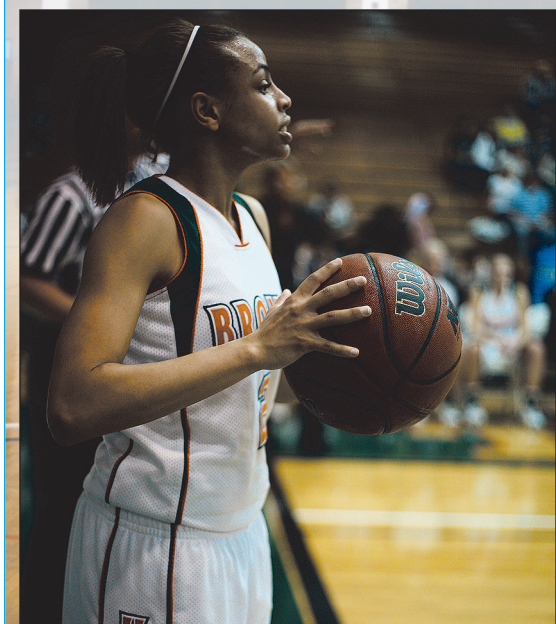
Craft also commented on how the seniors flourished, not only since the season started but throughout the four years they played with the Lady Broncs.

In the NIS Danielle Kostacky and Jessica Walker performed beyond Craft's standards. Kostacky shot 60 percent throughout the tournament, and her coach noted that without Kostacky's performance in overtime against Longwood, the Lady Broncs would not

have won. She was responsible for six of the 13 points the Lady Broncs scored in overtime.

Teshay Winfrey and Robin Garrett also finished their seasons on a high note. Winfrey hit 43 percent from the field, 36 percent from behind the arc, and 83 percent from the free throw line, to lead the team in scoring. Garrett ended her career shooting 52 percent, averaged two rebounds per game and 81 percent from the free throw line. She had some big games late in the season

"That's always a real gratifying thing as coach," Craft said. "This group that came in when they were freshmen won seven games and they're leaving having tied a school record. So I think that right there that speaks for where the program was when they first came and what type of shape they have left it for their graduation."



EPIPHANY SMITH



BRITNEY DEMERY

Ben Briones/THE PAN AMERICAN

## There's no "I" in team, but there is a "M.E."

By Kevin Stich  
THE PAN AMERICAN

The concept of "team" seems to be fading in professional sports. Narcissistic star athletes, now more than ever, have become their own institutions that reign supreme above all the other men they share a locker room with.

This is why dynasties are a dying breed. Fans don't get to see the Yankees of the 1930s and 1940s, the Celtics of the 1950s and 1960s, the Lakers of the 1970s and 1980s or the Cowboys and Bulls of the 1990s.

There are a few anomalies here and there with teams like the Steelers, Patriots and Spurs who most years seem to be good no matter what. But those teams do things differently; they are old-fashioned.

Almost every season the sports world has a different Super Bowl, NBA Finals, and World Series champion, and every year the best team the previous year seems to be the worst team the next year. It's a byproduct of a system where it's all about the "me."

Terrell Owens and his former enabler Jerry Jones were by far the best example. Fueled by instant gratification and the desire for the Cowboys to win a playoff game, let alone a Super Bowl, Jones brought the divisive disrupter into Dallas and let him wreak havoc, only to see him depart a mere three years later, championship-less.

Kurt Warner, the NFL's "good guy," recently wanted a deal that would have put him among the top-five highest paid quarterbacks in the league even if it meant losing out on other acquisitions that could get the Cardinals back to the Super Bowl. He didn't quite get his two-year \$14 million deal, but instead settled for a two-year, \$11.5 million package including a \$15 million signing bonus and \$19 million guaranteed.

Manny Ramirez recently held out until the start of spring training so that the aging 36-year-old (37 in May) could sign a two-year \$45 million deal with the Dodgers.

Maybe that's why so many people take refuge in collegiate sports, where many athletes are playing to play and not to get paid. There aren't players trying to restructure contracts for more money or sitting on the bench while making \$21 million, a la Stephon Marbury.

But it's the result of a system that caters to that type of behavior. Rookies coming up from the college level are sometimes guaranteed as much as \$30 million in a contract before they even play a regular season game.

Who wouldn't have a big ego with \$30 million in their pocket?

These athletes are talented, there is no doubt in my mind, but \$20 million a year seems to be a bit excessive, especially in a flagging economy.

I would love to see a return to team loyalty – scratch that, a return to player-to-player loyalty; where good teams and good players are rewarded with championships.

A return to a time where winning isn't everything, it's the only thing.