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SUMMIT SUMMARY

Philanthropists, educators brainstorm on Valley's future

By Karen Antonacci
THE PAN AMERICAN

UT System Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa opened the Vista Summit in Brownsville Oct. 6 by addressing Valley leaders and high-ranking officials in philanthropic foundations, at one of the first gatherings of its kind.

The distinguished group discussed the long-term education and success of the Rio Grande Valley, brainstormed about how to pay for that outcome, and planned future meetings to further the agenda.

Cigarroa started off the summit by explaining to the attendees, which included representatives from the Gates, Lumina, Ford and Dell foundations, about the \$30 million the System invested in South Texas through the Rio Grande Valley initiative.

The money from the Rio Grande Valley will be used for, among other things, a simulation hospital, and the STARS and Uteach programs. The simulation hospital will be used as a teaching tool for medical students while the STARS program will bring in student-oriented faculty. Uteach allows students to attain a STEM-related specialty and teacher certification at the same time.

"All of these initiatives will have a direct effect on UTPA students," University President Robert Nelsen said.

Time at the summit was also given to panels whose members spoke about the importance of

education, including a group of alumni that testified how a UT education helped them in their endeavors. Afterward, discussion revolved around what areas the Valley needs help in and how philanthropic foundations can help.

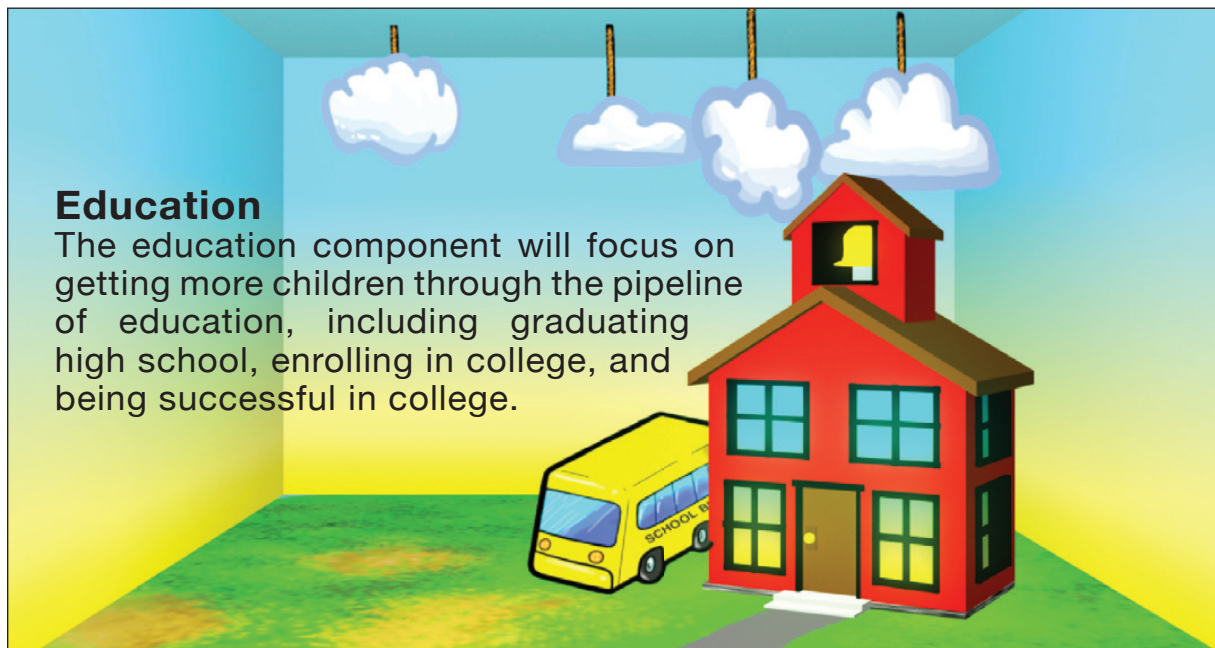
"The way I put it, is the Valley is finally being noticed," Nelsen said. "We have planted a flag in the Valley to be successful and now we're asking (the funders) how they can help us - 'Here's what we decided to focus on, what can you help us with?'"

After a year wrought with budget cuts and layoffs, Nelsen said support from the UT System stems from UTPA's unique location close to the border and the high Hispanic demographic, which is becoming more representative of Texas by the year. Also, he added, Cigarroa originates from Laredo and wants to see the best for the Valley.

"The first campus (Cigarroa) ever set foot on was this campus. He went to the planetarium here as a little kid," Nelsen said. "He understands the Valley and has an interest in the Valley."

The area's needs were boiled down to three main components at the Summit.

"There will be three subsequent summits and those summits will decide exactly what will be funded," Nelsen explained. "The first summit will be on education... the next one will be on economic development and what kind of economic development is right for the Valley... The other element will be on health care."



Education

The education component will focus on getting more children through the pipeline of education, including graduating high school, enrolling in college, and being successful in college.



Economic Development

Bruce Katz of the Brookings Institution spoke at the Vista Summit about finding a niche for economic development and suggested the Rio Grande Valley should utilize its location next to the border for projects like a rapid response manufacturing center.



Health Care

Summit attendees contemplated how to get more residency opportunities for students, and how to fund them residencies.

CHECK THE WEB

Stories You Haven't Heard ||

University courses, a job and two kids - single mother LaTerrica Thomas has found a way to do it all. Read more in the online A&L section.



Back in action ||

The men and women's tennis teams are getting back in the swing of things. Check out the story online Friday.



Opinion

Child, Please



Norma Gonzalez
SPANISH EDITOR

My twin sister (yes, I have a twin) attends Texas Christian University in Ft. Worth. After the initial shock of hearing about twins being separated by distance, people ask why I didn't go there. Or, even worse, if I live vicariously through her. This really pushes my buttons. Yes, TCU is more prestigious and even has a great football program, but is it really much better than UTPA?

I'm not going to lie. UTPA was not my first choice of universities to attend. It was more of a last

resort. I had even started the application process with TCU and other universities, but I chose to stay due to family obligations. I wanted to leave the Valley like many other Valleyites, so I don't think I ever really gave UTPA a chance.

I hadn't participated in any events because I worked full time (sometimes up to 60 hours) at the family bakery, held a part-time position at Ben & Jerry's and volunteered as a third grade CCD teacher at my church. I had always been extremely active in high school, and not being active made me feel like I didn't belong to this school. It wasn't until my junior year that I finally told my mom that I wasn't going to be working as much so I could join an organization. I became part of the American Marketing Association (AMA) in the fall of 2009, and then joined *The Pan American* newspaper in spring 2010. Although I took the next year off for personal reasons, I continued working as a photographer for the newspaper (Why not keep building my resumé, right?).

I think most people just take the University for granted, so they don't get excited when their acceptance letter arrives. It could be the Valley mentality of wanting to leave, to get out, but it actually has a lot to offer. It's one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas with plenty of career opportunities. It also has a great university – UTPA.

Now here's where the main problem comes in. Since you're already paying for school, or even getting grants to pay for it, why not take advantage of all this school has to offer? People complain that this school doesn't have anything, it's boring, but they are the ones not doing anything, not the University. Join clubs, organizations or simply use the resources this school offers. They have plenty of computer labs at your disposal and a great game room for use in your down time.

The AMA organization on campus used to be a sub-chapter to UTSA, but I am proud to say that I was an officer that helped make UTPA its own chapter. We were also the first group to attend the national conference in New Orleans.

Being a photographer for *The Pan American* has led to meeting many interesting people – some that I wouldn't have met otherwise. Over a year ago, I was assigned to take pictures of a speaker for Leadership Week, four-time winter Olympian Ruben Gonzalez. During the summer, I met and got an autographed photo from three-time Olympic gold medalist Rowdy Gaines. If that doesn't sound exciting enough, this year I got exclusive press access for HESTEC events. I met Bill Nye the Science Guy. I met, interviewed, took a photo with and got an autographed photo from Moisés Árias from "Hannah Montana" (don't judge me). On Community Day, I met, took a photo with and was one of a few to interview Mario Lopez.

I may not be living the stereotypical college life as presented in the movies, but I don't believe I would have been presented with these opportunities anywhere else but UTPA. So stop your childish complaints. College is what you make of it, and what better place than here? Go support the Broncs, get involved and, just plainly, do something – because your college years won't last forever, and you wouldn't want to end them with regrets.

Letter to the Editor

Thank You,

It might seem strange that I do not begin my letter with the customary "Hello" or "Dear Editor" but, in truth, I am very thankful that you, *Pan American* staff, exists; and, more broadly, for my freedom of speech. Allow me to explain; when I saw the Letter to the Editor in the October 13 paper, I smiled, I became so filled with joy that I had to sit down to stop my shaking.

Thank You, *Pan American*, for printing one ignorant, self-loathing Juan Gabriel Cruz's letter. I don't think I need to go into the content of said letter, but I have to say, I am thankful that I live in this country, where even the world's biggest bigot can be published in a publicly-funded newspaper, a country where thousands of students have the opportunity to read the hate-speech of one very confused individual.

Enough with my joy. I am not all sunshine and daisies. I feel that I have to take the remaining 132 words to express my dissatisfaction - and perhaps a question or two, on a few matters. First, to Public Education: It seems you've let another slip through the cracks. Second, to the man himself, Juan Gabriel Cruz: Do you live under a rock? And if so, what kind of rock? I know it is not igneous rocks, for igneous rocks have at least a few pores that, hypothetically would allow at least some light to shine through on your worldview. Lastly, to what is referred to in Cruz's letter as the "American language:" it seems you have another staunch defender! Indeed, with supporters like Juan, who needs enemies? Anyhow, the previous paragraphs, this sentence, and the coming valediction should come to 300 words, so, without further ado...

Thank you,
Michael Anthony Chavez

Letter to the Editor

Letter to the Editor:

I would like to voice out my reaction to the letter sent by Mr. Juan Gabriel Cruz. Mr. Cruz made a few valid statements about the *Pan American*. If Mr. Cruz just knew what the KKK do and what they stand for, he would've not used that as a comparison. His analogy is weak because the KKK has a long history of violence and bigoted ideas. The *Pan American* however, does not advocate violence and bigoted ideas, they just need to change their attitude towards other ethnicities and not neglect them.

As we all know, UT-Pan American has a predominately Hispanic population, - it is roughly 88 percent. So it is understandable that our school newspaper has a Spanish section. However, other students from another ethnicity feel alienated because they don't understand and read Spanish. I myself, feel ignored every time I come across the Spanish section, because it feels like an inside joke, ONLY MEANT for SPANISH SPEAKERS. And to those who don't speak the language, we are the subject of that inside joke.

I know there is no way I can persuade the newspaper to write an article in another language, but here's what I can suggest. How about, in every Spanish article the newspaper writes, put up an English version online at your website? In that way, the non-Spanish speakers (and people NOT from the VALLEY) will be able to understand and interact with the Hispanic culture better.

Thank You and More Power!
Bruce Parker

CARTOON



Erick Gonzalez/THE PAN AMERICAN

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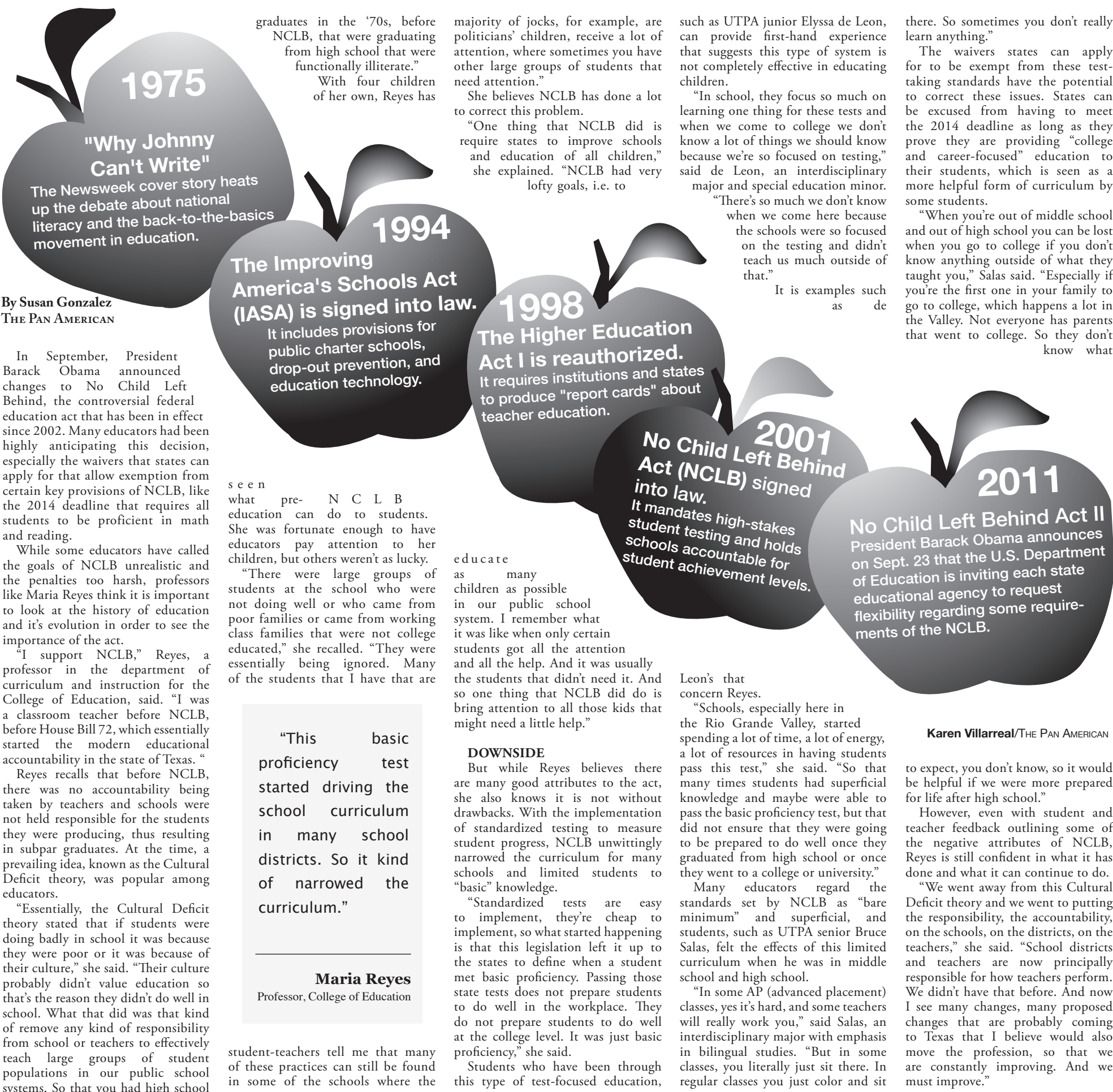
Letters to the Editor

The Pan American accepts letters of 300 words or less from students, staff and faculty regarding recent newspaper content, campus concerns or current events. We reserve the right to edit submissions for grammar and length. We cannot publish anonymous letters or submissions containing hate speech or gratuitous personal attacks. Please send all story ideas to thepanamerican@gmail.com.

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Updated standards

Mixed opinions from students, educators regarding waivers and other modifications to NCLB



1975

"Why Johnny Can't Write"

The Newsweek cover story heats up the debate about national literacy and the back-to-the-basics movement in education.

By Susan Gonzalez
THE PAN AMERICAN

In September, President Barack Obama announced changes to No Child Left Behind, the controversial federal education act that has been in effect since 2002. Many educators had been highly anticipating this decision, especially the waivers that states can apply for that allow exemption from certain key provisions of NCLB, like the 2014 deadline that requires all students to be proficient in math and reading.

While some educators have called the goals of NCLB unrealistic and the penalties too harsh, professors like Maria Reyes think it is important to look at the history of education and its evolution in order to see the importance of the act.

"I support NCLB," Reyes, a professor in the department of curriculum and instruction for the College of Education, said. "I was a classroom teacher before NCLB, before House Bill 72, which essentially started the modern educational accountability in the state of Texas."

Reyes recalls that before NCLB, there was no accountability being taken by teachers and schools were not held responsible for the students they were producing, thus resulting in subpar graduates. At the time, a prevailing idea, known as the Cultural Deficit theory, was popular among educators.

"Essentially, the Cultural Deficit theory stated that if students were doing badly in school it was because they were poor or it was because of their culture," she said. "Their culture probably didn't value education so that's the reason they didn't do well in school. What that did was that kind of remove any kind of responsibility from school or teachers to effectively teach large groups of student populations in our public school systems. So that you had high school

graduates in the '70s, before NCLB, that were graduating from high school that were functionally illiterate."

With four children of her own, Reyes has

majority of jocks, for example, are politicians' children, receive a lot of attention, where sometimes you have other large groups of students that need attention."

She believes NCLB has done a lot to correct this problem.

"One thing that NCLB did is require states to improve schools and education of all children," she explained. "NCLB had very lofty goals, i.e. to

such as UTPA junior Elyssa de Leon, can provide first-hand experience that suggests this type of system is not completely effective in educating children.

"In school, they focus so much on learning one thing for these tests and when we come to college we don't know a lot of things we should know because we're so focused on testing," said de Leon, an interdisciplinary major and special education minor.

"There's so much we don't know when we come here because the schools were so focused on the testing and didn't teach us much outside of that."

It is examples such as de

there. So sometimes you don't really learn anything."

The waivers states can apply for to be exempt from these testing standards have the potential to correct these issues. States can be excused from having to meet the 2014 deadline as long as they prove they are providing "college and career-focused" education to their students, which is seen as a more helpful form of curriculum by some students.

"When you're out of middle school and out of high school you can be lost when you go to college if you don't know anything outside of what they taught you," Salas said. "Especially if you're the first one in your family to go to college, which happens a lot in the Valley. Not everyone has parents that went to college. So they don't know what

1994

The Improving America's Schools Act (IASA) is signed into law.

It includes provisions for public charter schools, drop-out prevention, and education technology.

1998

The Higher Education Act I is reauthorized.

It requires institutions and states to produce "report cards" about teacher education.

2001

No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) signed into law.

It mandates high-stakes student testing and holds schools accountable for student achievement levels.

2011

No Child Left Behind Act II
President Barack Obama announces on Sept. 23 that the U.S. Department of Education is inviting each state educational agency to request flexibility regarding some requirements of the NCLB.

seen

what pre-NCLB education can do to students. She was fortunate enough to have educators pay attention to her children, but others weren't as lucky.

"There were large groups of students at the school who were not doing well or who came from poor families or came from working class families that were not college educated," she recalled. "They were essentially being ignored. Many of the students that I have that are

educate

as many children as possible in our public school system. I remember what it was like when only certain students got all the attention and all the help. And it was usually the students that didn't need it. And so one thing that NCLB did do is bring attention to all those kids that might need a little help."

DOWNSIDE

But while Reyes believes there are many good attributes to the act, she also knows it is not without drawbacks. With the implementation of standardized testing to measure student progress, NCLB unwittingly narrowed the curriculum for many schools and limited students to "basic" knowledge.

"Standardized tests are easy to implement, they're cheap to implement, so what started happening is that this legislation left it up to the states to define when a student met basic proficiency. Passing those state tests does not prepare students to do well in the workplace. They do not prepare students to do well at the college level. It was just basic proficiency," she said.

Students who have been through this type of test-focused education,

Leon's that concern Reyes.

"Schools, especially here in the Rio Grande Valley, started spending a lot of time, a lot of energy, a lot of resources in having students pass this test," she said. "So that many times students had superficial knowledge and maybe were able to pass the basic proficiency test, but that did not ensure that they were going to be prepared to do well once they graduated from high school or once they went to a college or university."

Many educators regard the standards set by NCLB as "bare minimum" and superficial, and students, such as UTPA senior Bruce Salas, felt the effects of this limited curriculum when he was in middle school and high school.

"In some AP (advanced placement) classes, yes it's hard, and some teachers will really work you," said Salas, an interdisciplinary major with emphasis in bilingual studies. "But in some classes, you literally just sit there. In regular classes you just color and sit

Karen Villarreal/THE PAN AMERICAN

to expect, you don't know, so it would be helpful if we were more prepared for life after high school."

However, even with student and teacher feedback outlining some of the negative attributes of NCLB, Reyes is still confident in what it has done and what it can continue to do.

"We went away from this Cultural Deficit theory and we went to putting the responsibility, the accountability, on the schools, on the districts, on the teachers," she said. "School districts and teachers are now principally responsible for how teachers perform. We didn't have that before. And now I see many changes, many proposed changes that are probably coming to Texas that I believe would also move the profession, so that we are constantly improving. And we must improve."

"This basic proficiency test started driving the school curriculum in many school districts. So it kind of narrowed the curriculum."

Maria Reyes
Professor, College of Education

student-teachers tell me that many of these practices can still be found in some of the schools where the

The Green Dream

Senior electrical engineers pave road for environmental means of transportation

By Catherine Ryan
THE PAN AMERICAN

Three electrical engineering majors are attempting to build the first solar-powered car in South Texas as part of their senior design project. Joel Cuellar from La Joya decided to team up with two of his senior electrical engineering peers, Luis Gonzalez and Abraham Herrera, both from Edinburg, to complete the project. It explores the idea of using the local sun for energy.

"This is the new generation of energy – wind, sun and water," Cuellar said.

The idea came to the students when Stephen Crown, a mechanical engineering professor at the University and Tex-Prep coordinator, urged Cuellar to design a car for visiting sponsors.

Tex-Prep is a state outreach program for middle and high school kids in the mid-Valley. It serves 350 students every year, pairing younger ones with UTPA student mentors; during this summer they spent a week encouraging students to study engineering. "My hope was hey, let's get a couple of these projects that we have done with the kids during the summer and coordinate senior design groups working on those projects," said Crown, who has been working with the Tex-Prep program for 12 years, four as director.

Once they heard people from the program were going to see

the engineering design project, the trio worked nonstop for three days to complete the functioning prototype only to find out the sponsors were not coming to see it for unknown reasons.

"Basically what Dr. Crown told me was that the people that are sponsoring us are coming in three days. Make me a car," Cuellar said. "I finished and he told me they aren't coming."

However, Cuellar wasn't dismayed. The three builders continued to work on the project into the fall semester despite it being more of a mechanical engineering project. "We are going to do some engineering magic," Gonzalez recalled saying.

UNDER THE HOOD

The process of building the car is currently in its first step, the prototype stage, and though there is a basic layout of what they plan to do, by phase three, the students say the car will have a completely new look.

Currently the body is composed of plywood sheets nailed together, with a light metal frame holding the vehicle to its four wheels; two in the front that move together as a dually system and two in the back for stability. The two \$400 solar panels have been added to the back like a spoiler, and there is a back-up battery for days when the sun is not out. The car weighs less than 100 pounds. Each 3 x 5-foot, 8-pound solar panel absorbs and converts 15 percent of the

sun's energy. Currently the car has only been fixed with two panels. However, the group plans to complete scrap the existing vehicle and are currently pulling ideas together for the next three weeks researching and testing the designs. The biggest roadblocks they are facing are the suspensions and the gear rotations due to their mechanical nature.

In the first week of November they will begin building the exoskeleton of the cars square tubing frame.

"The next step we are taking is building everything from scratch from the ground up. We are seeing where we are going to have our storage compartment, like our batteries, our fuse box; all that stuff and where we are going to be putting it. After we get all those dimensions

then we can start making the design," Cuellar explained.

For their senior design class, the final frame needs to be complete with working parts in the first week of December. It will pass through rigorous inspections from various engineering faculty. The students will then have

to present the project to faculty

and demonstrate that the car works.

Next spring they will retrofit the frame with a Teflon plastic body and add the final touches like neon lights on the underside of the car, LED lights, and blinkers. Likewise they hope to create the solar station, which will be three set panels attached to a converter that will charge the cars main battery power source. The two panels attached to the car will act as a reserve power source. The final car will weigh 200 to 250 lbs with all attachments and panels.

Even though the university will assess the group's overall project in May, they hope to have it completed in March 2011 so they can begin visiting local high

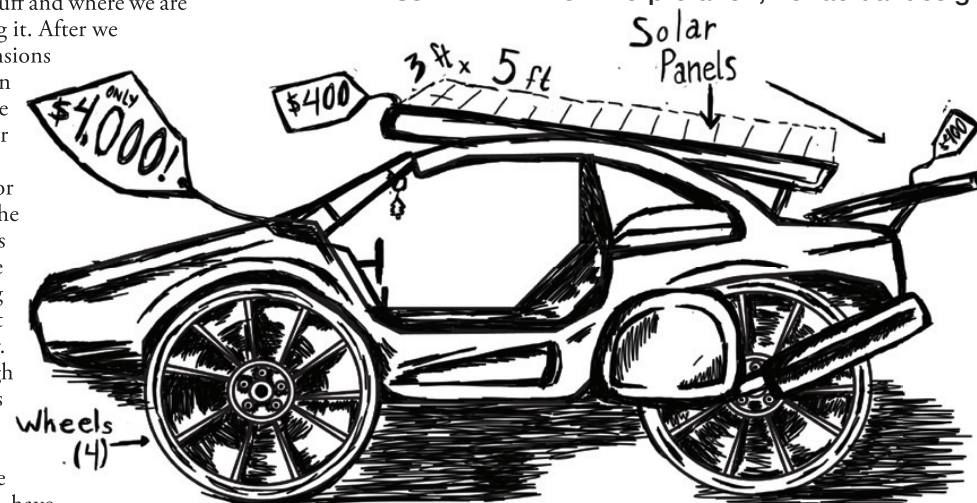
schools and encourage more kids to go into science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields.

In the future, Crown and the group hope to also fit some of the golf carts on campus with the panels, to demonstrate the car to people who visit the University.

Banatoski sees the project as not just a milestone for UTPA, but also a progressive step for the nation.

"It is important in terms of the efficient use of energy for the nation really, and it is especially important for the Valley because we do have the energy that we can readily use, the solar energy," he said.

DISCLAIMER: Artist Interpretation, not actual design.



Karen Villarreal/THE PAN AMERICAN

Sorority promotes HPV vaccination awareness

Sisters educate Valley mothers and daughters on sexual health

By Daniella Diaz
THE PAN AMERICAN

UTPA's Kappa Delta Chi sorority recently partnered with UT Health Science Center in San Antonio and Texas A&M's *promotoras* to create a new program for the Rio Grande Valley called *Entre Madre e Hija*.

The program, whose name means Between Mother and Daughter, is a cervical cancer peer education program for Latina mothers and daughters to teach them about sexual health and the available HPV vaccine. Members of Kappa Delta Chi work as peer educators for the program, with sessions taking place in community centers located in San Carlos, Alton and Brownsville.

According to a sexual health statistics report conducted by ethnomed.org, Latina women have a 50 percent higher mortality rate from cervical cancer than

non-Hispanic Whites. Almost all cases of cervical cancer are caused by the sexually transmitted disease Human papillomavirus (HPV). The HPV vaccine is designed to attack the HPV strains that most commonly cause cervical cancer.

The *promotoras*, or promoters, look for Latina women whose daughters have never had the HPV vaccine. They are women who are local residents trained to help local citizens in areas involving housing, education, workforce development, health, and other programs. Their goal is to enroll about 1,800 mother-daughter pairs to attend health education sessions. The program aims to determine whether the education sessions increase knowledge in Latina women and children about cervical cancer risk factors, screening guidelines and the HPV vaccine.

Three *promotoras* and 10 student peer educators are involved in putting this program together. The *promotoras* are

responsible for educating mothers while the peer educators work with daughters.

Edinburg native Micaela Flores is a UTPA senior mass communication major and the president and service officer for the sorority. Along with her sorority sisters, Flores has participated in three sessions in the past month focusing on teaching the daughters about reproductive health.

"What we're here to do is not to tell the daughters that they are going to register to get the vaccine. We're not here to ask them if they're sexually active," Flores explained. "All we're here for is to bring awareness about the statistics because Hispanic females are greatly affected by cervical cancer, with STD's, with STI's and teenage pregnancy."

According to the Child Trends Data Bank website, in 2009 the birth rate per 1,000 females ages 15 to 19 among Hispanics was higher than rates

among non-Hispanic teens. This is why Kappa Delta Chi focuses on educating the daughters.

"The biggest reason why we separate the mothers from the daughters is for confidentiality," Flores said. "The daughters don't want the mothers to know if they're sexually active, if they are

wondering (about sexual questions) and if they are experimenting... separating them helps them feel more comfortable."

HOW IT WORKS

The three-hour session begins with an icebreaker and interactive handouts and puzzles to allow a more hands-on education for the daughters participating. Kappa Delta Chi works personally with them to help them feel more comfortable.

"When we got trained for these sessions, we were told to teach the girls in a sort of lecture style," Flores said. "Instead, we sit with the girls, we sit in between them, we sit in front of them, we draw with them... the more that they see that we're just like them, the more that they open up."

Kappa Delta Chi Council Delegate Marissa Passons is a junior at UTPA and part of the early medical acceptance program with the UT medical branch in Galveston. She is one of the peer educators working in the program.

"We like going out there and educating the girls about how to prevent (contracting) HPV... it's a really great experience for all of us and personally, I really enjoy it a lot," said Passons.

Entre Madre e Hija will last for two years in the Rio Grande Valley, ending in February 2013. After the sessions are over, the *promotoras* will determine the effectiveness of the project by testing mother-daughter pairs about their sexual health knowledge and decisions they plan to make in the future.



"All we're here for is to bring awareness about the statistics because Hispanic females are greatly affected by cervical cancer, with STD's, with STI's and teenage pregnancy."

Micaela Flores
President of hKappa Delta Chi

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FINE ARTS AUDITORIUM, 7:30 p.m.

**Doors will open at 7 p.m. for UTPA students,
faculty and staff with a valid UTPA ID.**

**Doors will open to general public at 7:20 p.m.
FREE ADMISSION. SEATING IS LIMITED.**



For more information or if special accommodations are needed, call (956) 665-7989.

AJ Munguia is a

By Sandy Davis
THE PAN AMERICAN

AJ Munguia is a confident and outgoing UTPA student at the University who, at a slender 6-foot-4, stands out in a crowd. Sitting in a coffee bar in Mission, Munguia describes his love for music and how blessed he feels for the opportunity to make his dreams come true.

Like nearly 4,000 other young adults from around the world, Munguia has submitted a video application to "The Glee Project," a reality audition show, and he might get a guest spot on the Fox musical sitcom "Glee." Munguia's audition ranks among the 20 top-rated video submissions.

"I told myself, 'If they ever do another (season of 'The Glee Project'), I am going to go for it,'" Munguia said as he grinned and took a sip of a frozen latte. "Here it is, and this is my chance."

The videos on "The Glee Project" audition page are "liked" by anyone who wants to vote. The top videos may have a higher chance of a callback, Munguia said. According to the show's official webpage, "Glee" hopefuls must submit an online video application, attend a live audition, or both to be considered.

Munguia, a Palmview native and business management major, has been a fan of "Glee" since season one, and was excited when "The Glee Project" aired. He explained that the project is a show on the Oxygen network where contestants vie for the "amazing opportunity" to guest star on "Glee." The sitcom is a "dramedy," a mix

of drama and comedy, about a high school glee club and its members. The show has become famous for its musical numbers performed by cast members in every episode.

"I love musical theater," he said. "When I first saw 'Glee,' I thought, 'This is the show for me, this is what I want to do.' The opportunity to audition is just amazing."

In the video submission, Munguia explained why he thinks he would be a good choice, what the hardest obstacle to overcome in his life has been, and created a character he would like to play. Then he sang one of the songs given on the project's list of choices, "Ordinary People" by John Legend.

Munguia explained that not only would he be a good addition to "Glee" because "it's everything he ever wanted," but doing so would make positive changes in his life.

"Through song, I hope to inspire people to try and aim for happiness," he said in the video.

Munguia created two characters he would like to play, one named Jake, a yell leader who would become part of a love triangle, and the other named Santiago, a fictional brother to an established character on the show.

Munguia has always loved music and has been involved in one way or another for most of his life. When he was 11, Munguia first took the stage by joining a choir group at his church.

"I've known him for ten years. He's a funny and charismatic kid," said Nora

Villarreal, the choir director at the Faith Fellowship Bible Church in Penitas. "He is very committed when he sets his mind to something, very dedicated."

In August, Munguia started a band, Open Door, with close friend and cousin Cassandra Flores.

"He (Munguia) really gets into it," Flores said. "He picks the songs, and we memorize them."

The songs they cover range from The Jonas Brothers' "Love Bug" to Nicki Minaj's "Super Bass," but they would like to start writing original music.

"We named the band Open Door because God opens doors," said Munguia of the band name. "I just feel I've been really blessed, and I want to give back."

Flores went on to say that she feels her cousin has a good shot at making it onto "The Glee Project."

"He's really talented," she said. "He can be nervous at first, but then he gets over it."

Open Door entered the Valley's Got Talent contest hosted by the Border Theater in Mission Aug. 16. Valley's Got Talent is an organization that aims to showcase local musicians.

There are

multiple rounds in which contestants are eliminated by audience vote, and Open Door has advanced past two round.

For now, Munguia will be lighting up stages in the Valley. Open Door will play at the Border Theater Oct. 21 for the third round in The Valleys Got Talent contest. He is also planning on singing at the University's karaoke competition in the Student Union Oct. 27.

Munguia may be juggling a lot with school, two jobs, and a band, but he says it doesn't overwhelm him.

"I feel like everything is where it should be right now, very balanced," he said.

He also has the chance to audition for "The Glee Project" in person and plans to be at the open casting call in Nashville, Tenn., once the date is announced.

"Everyone is given an opportunity," he said, repeating his personal motto. "It's up to you to take it."



To view Munguia's audition, visit:
www.thegleeprojectcasting.com

glee X



Design & Photo by:
Erick Gonzalez
Reynaldo Leal

Homenaje a los antepasados

Día de los Muertos

Por Krizia Velez
THE PAN AMERICAN

El 15 de octubre se llevó a cabo el evento anual del Día de los Muertos en el Museo de Historia del Sur de Texas. El evento fue organizado por la directora de eventos especiales del museo, Melissa Tijerina.

“El Día de los Muertos comenzó como una celebración de los muertos en el México prehispánico,” Tijerina dijo. “Transformado a lo largo de los siglos, la festividad contemporánea ofrece un tiempo a las familias mexicanas para recordar a sus muertos y celebrar el ciclo de la vida.”

El evento consistió de varias actividades para niños como flores de papel, especialmente la flor de compasúchil y calaveras de azúcar pintadas.

“El Día de los Muertos brinda la oportunidad de conmemorar a nuestros antepasados y seres queridos,” Tijerina dijo. “Para recordar nuestras tradiciones y para conectarse con otros en la comunidad de una manera significativa, así como también se conmemora a todos los santos el día

primero de noviembre.”

Hubo una presentación por la profesora de la historia del arte de la Universidad, Marina Salinas, quien habló sobre la tradición y religión del Día de los Muertos en el Noreste de México.

Los que pudieron asistir el evento tuvieron la oportunidad de disfrutar de la obra “La Vida y Tiempos de Juanito González,” actuada profesionalmente por Pedro García.

La Universidad asistió con el ballet contemporáneo de México, bajo la dirección de Francisco Muñoz, en donde se hizo presente el Estado de México de la República Mexicana con los bailables de la antigua tribu de los Mazahuas.

El equipo del baile folklórico del Parque y Recreación de Edinburg interpretó las danzas que se estila en la Perla Hidalguense y la danza de los Viejitos.

Trece altares de muertos, una exhibición de arte por la profesora Marina Salinas, y la Virgen de Guadalupe, pintada por Fomento Cultural, estuvieron en exposición

todo el día. El evento contó con demostraciones de tradicional y comida exquisita. También tenían en venta artesanías mexicanas, catrinas, joyas y dulces mexicanos.

Aproximadamente 1,500 personas del Valle y el Norte de México asistieron al evento.

“La fiesta tiene una historia compleja y su observancia varía según la región,” Tijerina dijo. “Sin embargo, el evento no es una ocasión morbosa, sinó, mas bien, un momento festivo.”

Cabe mencionar que el 16 de octubre Álvaro Rodríguez, nativo de McAllen, ofreció una película como complementó al evento del Día de los Muertos, así como también integra la serie de películas de La Epoca de Oro.



Jonathan Wilds/THE PAN AMERICAN

Medicina Alternativa

Trayendo sonrisas a los niños del Valle

Por Estefania Franklin
THE PAN AMERICAN

Soñar Despierto es una organización dedicada a transmitir a los niños hospitalizados la alegría de vivir a través de visitas continuas. Esta organización consiste en hacer

que los niños olviden su situación por unas horas. Los voluntarios son capacitados para otorgar una ayuda profesional a los niños más necesitados. Esta organización está formada aproximadamente por 45 personas aquí en la ciudad de Edinburg. Esta institución nació en Monterrey, N.L.,

MX., y ahora es una organización mundial. Al momento están en el progreso de convertirse en una organización estudiantil de UTPA. Lo único que la organización exige es un juguete de por entrada, asistir a las juntas, las ganas de querer apoyar vendiendo boletos cada que hay un

evento, e ir al hospital. Esta organización requiere de eventos para recaudar fondos. “Desde vender pastelitos, hasta eventos en antros. Ahorita estamos viendo la posibilidad de una conferencia,” Josie Barocio, presidenta de la organización de UTPA, dijo. “Por otra parte, en los hospitales hacemos circos, actos de mimos, bailes, etc.” Las juntas se llevan a cabo en el salón

1.202 dentro del edificio MAGC en la Universidad. Las visitas al hospital son cada dos sábados de 11 am a 2 pm, en el hospital Renaissance Children Hospital de Edinburg. El jueves pasado se llevó a cabo el primer evento de Soñar Despierto para recaudar fondos. Este evento tomo lugar en el bar NOXS, donde cada boleto costó cinco dólares para mayores de 21 años de edad, y 10 dólares para los menores de 21 pero mayores de 18 años. El dinero recaudado va directo a comprar los materiales para las idas al hospital. “Asistimos por primera vez al hospital Renaissance. Esta vez el tema era de un circo, llevamos diferentes puestos,” Barocio dijo. “Había burbujas, pared de globos (para aventar dardos), botargas, baile por parte del grupo SAMS, etc. El fin era que los niños estuvieran felices.”

Según Barocio, uno debe aspirar a ser parte de esta sociedad para aprender a ver la vida de una manera diferente. En este mundo tan rápido y moderno ay veces que no valoramos lo que tenemos.

“Aquí aprendemos a apreciar lo que tenemos y por otra parte recordamos lo divertido que es ser niño,” dijo Barocio.



“Aquí aprendemos más que nada a apreciar lo que tenemos. Por otra parte recordamos lo divertido que es ser niño.”

Josie Barocio
Presidente de Soñ

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Thursday, 10/27
Lunchtime Live: Scary Karaoke
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Cafe Area
Come enjoy some spooky tunes during your lunch break

Monday, 10/31
Spooky Strings Concert
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Commons Area
Sit back and enjoy the live music as UTPA's Symphony Orchestra plays your favorite Halloween songs.

Monday, 10/31
Costume Contest
12 p.m.
Cafe Area
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New season, new expectations

By Michael Saenz
THE PAN AMERICAN

With about two weeks until the first exhibition games for the men's and women's basketball teams, it's a great time to reflect and look forward to what is ahead for the 2011-2012 season. After less than stellar seasons by both squads a year ago, the men and women look to rebound in a big way.

MEN'S TEAM

The season ended for the Broncos on the Utah Valley campus in a heartbreaking 71-70 quarterfinals loss in the Great West Conference tournament to North Dakota. Seven months later, UTPA is set to get back to work for this year's journey.

Entering his third year, coach Ryan Marks has accumulated 12 wins in 52 games, but it is awfully difficult to turn a program around in just two seasons, especially if you lost a whole year of recruiting due to being a late hire. This season is important going forward, not only for the program, but for the University of Southern California alum as well.

The Broncos return with seven players from last year's squad and one who red-shirted a year ago. Three of the top four scorers are among the seven and bring experience to the ball club. During the 2010-2011 campaign, the 6-25 Broncos really struggled on the road, where they posted a winless record (0-14). The team also had to endure a 15-game losing streak that lasted nearly two months. Going 5-9

at home wasn't ideal. However, they did have a bright moment when they nearly knocked off Northwestern (20-14) of the Big Ten, falling short 77-71 in the Field House in November.

After losing 25 games last year, the Broncos are going to need to improve in many statistical categories. One, however, that doesn't show up in the stat sheet but is just as important is chemistry, and Marks knows how pivotal it is to build.

"It's critical to get all the guys on the same page," he said. "The good thing is we got a lot of perimeter players with a lot of experience in Aaron Urbanus, Jared Maree, Nick Weiermiller and Brandon Provost. And when you have backcourt guys with a lot of experience it really helps the other guys get orchestrated and into the flow of things sooner, so we're optimistic about that."

UTPA ranked last in the Great West Conference in scoring offense, only averaging 67.8 points per game, and last in field goal percentage defense (.483) as well. On the bright side, the Broncos led the league in three-point field goals made (99) and shot the trifecta at 42 percent,

also a GWC high. The Broncos' average losing margin was seven points during the season. It may not seem that bad, but North Dakota, which won the Great West Conference last year, averaged a win by nearly 10 points in the league.

Two key returning players for the Broncos are junior guards Provost and Urbanus. They were both the second leading scorers at 12.5 points per game, and both shot the three-ball more than 40 percent and swished home more than 70 field goals apiece. Provost was named to the Great West Conference All-Conference second team and the All-Newcomer team. Among those who did leave the team was senior Matt Mierzycki, who paced the team in rebounding with about six per game. The Broncos will need other players to step up in controlling the boards because the next leading rebounder on deck is junior Ruben Cabrera, who averaged 3.8 per game.

On the other side of things, the Bronc opponents aren't going to get any weaker. Defending champions Utah Valley returns eight players from last year's squad, including four starters.

The Wolverines (11-1 GWC) also



Reynaldo Leal/THE PAN AMERICAN

BACK FOR MORE - Junior guard Brandon Provost returns for another season with the Broncos. He made the All-Conference Second Team and All-Newcomer Team last year.



Reynaldo Leal/THE PAN AMERICAN

SAVVY VETERAN - Donna Jackson is one of five returning seniors for the Broncos. She averaged 9.2 points per game and 6.7 rebounds in 2010-2011.

| # | MEN'S | | Academic Year | Pts. Avg. PPG | Rebounds REB | Assists A |
|----|--------------------|---------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| | Full Name | Pos. | | | | |
| 0 | Brandon Provost | Guard | Jr | 12.5 | 3.2 | 1.9 |
| 3 | Aaron Urbanus | Guard | Jr | 12.5 | 2.2 | 2.4 |
| 4 | Josh Sanchez | Guard | Fr | 14.4 (HS) | 2.0 (HS) | 1.8 (HS) |
| 5 | Jaymeson Moten | Guard | Fr | 12.0 (HS) | -- | 6.0 (HS) |
| 10 | Kieondre Arkwright | Guard | Sr | 3.1 | 0.7 | 0.6 |
| 11 | Jared Maree | Guard | Sr | 8.3 | 3.0 | 1.1 |
| 12 | Nick Weiermiller | Guard | Sr | 8.4 (09-10) | 2.2 (09-10) | 3.5 (09-10) |
| 13 | Ruben Cabrera | Forward | Jr | 6.7 | 3.8 | 0.4 |
| 15 | Enique Mason | Center | So | 3.3 | 2.6 | 0.2 |
| 20 | Earl Jefferson | Forward | Jr | 13.6 (JC) | 5.7 (JC) | -- |
| 21 | Julio Oyervides | Guard | So | 6.2 (HS) | 2.4 (HS) | 1.7 (HS) |
| 23 | Jesus M. Delgado | Guard | Jr | 16.0 (JC) | 3.6 (JC) | 2.3 (JC) |
| 25 | Josh Cleveland | Forward | So | 3.0 | 1.6 | 0.4 |
| 32 | Michael Yahnke | Forward | Fr | 21.5 (HS) | 10.9 (HS) | -- |
| 33 | Neo Sanchez | Guard | Jr | 26.0 (HS) | 6.3 (HS) | 2.5 (HS) |

bring back GWC Player of the Year and Newcomer of the Year Isiah Williams, who received All-American honorable mention honors from the Associated Press.

But before the difficulty that conference play will bring in January, the nonconference part of the schedule will bring a far greater challenge for the 2011-2012 Broncs. They will host 15 home games this season plus an exhibition at home against Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon. The Broncs will travel to DePaul University to open up the regular season Nov. 11 and will have a rematch with Northwestern two days later. They will face the defending Big Ten champions and Sweet 16 squad Ohio State in early December on the road, followed by a trip to St. John's University Dec 21. This will be the most home games that UTPA has had in quite some time, and Marks believes that the difficult non-conference schedule will help the team going forward into conference play.

The men's team will host the Nuevo Leon team Nov. 5 in an exhibition game to prep for the season opener at DePaul

WOMEN'S TEAM

Like the men, the women's season ended on the campus of Utah Valley in the quarterfinals of the Great West

Conference. But their loss came in a blowout against the tournament host Wolverines.

The women's team did something that the men's group has yet to do the past two years, win more than six games in a season. The Broncs finished with a 12-19 record and an impressive 9-3 mark at home. UTPA didn't have much of a problem while in the Field House the real struggle came when on the road. A key component on how well this season will go is if the Broncs can figure out how to improve the 3-14 mark away from home.

The bright moment for the Broncs as a team was when they opened the season with four straight wins, but like the men, the women had to endure a difficult time. They dropped nine out of 10 games during the month of January. But then came record-breaking moments for a few Broncs players as the season continued to unwind.

Much like last year, the Broncs will only have 11 home games and 16 on the road, but coach Denny Downing has been preaching confidence all offseason long.

"We got a lot of returners. We got five seniors, and we expect them to lead on the floor," Downing said. "It's one game at a time, but we like our talent and we're a little deeper than we were last year. We'll make progress."

Speaking about progress, it was made by a few of the key players on the team

including senior Ce'Monay Newell, who made the Great West Conference All-Newcomer team. Newell impressed with her sharp-shooting ability as she broke the UTPA single-season record for three-point field goals made with 108, finishing in third in the country. Her backcourt running mate and fellow senior, Erin Lewis, also broke a team record when she dished out 194 assists during the season. Add Valley native Bianca Torre, who made the All-Conference First Team a year ago after leading the Broncs in scoring with 16.9 points per game, and there is a pretty solid nucleus. Six other players return to the team from a year ago, and two junior college transfers, making for a very experienced squad.

Perhaps the biggest discrepancy in the stat sheet from a year ago between UTPA and opponents was the rebounding battle, in which the women were down 8.7 a game. Couple that along with allowing the opponent to shoot 43 percent and you have a problem, especially if you only shoot it at 38 percent, which UTPA did a year ago. Perhaps part of that is fatigue down the stretch in games. One way to solve that is better conditioning, Which Downing definitely wants to see before the season starts.

"We want to get everybody in shape and see where we're at and go from there," he said.

As one of the most experienced team in the conference, much is expected out of the women, but it will not come easy. The Broncs have a difficult schedule that tips off with a bang when they face the Miami Nov. 11. They will also have the difficult task of facing the Nebraska and Oklahoma State of the Big 12 in December. Even with a tough nonconference schedule, the Broncs can't let up against Great West opponents, especially against a team like Chicago State (11-1 in the conference a year ago). The defending conference champs only bring back four players, two of them starters, but you can bet they will have some say about who wins the league.

Only time will tell if the UTPA will take the challenge and take the next step in the Great West Conference. Until then, practice is center stage. Before UTPA visits the Hurricanes of Miami, it hosts an exhibition game against Texas A&M Kingsville Nov. 4.



Reynaldo Leal/THE PAN AMERICAN

NEW BRONC - Freshman Jaymeson Moten was a two-sport state champion at New London-Spicer High School (Minn.) and a McDonald's All-America nominee.



Reynaldo Leal/THE PAN AMERICAN

D-FENCE - Senior guard Erin Lewis works on her defense during a morning practice at the UTPA Field House. Last year she broke the school single-season assist record with 194.

| WOMEN'S | | | Academic | Pts. Avg. | Rebounds | Assists |
|---------|-------------------|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| # | Full Name | Pos. | Year | PPG | REB | A |
| 1 | Jasmine Thompson | Guard | Fr | 22.0 (HS) | 9.0 (HS) | -- |
| 3 | Ce'Monay Newell | Guard | Sr | 14.3 | 2.6 | 0.6 |
| 4 | Jhondra Patterson | Guard | Jr | 14.9 (JC) | 6.9 (JC) | -- |
| 5 | TaQuiyyah Boyles | Guard | Fr | 19.0 (HS) | 11.0 (HS) | -- |
| 10 | Bianca Torre | Guard | Jr | 16.9 | 3.0 | 3.5 |
| 11 | Ashley Watson | Forward | Sr | 2.0 | 1.7 | 0.1 |
| 12 | Franchesca Simon | Guard | Jr | 9.5 | 2.5 | 3.0 |
| 15 | Erin Lewis | Guard | Sr | 5.2 | 4.1 | 6.3 |
| 20 | Laura Torres | Guard | R-Fr | 22.0 (HS) | 6.8 (HS) | 4.1 (HS) |
| 21 | Cassandra Moody | Forward | Jr | 11.9 (JC) | 10.8 (JC) | 1.0 (JC) |
| 22 | Adanna Opara | Forward | Sr | 7.4 | 6.4 | 0.4 |
| 23 | LaQuita Garner | Guard | So | 2.3 | 12.2 | 0.5 |
| 24 | Donna Jackson | Forward | Sr | 9.2 | 6.7 | 1.0 |
| 32 | Keandra Goodson | Forward | Jr | 15.6 (JC) | 7.5 (JC) | 1.1 (JC) |
| 33 | Jasmine Gordon | Forward | Jr | 1.5 | 1.2 | 0.1 |



Adrian Castillo/THE PAN AMERICAN

Midnight Madness



Adrian Castillo/THE PAN AMERICAN



Adrian Castillo/THE PAN AMERICAN



Alma E. Hernandez/THE PAN AMERICAN



Alma E. Hernandez/THE PAN AMERICAN

Friday, Oct. 14, marked UTPA's annual kickoff to basketball season with Midnight Madness.

At 6 p.m. the tailgate party began which included events like a pie-eating contest, live music and the lighting of the letters. At 9 p.m. the crowd moved in to the Field House where the men's and women's basketball teams were introduced to UTPA's community. Other activities included a slam-dunk contest, a dance competition between student organizations, and an intrasquad scrimmage.

Visit the multimedia page at panamericanonline.com for more photos and a video.

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