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Youth in the Booth

Understanding voter registration and the Electoral College

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Survivor



Valleyite describes her battle with breast cancer

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Non-contact sport gaining popularity around campus

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The Breakdown

Feature stories on several student organizations

Online

panamericanonline.com



Los Bar-B-Crudos

Local Bar-B-Cue team competes in Second Annual Bar-B-Cure for Cancer Cook-off



RECORD-BREAKING CROWDS

FOLLOWING A FIVE-GAME WINNING STREAK, VOLLEYBALL EXPECTED TO DRAW AUDIENCE

By Norma Gonzalez
The Pan American

The University's volleyball program has recently been placed in the spotlight, and with good reason. Not only are the Broncs on a five-game winning streak, the first since 2003, but if 656 people attend what could be a nail-biter against Utah Valley tonight, the 17-year-old program record for attendance in a single season will fall.

In an attempt to draw bigger crowds, the entire season will continue to be free in regard to admission for anyone wishing to support the Broncs. The home opener against Texas A&M- Corpus Christi Aug. 28 brought in over 1,200 people. The following two home games attracted more than 1,400 attendees combined.

"I think it's really attributed more to our coaches and athletes, as well as the student body," Athletic Director Chris King said. "The majority of the fans that are coming out are part of the

student body."

President Robert Nelsen and the University administration have stressed that there is student life on campus, King explains. Students have the opportunity to partake in many events and organizations.

"I don't think it's just any one thing, I think it's a culmination of a lot of efforts and a lot of people and the students really buying into athletics and the direction we're going," he added.

The large crowds are something even other Athletic Directors and universities are noticing. It's something King, who became AD in 2009, is proud of.

"It's really, really neat to watch going from here up to here," said the former University of Alabama AD about attendance, demonstrating the difference with a foot separating his right hand from his left. "I go



Krysta Freitas
Outside hitter

in there after five minutes into the match, take a photo and tweet it.

There's a lot of people, a lot of ADs, that tweet me back or text me back: 'How are you getting a thousand people to a volleyball match?'"

Continued on Page 7



Karen Antonacci
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

HAS MATH GONE POLITICAL?

Accusations of skewed presidential polls fly in election years

Kerry. So what is happening here? Why have both sides, at different points in recent history, called polls into question?

Basically, polls like Gallup are being accused of stuffing the box with too many respondents from the other side of the aisle.

They work by randomly generating phone numbers and asking adults living in the Unit-

ed States the same set of questions. Then the responses are weighted to reflect the country's actual population. Responses are set to the same proportions as the most recent U.S. Census data – the same ration of men

to women, young to old, etc. The beef from both political camps comes from the fact that Gallup doesn't weight political affiliation. They don't re-proportion the responses to reflect the number of Dems to Repubs in the country, that is.

But as Gallup Editor-in-Chief Frank Newport pointed out on NPR, why should they?

Party affiliation is much more fluid than say, age or origin. Plus, people rarely affiliate with one party and vote for another's candidate, so the question "Who are you planning on voting for?" already covers party affiliation, in a way.

Can math be used as an insidious tool to mislead the public and negatively skew history? Oh, absolutely. Is this the case with the Gallup poll? Nope. The lesson? Pundits and political sore losers will always call shenanigans when polls don't go their way. But a closer look at the math reveals that it is, indeed sound.

Why have both sides, at different points in recent history, called polls into question?

Political polls don't just test the waters - often they can tip the scales. If a candidate is behind, they are likely to keep falling behind, since nobody wants to pick a loser.

The most recent Gallup poll put President Obama anywhere from three to nine percent ahead of Gov. Romney (50 percent to 44 percent, with a margin of error of three percent.)

Bologna, say Republicans. "There are a few instances where I see the polls as being very skewed to the extreme, and in that case I think they're either incompetent at putting together a proper sample, or in some instances they just may be biased," political blogger Dean Chambers told National Public Radio's David Flokenflik Tuesday.

However, eight years ago, the Left was criticizing polls that put Bush 2.0 ahead of John

Comic



Francisco Rodriguez/The Pan American

Letter 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 cannot publish anonymous letters or submissions containing hate speech or gratuitous personal attacks. Please send all letters to thepanamerican@gmail.com

Photo of the Week



Belen Diaz/The Pan American
Freshman Arturo Espinosa registers to vote for the presidential election for the first time on Oct. 3. There will be a registration table at the Student Union until Oct. 9 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Deputized UTPA staff members register students through Rock the Vote.



#UTPA
Tweet at us! @ThePanAmerican #PrintMe

Some guy at #utpa was stopped by the cops because he was dancing shirtless, and humping the window at the student union. yup...
- @popcorn_fart

October 9, next Tuesday is the deadline to register to vote in Texas!
#debate2012 #Rgv# UTPA
- @smiley2010

UTPA needs to work on getting a presidential debate down here. Maybe it'll motivate the valley to vote more.
#teamobama #Debates
- @ohyeahsamsam

REPUBLICANS AT UTPA QUESTION OFFICIAL'S MOTIVES

By Jose S. De Leon III
The Pan American

The Republicans at UTPA, a student organization, relayed a news release to most local media outlets on Sept. 13 denouncing Veronica Gonzales, the UTPA vice president for university advancement, claiming that she endorsed Robert "Bobby" Guerra for state representative of District 41.

Guerra ran for Gonzales' vacant seat after she retired from her position as state representative in July to accept a spot at UTPA. A special election was held to fill her seat and Guerra, an attorney and two-time chairman of the Hidalgo County Democratic Party, was the only candidate who applied for the position. He is filling Gonzales' seat until the end of the term in January, but is running in the November election against Republican candidate Miriam Martinez to keep his seat.

The Republicans at UTPA say that Gonzales publicly endorsed Guerra while representing UTPA at a July 19 legislative event in Mission. According to the release, Gonzales, a former attorney, was quoted as introducing Guerra as her "successor," despite the fact

that he hadn't been sworn in yet. However, Gonzales said that not only has she not made an endorsement of Guerra, but that she was misquoted by the Republicans at UTPA.

"In my official capacity as a vice president of UTPA, I am not allowed to endorse a candidate and I will not do so," she said.

Gonzales defined endorsing as signing a letter or forming an agreement with a candidate to allow the endorser to be used in the campaign, which she has not done.

She also stated that Guerra is a personal friend and a legal colleague for 20 years, a person she has a lot of respect for.

"He supported me each and every time that I ran for office and when he signed up to run, I was at the announcement (of his campaign) and we took a photo together."

According to Gonzales, when she introduced Guerra at the event, she said "...I believe, my successor...Bobby Guerra," rather than what the Republicans quoted.

The newest VP also stated that since she became a UTPA employee in July, she has not "pub-

licly" endorsed Guerra, nor has she issued a formal endorsement for him and has instead offered him support.

Elijah Casas, president of the Republicans at UTPA, said in the news release that Gonzales' expression of public support will "hurt all of the UTPA community by taking sides in a political campaign that directly affects

I have the right, like anyone else, to state my personal opinion about who I believe would best represent the District that I love and represented for eight years.

-Veronica Gonzales
University Advancement

our University."

For Alberto Lindsay, vice president of the organization, and Casas, Gonzales' involvement represents a problem on campus, where they say University professors already "push" their political ideas on students.

The officers have noticed political science professors "attacking"

a party in their lectures, which moved them to form the organization as an alternative for students whose political beliefs don't match those of their teachers.

Casas, a political science major, decided to not say any names, but he mentioned how according to him, many of his liberal political science professors always manage to "creep" their political beliefs against the Republican Party into material for the course.

Both have said that many professors have ridiculed the party and have gone as far as nicknaming them the "American Taliban," among other insults. Casas said that this bullying doesn't allow for students to explore alternative political ideas that differ from their professors.

"Students disagreeing with them might feel alienated because of what the professor is saying, and any uninformed student will go with the flow and trust the guy with the Ph.D.," Casas said.

Despite never seeing an example of professors preaching their political beliefs in class, political science professor Jerry Polinard said that he finds the idea of professors doing that to be inappropriate.

"I'm not surprised it happens in a field like political science," he said. "I think a professor is obligated to present all points of views to their students and not create an environment where students feel uncomfortable discussing ideas with their professors."

Regarding Gonzales, Casas said that even if she didn't sign a formal contract, he's troubled by the public support she shows toward his campaign.

"Even if she hasn't endorsed him publicly, she's still showing public support of him, which could make people think it's the same thing," he said. "It's a conflict of interest for her, especially since she and Guerra are good friends."

Gonzales said that although she understands the idea of prohibiting a University official supporting a candidate, she feels she still has the First Amendment right to support who she chooses.

"I have the right, like anyone else, to state my personal opinion about who I believe would best represent the District that I love and represented for eight years," she said. "I will work with all representatives, regardless of party affiliation, for the betterment of UTPA."

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TURN, OR SCROLL, TO PAGE...

College textbooks undergo transformation in Digital Age

By Karen Antonacci
The Pan American

Humberto Mata estimates that downloading textbooks from online file-hosting sites saved him approximately \$1,500 while he worked on his master's degree in engineering management at UTPA.

"The most expensive would've been calculus," said Mata, who graduated with a bachelor's and master's in 2005 and 2011, respectively. "I found the latest edition (online for free) in a good, clear format. It would've cost \$180 otherwise."

The free, but often illegal, file-hosting route is one choice that students today face when a professor makes it clear that a book will be required for a course. On the legal side, the choices are to buy or rent an electronic book, or buy, rent or bum a physical textbook from a friend.

Besides the obvious price difference, Mata said storing his textbooks as collections of ones and zeroes rather than ink and paper lightened his load.

"Books are super heavy," he said. "It's so much easier to just carry around a hard drive."

common around campus, especially among science majors.

"I think other students do it," he said. "If they have the means, that is if they are tech savvy... if you can do it with music, I'm pretty sure you can do it with books."

Mata said he understands why the expert and specific information in textbooks makes them expensive, but sees a distinction between what he did, and someone who wants to profit from the PDFs.

"I never have felt like 'Oh my God, I'm taking someone's money, I'm stealing something,'" he said. "I'm not selling. I'm not trying to make a profit. To sell it, or try to sell it, I mean I know they are both not legal, but somehow I think that's worse. Like it's bad if you go get drugs, but it's really bad if you go and are making a profit. To me, that's more illegal."

The International Association of Publishers disagrees, as the statement about piracy on its website reads, in part, "Whether unlawful copies are made with or without commercial interest, by commercial pirates or by private individuals, for publishers the damage can be the same. Any unlawful copy of their book or journal, in paper or electronic form, affects their business as much as the theft of the same work as a book in a shop."

According to legislation signed into effect by President Bill Clinton in 1998, the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, copyright holders who feel they have had their intellectual property infringed upon can either sue in civil court or prosecute in criminal court.

Dave Jackson, the director of the UTPA Master's in Business Administration program, said obtaining textbooks illegally may have a bad effect on the industry as a whole.

"It all comes back to cost. If people illegally acquire books, then it pushes up the price for everyone else," he said. "Just like at Walmart. If shoplifting goes up then a lot of things are going to go up. It doesn't just affect whoever stole it."

Jackson said he reminds his students repeatedly to acquire textbooks through legal means, even if it means buying an earlier, used edition.

"I encourage them to use one edition older. They will just have the responsibilities to check for differences," he said. "Sometimes the used edition or one edition earlier will be 20 percent of the cost, which is much better than trying to do something illegally."

Jackson, also the director for the Center of Border Economic Studies, said that texts in the College of Business Administration often surpass the \$200 mark so he emphasizes that students should focus on accessing the book, rather than buying.

"I tell them it's like life. In life you won't necessarily have everything you want, and (two stu-

dent) can come together and buy the book and compromise and study together," he said.

While the conflict seems as if it must come to a head in the near future, some companies have bypassed the traditional role of the cash-for-item model in media sales. Pandora.com, for example, streams music legally for free. Users in search of fewer ads between songs can opt for a paid membership or buy single songs that catch their fancy.

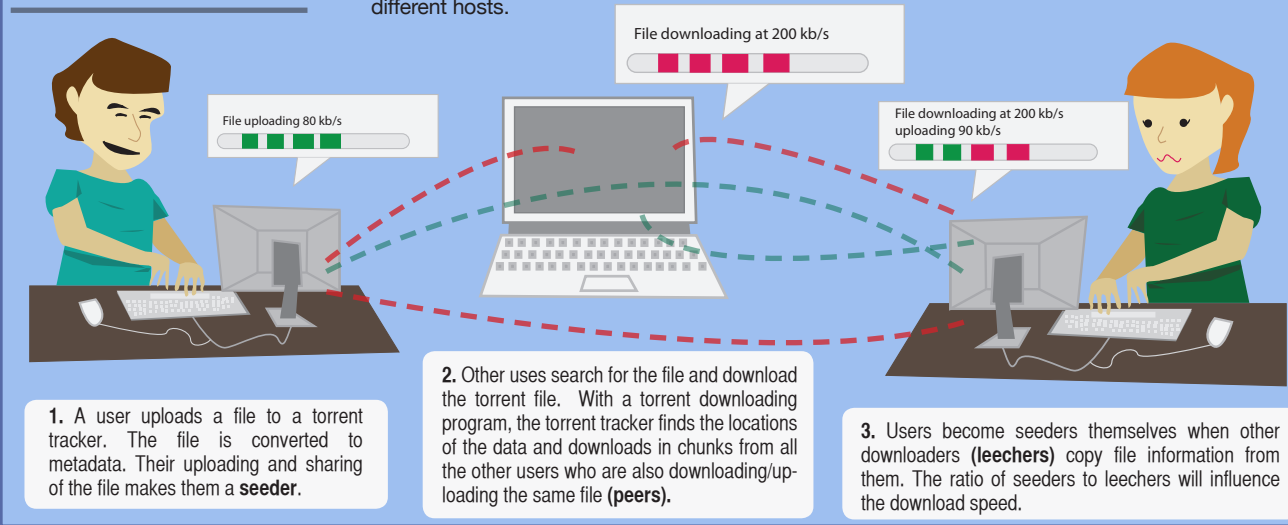
that catch their fancy.

"The only way to reduce pirating is to have something like Pandora - an application online. The text is there and you go to a website and read what you want for a fee," Mata said.

According to Jackson, that future might be close at hand, when tuition may cover access to an electronic book.

"We just launched a new accelerated online Master's of Business Administration," he said. "One thing we are adopting as far as possible is e-books, with available online access to the book immediately. The textbook world is changing... Maybe one day you go to the bookstore and buy a book on a thumbdrive or entirely online."

HOW DO TORRENTS WORK?



Karen Villarreal/The Pan American

HOW DOES FILE HOSTING WORK?

Non-searchable, online file storage service which provides users with a URL to the file.

1. A user uploads a file to a file host/data locker. They receive a URL.
2. They share the URL (usually on another website).
3. Other users follow the URL to the file locker where they can download pdf formats or stream video.

Mata used Portable Document Formats to access the tomes. PDF's were developed by Adobe Systems in 1993 and are the preferred way to share lengthy documents online, due to their ubiquity and the general inability of a viewer to edit the content. PDF's basically function as detailed, searchable photos of physical pages. Anyone with a reader program on their computer or mobile device can download an available PDF from a website with ease.

Although finding other students willing to speak on the record about acquiring textbooks illegally proved difficult, Mata said he believed the practice is

dents) can come together and buy the book and compromise and study together," he said.

AGE OF TRANSITION

In the Information Age, legislation such as DMCA generally tries to strike a compromise between consumers who feel companies should find a way to monetize easily shared media on the Internet, and media companies who fear quality will have to be sacrificed in the name of sharability and accessibility. Like may compromises, the 14-year-old DMCA is unsatisfactory to both sides. In January, a Stop Online Piracy Act made its way onto the floor of the U.S. House, only to be killed after several websites and online communities protest-

HOW DO E-BOOKS WORK?

An e-book is a digital version of a book. For e-textbooks, the cost is usually lower than the price of a printed textbook.

1. Publishing company releases a book in digital format.
2. Users pay for access to the file in most cases and sometimes a download link is provided. Otherwise, the user must return to the website to view the content. The E-book reader usually does not allow sharing of E-books with other people.

Electoral College: What's up with that?

How is the president of the United States elected?

1 First of all

There are **538 Votes** that determine who the **next president** of the U.S. will be



? Why 538?

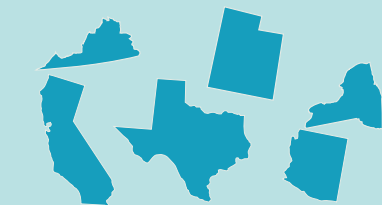
Well... there are:

Representatives	=	435
(distributed by population)	+	
Senators	=	100
(2 per state)	+	
District of Columbia	=	3
(not state or by population)		
		538

2

These **538 votes** are **divided** among the **states**

x 538

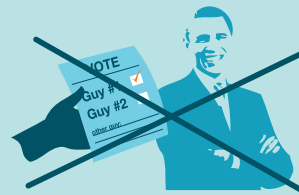


? How are they divided

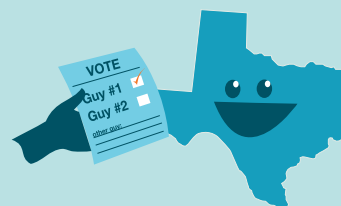
- Each state gets **3 votes**
- The **remaining votes** are given roughly in proportion to the **population of each state** (The more people the state has the more votes it gets)

3

When citizens go to the polls they **aren't** voting for a president



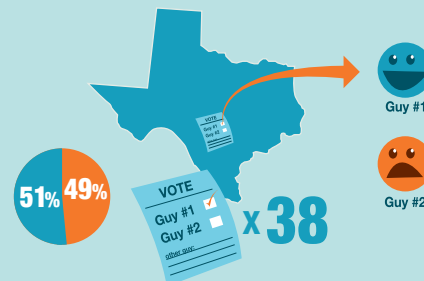
They are **telling their state** how they want it to use its **Electoral Votes**



But wait...

4

Give **ALL** of its **Electoral Votes** to the **candidate** that **wins** the **majority** in its **state**



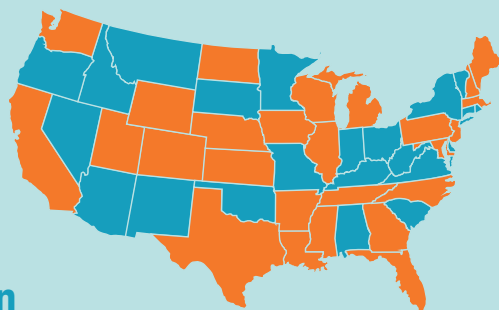
- 48 states use statewide elections
- Nebraska and Maine use congressional districts

5

Path to the White House:

Win enough **majorities** in enough **states** to get more than **half** of the **electoral votes**

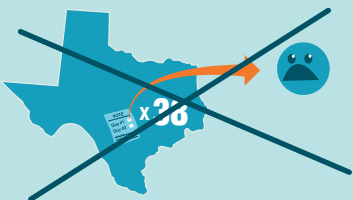
and the President is chosen



Design by: Erick Gonzalez

4.1

- The states don't really give their votes to a candidate



- The number of "votes" a state gets from the Electoral College is actually the number of "electors" each state is allowed to send to a collegiate meeting to vote on who the president will be

? What are electors?

they are:

- Representatives who are appointed by the political parties and choose the president on the citizens' behalf

They probably look like this guy:



(They most likely don't)



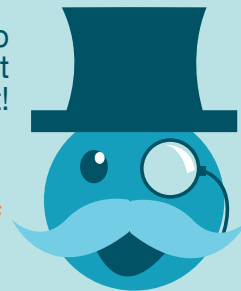
4.2

While these electors promise they will vote for the candidate as their state's citizens want them to:

They aren't required to do so

Electors are free to vote the way they want

I can do what I want!



- While this has never swung an election, electors have voted against the wishes of the people who elected them **87 times** in history.

? Why have a system where a small group of people are the ones who really decide on the president?

Because in the 1700s when the Electoral College was designed, the quickest way to send information was through paper and horses. The country was big and information moved slow. The idea was to send all electors to Washington where they could have the most up-to-date information to make decisions for the people back home who wouldn't know the latest news.

Sources:

<http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/faq.html>

<http://electoralcollegehistory.com>

Last day to register to vote is Oct. 9

Youth in the booth

By Daniella Diaz

Eliazet Guerra already knows whom she plans to vote for, but the problem is she isn't registered yet.

Between working, classes and homework, the graduate student hasn't had a chance to get registered. She spends her nights studying for the State Board of Examiners test, the exam that licenses speech pathologists, to complete a master's degree.

"It's been really hard to keep up with politics with all of my work," the 25-year-old said. "I don't know when I'll get registered, but I'm going to try."

Every four years the nation elects a president. It's a formulaic procedure that has been occurring in the United States for more than 200 years and is now up for the next cycle.

Out of 210 million U.S. citizens who are eligible to vote in a United States election, only 137 million are registered, according to the 2010 U.S. Census.

Issues such as student debt and landing a job after graduating are concerning young voters.

"I think voting is one of the most important things a person in this country can do," said Cheyenne Uvalle, a 22-year-old English major. "We do have a say. We do have the power to make a difference. It's just up to the individual to do it."

Between 21.6 million and 23.9 million Ameri-

cans in the 18-to-29 age group cast a ballot in 2008, accounting for 18 percent of all votes cast in the last election. The ballots in that age group were up from about 19.4 million in 2004, according to the Center for Information and Research of Civic Learning and Engagement.

THE REALITY

Organizations such as the non-partisan Advocacy Alliance Center in Texas and the Texas Freedom Network Education Fund have started initiatives to increase young voter turnout in November.

In the 2008 presidential election, the Rio Grande Valley had a 43 percent turnout, which is 17 percent lower than the state average, according to Eliza Alvarado, the AACT board president.

Alvarado, along with other members of AACT, is working to register new voters in Hidalgo, Starr, Cameron and Willacy county to increase this year's tally in the Valley to 65 percent.

"We are underrepresented continuously (in government)," Alvarado said. "We need crucial resources in the area that are tied to state and federal funding. In order to be heard, we need to turnout to vote and have our voice heard at the state and federal level."

OTHER PROBLEMS

Uvalle believes that one of the reasons Valley residents aren't going out and voting in elec-

tions is because they don't have the resources.

According to the 2010 census, about a third of residents in the McAllen-Edinburg-Mission Metro Area live below the national poverty line. And some say that could lead to a sort of disenfranchisement.

"There are people out in the outskirts of the Valley who are citizens and just don't have a way to vote," she said. "I have aunts who still use outhouses and can vote but don't. They're not the only ones."

AACT has partnered with banks, local hospitals, schools, non-profit organizations, churches, veteran groups and other entities to increase registration in the Valley.

"By reaching out to different entities, we have been able to get more people registered successfully," Alvarado said. "We have mobile units out to register people. We also encourage people to vote at the mobile units too."

Freshman Haziell Lopez has found the registration process confusing. He's registered to vote three times, the first time through AACT at his high school, but has not received any notification of whether the registration has been processed.

November's election would be his first voting experience, so he is anxious to make sure the voter card will arrive in time.

"I think I should have been notified if my registration went through," Lopez said. "I'm excited to vote but I still don't know if I'll be able to. I'm just going to wait and see."

Alvarado is hopeful that voter turnout will increase for November's election because AACT members have been persistent in trying to get as many residents registered as possible.

"We don't want to influence who you vote for, we just want to get you out there to vote," she said. "We're asking everyone to take some time to vote early and make their voice heard."

One on one WITH A REJECT

By Norma Gonzalez

Before The All-American Rejects went out on their most recent tour, co-headlining with Boys Like Girls, *The Pan American* got an exclusive phone interview with the band's drummer, Chris Gaylor, while he was stuck in traffic in New York. AAR, which has not toured since 2006, will be performing new songs off of their fourth album *Kids in the Street* at the State Farm Arena Oct. 6. The Ready Set joined the tour Sept. 13 and will continue until Oct. 14. Parachute comes aboard Oct. 16.

TPA: Seeing as the band just released new music and it is slightly different from your previous albums, what do you hope people will get from this album and concert?

Gaylor: Well, I mean, we're more proud of this record than any one we've ever done before. So, we're really hoping people get to share our passion. It's definitely a departure from anything we've done before. Because we're all getting older, you know. I mean, I think if we sound the same as we did when we were in our early 20s or our teens, it'd be a bad thing. *Kids in the Streets* talks about when we were younger and the fact that we grew up in a small town. Mostly entertaining ourselves. Nothing really mattered because there wasn't a whole lot of consequences to anything we did back then. Maybe it will give people a nostalgic look back at that time of their lives.

TPA: Can people come to expect more of the popular, older singles during the concert?

Gaylor: Yeah, we'll definitely play all of the classics but we'll be doing a good portion off the brand new record as well. So you'll get a good chance to hear everything.

TPA: I know you guys are co-headlining with Boys Like Girls. Is it different when you co-headline with another band or is it just the same old thing?

Gaylor: Here's the deal- we've never co-headlined before. So, I don't know how it's going to go. You'll know when we do. We have our first show in a couple of days. So, I don't think any of us know what to expect so far from a co-headline.

TPA: What types of bands have influenced all of you over the years?

Gaylor: I think there's probably two bands/artists that the guys in the band can agree on and I think that would be Queen and Neil

Diamond. (laughs) As funny as that may sound, but those are the two that we agree on.

TPA: Well, that's interesting.

Gaylor: And if you don't like either one of those - Queen or Neil Diamond - you're just out of your mind. I know those were not the names you expected to be thrown out, I'm sure. There's just so many different kinds of music that we're just trying



Photo courtesy of The All-American Rejects

to find something we can all agree on.

TPA: All of you are from Oklahoma. How has it been, to come from a small town and then be able to do something as huge as what AAR has evolved into?

Gaylor: We definitely didn't expect it. Especially during high school, when we all started getting the band. We weren't the popular kids. We didn't get invited to the big ol' parties. We just hung out, so we just made music. I don't know if anyone thought we were going to be these big stars or any-

thing. Everyone just loved to do it. It was one of the only things we knew how to do, do well, and could enjoy ourselves. It's an awesome thing. I haven't felt like I've had a real job in 10 years. It's unexpected at the same time. When you start taking it for granted or it feels mundane, something great will happen to kinda snap you out of it and be like "Wow. I cannot believe this is what I do for a living."

do it. Have fun. When people go out there with the goal of doing it to be successful, you're already going in the wrong direction.

TPA: You mentioned social media. How important is it to keep up with all these social networks and keep fans updated?

Gaylor: It's really important. That's the funny thing, it's like, there's so much of it now. Instagram, Twitter, Facebook. It's almost overwhelming at times, but it's also nice to share with fans. It's definitely more interactive with the guys the people are fans of. I think it's important for the bands to do that. I mean, if the fans want it. It's kinda awesome that a fan wants to hear that much of your life. You definitely shouldn't take it for granted.

TPA: What would be the weirdest thing a fan has asked of you?

Gaylor: I don't know about asked - I have a pretty weird fan story though.

TPA: Ok, go for it.

Gaylor: There was this fan we had for a while that worked for an airline and she would come to our shows and bring us Jello shots and stuff, and we wouldn't take them because we're like "We're not taking Jello shots from a stranger." You know? When you check into an airline with your credit card it has your phone numbers and everything, right? She ended up getting all of our phone numbers off the system. One day we had a layover somewhere and she called all of us and was like, "How's the layover?" We were like "Uhhh." She was like, "This is so-and-so from this city" and we were like, "Alright, this is creepy. There's no way, in no way is it OK that you're calling me right now." We were polite, we weren't mean about it. We were like, "How'd she get our number?" We didn't think about it. We put two and two together and were like, "Oh man, that's creepy."

LOS BAR-B-CRUDOS Cook-off crew collaborates with cancer awareness group

By Xander Graff Spekter
THE PAN AMERICAN

Eighteen barbecue teams fired up their pits for the Second Annual Bar-B-Qure for Cancer Cook-Off Sept. 29. Included in the Cancer Awareness Event was a 5K run for adults, 1K run for children and a concluding concert at Altas Palmas Park in Donna.

Los Bar-B-Crudos is a five-man barbecue team consisting of Isaias Silva, Joe Rangel and Luis Harrison, plus UTPA students Ismael Salinas and Esteban Garza. Silva, the head cook of Los Bar-B-Crudos, is the founder of the team.

"Crudo in Spanish means raw. It's slang for the feeling you get after a night of drinking, and if you're barbecuing, you more than likely are drinking," Rangel explained.

THE CRUDOS

Head cook Silva placed first in the chicken category last year at the first Bar-B-Qure, and has since assimilated a crew to help with various types of cook-

ing. Before barbecuing over 50 pounds of meat, the crew spent the previous night preparing tents, ice chests and the pit.

"Esteban [Garza] and I usually do cook-offs together," Silva said. "When we are in the zone we make what we do best."

Garza is a junior studying occupational therapy at UTPA. He has been barbecuing for more than five years and credits the skill to his father, who passed away due to hepatocellular carcinoma, or liver cancer. Garza's brother also died from leukemia, giving Garza a strong reasoning behind his participation in this event.

"It feels good to be here and help others," he said proudly. "Being the youngest out of six, I would watch my dad experiment. If you have the fire too close to the grill you might burn the meat. You have to be patient. I'd rather barbecue than do anything else."

Rangel, Garza's brother-in-law, also credits his barbecuing skills to Jose Garza, Esteban Garza's dad. After 15 years of barbe-

cuing, Rangel still remembers the time when he first got to know Garza's father. Even though there was a communication barrier between the two, the language of barbecue allowed them to connect and communicate.

"I didn't speak Spanish well and he didn't know English either, but there was always a barbecue pit around, so we got started," the Edinburg resident said.



Marcela Peña/The Pan American

UTPA student Ismael Salinas carries a chicken to the cutting table where it will be prepared for judging at the Sept. 29 Bar-B-Qure for Cancer Cook-Off.

"I was the kind of cook that could manage to turn a chicken black on the outside and leave it red on the inside. He taught me to test the heat on the grill with my hands."

From Rio Grande City, Harrison joined the team for his skill in barbecuing. Currently working at Julabe Ballroom in Rio, he has been a cook for more than 13 years, and ex-

plained why he joined.

"I lost my aunt from Amarillo, Texas, due to cancer and moved down here," he said. "I have been living here for 15 years now."

Senior UTPA student Salinas, whose father was a Vietnam veteran and the victim of prostate cancer, was the creator of the *Crudos* design. He attributes his father's ailment to the time he spent in Vietnam.

"Being a disabled veteran myself, I know that my father's cancer was probably caused by his exposure to Agent Orange [Herbicide Orange]," he said. "He used to talk about it and the birth defects of children there."

BACK AT THE GRILL

The event was hosted by the Angels of the Reservation, a non-profit organization in Donna whose purpose is to financially assist cancer victims and their families.

The barbecue teams fought for bragging rights with groups from all over the Valley. First place in each category received

\$200, second place received \$125 and third snagged \$75.

Rival teams included TNT, Smoking Toros, Book'em and Cook'em and nemesis barbecue team All-Valley Pools, headed by Felix 'Chano' Sandoval. Sandoval recognizes that they are not only there to compete.

"We are all on the same team, there is friendship and food. Plus this benefits the community," he said.

For the whole day, the team barbecued T-bone steak, half chickens, pork spare ribs, brisket and cabrito, placing 10th in the steak competition. Tejano music played while kids played in moon jumps and Silva laughed while playing with his 5-year-old daughter.

"The reason we are here is because of friends and family. Cancer is a serious issue and we're glad to help anyway we can," he said. "I know what it is to see someone that goes into chemotherapy and how hard the expenses can be on those less fortunate."

Crowds continued from page 1

According to King, volleyball is UTPA's football, the major fall sport that sets the tone for the following sports.

"The excitement level for volleyball really creates that excitement on campus as we get into basketball season," King said. "When you have football, and sometimes soccer, a lot of times, those sports

will lead into basketball, (which will) lead into baseball."

Although fans usually only have one side of bleachers to cheer from, tonight's game will offer both sides to attendees. The second set of bleachers will be ready in preparation for Saturday's open practice for the Houston Rockets, which is

expected to draw a large crowd. King hopes enough people will be interested in the tough match against Utah Valley University, defending Great West Conference champion and pre-season favorite.

"We were so close to winning that game," King said about the heartbreaking loss Sept. 15

to the University of Texas at Brownsville, the NAIA champ.

"We probably won't face another team as good as them this year, including UVU," King said. "If they play the way they did against UTB, we'll knock off UVU. They're beatable and we've got the team that can beat them."

Flag football fever hits UTPA

By Jonathan Salinas
The Pan American

It's that time of year again, when the aroma of a pre-game barbecue and freshly cut grass let you know it's game time. When friends, and sometimes strangers, unite to lay it all on the line in hopes of being crowned the newest intramural league champions. It's time for UTPA football.

Even though the University may not have an official college football program, the Wellness and Recreational Sports Complex offers students an alternative to play beyond their high school glory days, with flag football.

"There are not a lot of opportunities for athletes in college because not everybody's going to get to play in college, no matter where you go," said Coordinator of Intramural and Club Sports Cody Jennings. "Intramural sports are for those who are looking to have recreational fun and just have a good time."

The WRSC serves over 4,500 students through a variety of intramural and club sports during the calendar year, but the most popular seems to be football, as 25 teams are registered to duke it out on the gridiron. Jennings believes that it's not about wins and losses, but rather knowing when to push the books aside for a bit and concentrate on having fun.

"The biggest one is just getting out of the dorms and having a little stress reliever and just having a good time," Jennings said. "It's especially important around test times to just stop studying for an hour and come out and play a game and have fun. It's [also] a great chance to meet people with similar interests."

Members of Nemesis, a team that has won its first two games since the start of the season Sept. 10, has had their fair share of fun and finds themselves in a three-way tie for the top spot with The Unbeatables and Kappa Sigma. The schedule and amount of games played are arranged as the season progresses



Arturo Villalobos/The Pan American

Quarterback Luis Peña attempts a last-second pass as he is faced by tackler Robert Martinez at the Senior Flag Football game Monday.

so it is still unclear when, or even if, two of these unbeaten teams will clash. Nemesis team Captain Robby Nieto, however, feels they can soon separate from the pack if they can just perfect defensive coverage.

"What I count on is defense," Nieto said. "I figure if the defense can pitch a shutout, our offense will do the work on its own. That's my specialty, just

worry about the defense and let the offense do its thing."

Their defense has been stellar thus far and the offense has been unstoppable, as they outscored their opponents 70-12 in two games, against The Jawdroppers and Make It Rain. On the other hand, Kappa Sigma has yet to allow a single point in three victories and has outscored opponents 100-0 while

The Unbeatables have scored 95 while only allowing 23 points in three victories.

If either of these two teams were to meet in the upcoming weeks of the season, football fans can expect a great game at the football fields behind the WRSC. The playoffs are scheduled to start in late October after the regular season ends Oct. 19.

FATHER OF FOOTBALL

Rugby club explores throwback sport



Adrian Castillo/The Pan American

Psychology major John Garcia (left) practices rugby drills Tuesday night along with the McAllen Knights and the McAllen Mystics.

By Alex E. Peña
The Pan American

Who doesn't remember a typical game of pick-up football at the park with childhood friends?

Like anyone growing up, Alex Garcia was that kid; the average football fanatic living in McAllen. But as the years went on, he discovered another contact sport not as familiar in the Valley, or even in the United States. Garcia developed an affinity for rugby.

When he learned about a rugby club at UTPA, the senior biology/chemistry major quickly became a member. Now, as the president of the Bronc Rugby Club, Garcia hopes to spread the word around campus and teach students about the sport.

"The goal is to encourage and fund interest in rugby. Most people don't understand rugby rules, so we have to explain it to them," said Garcia, who became president last fall.

Like many sports not sponsored by the UTPA Athletic Department, such as soccer and football, rugby is exercised within club parameters and the team has the chance to compete against other university club teams. But unlike the aforementioned sports, the BRC cannot get started because it's nine players short of its 15-player membership requirement to field a complete squad.

"This year we've had a better turnout, but it's still difficult to get more members," Garcia said. "Most see (rugby) as a dangerous sport and have second thoughts, (but) after we have people join, they end up liking it."

One of those members is Jesus Valladares, who grew up playing soccer in Monterrey. He played pickup games at any nearby park.

"I just wanted to do something different," said Valladares, a senior electrical engineer major. "One of my best friends had a brother play (at the BRC), so he told me about it. I joined, and I never left."

It's perfectly understandable

for the Valley, whose communities thrive under Friday night lights, to be less receptive toward another contact sport.

"I don't know if it's a culture thing, but people are a bit skeptical (of rugby)," Valladares said. "It's something that you should try before saying you don't like it."

Both Garcia and Valladares play the position of lock, which is like a lineman in football. A lock does most of the blocking and tackling. In essence, they are the big dudes up front. There are forwards and the backs, which are the lighter and faster players responsible for carrying the ball.

Hypothetically, if the club ever rounds up 15 players to compete, it would get to play about 10 games in a season.

Most club members play with the McAllen Knights rugby team. Established in 1992, the Knights play in the Texas Rugby Union, a third-tier league featuring teams from San Antonio and Corpus Christi.

The league divides the teams into three Texas regions: north, center and south. Depending on the number of wins, the Texas Rugby Union can move teams into a more competitive league, or tier, Valladares said.

Garcia said the main function of the BRC is to seek and recruit future members for the Knights.

The Knights begin their 13-game season on Oct. 20 against San Antonio at home at West Side Park in McAllen. Garcia hopes one day the BRC can have enough members and actually compete at the club level, possibly against the Knights.

Their expectation is to leave enough of an imprint for future members so that they can possibly play that anticipated first game at the next level.

"We want to keep the team and league going," Garcia said. "At some point (we) would like to form a (club) team by us and compete in a division."

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