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ONLINE CONTENT
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New Coach



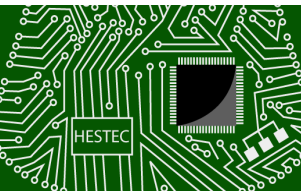
Anthony Anderson

The Anime Club



Two decades of Japanese animation

HESTEC



Annual event held Oct. 7 - Oct. 12

Pachanga Play



Latin-themed fiesta



By Melinda Garza
The Pan American

Photo identification is now required when voting in person in any Texas election. The first official enactment of the law Nov. 5 is in the upcoming Texas constitutional amendment election where Texas residents have the opportunity to vote on proposed amendments to the state constitution.

The Voter ID bill was first passed by the Texas Legislature in September 2011, but after three civil lawsuits, such as the

one filed by the Justice Department, who quickly blocked it. Despite the lawsuits, the U.S. Supreme Court put it into effect in June 2013 by determining Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to be unconstitutional.

During the Civil Rights movement, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was created to allevi-

ate voting discrimination. Sections two through five of the act banned practice of rejecting or limiting people's ability to vote based on race or color.

Miguel de los Santos, an associate professor in the department of educational leadership at the University, said he does

not support the new requirement and believes it interferes with a person's right to vote.

"I think it's being passed by legislatures with bad intentions," de los Santos said. "It discourages minority, poor and old people from voting. It makes it very difficult and all the studies that show that voter fraud without voter IDs has been almost negligible."

Opponents to the Voter ID

laws argue that they generally affect minority, low-income groups and elderly that are inclined to vote Democratic. Brennan Center at New York University conducted a study that concluded 11 percent of voting-age citizens do not possess the required photo ID needed to vote and many residents in rural locations have difficulty finding ID offices.

The study showed that in the 10 states with restrictive voter

Sex offenders have the right to attend UTPA

But we also have a right to write about it



Susan Gonzalez
NEWS EDITOR

In last week's issue, a 300-word article generated more interest and criticism than some 1,000-word stories *The Pan American* has printed.

"Sex offender made public" quickly became a soapbox for people to stand on to have their two minutes of Facebook fame, in an effort to politicize something that had nothing to do with politics. So let's break down the story and see what, if anything, went wrong.

"Battleground Texas, a state and federal Political Action Committee founded with the goal of making Texas a swing state, released a statement to *The Pan American* in response to concern regarding the student president of the Young Democrats at UTPA, Billy Wayne Johnson."

These are facts. Battleground Texas was contacted so that its representatives could address rising concern over the situation. Johnson was president of the YD at the time of this article's publication. Nothing wrong so far. "It was made public Sept. 23 that 36-year-old Johnson is a registered sex offender."

Also a fact. While the information regarding registered sex offenders that attend the University is always available to students via the UTPA Police Department's website, it's pretty doubtful that every single student constantly checks it. It's not common knowledge which students are sex offenders on campus.

"Johnson helped Battleground Texas register voters earlier this month through the Young Democrats organization, according to a photo on the group's Facebook page. Jenn Brown, executive director of Battleground Texas, thanked Johnson for his work via Twitter."

More facts. Wow, it's like we're a newspaper, or something. "Battleground Texas is working with students on more than 20 college campuses," the statement said. "While we

carefully vet our staff and full-time fellows, we're not able to do the same for the thousands of volunteers working with our organization or partners across the state. Battleground Texas was not aware of the concern regarding this individual and has taken

West Texas Department of Criminal Justice. According to Texas Penal Code Section 22.021, sexual assault of a child is aggravated if the child is under 14-years-of-age, if a deadly weapon is used, or serious bodily injury is threatened."

But because they have served time and are, in the eyes of the law, free people who have paid the dues for their crime, they are also allowed to enroll in public colleges, such as UTPA.

Johnson is not doing anything wrong by being a student and participating in clubs. What prompted the article was the fact that he held a leadership position that allowed him to interact with organizations, such as Battleground Texas, that have their own set of standards. And those standards were not met. This caused concern from students and supporters of the club and needed to be addressed. Both Johnson and the Young Democrats were contacted several times for a statement and neither entity responded. Both sides of the story were sought by *The Pan American* and it is not our fault that one party didn't respond.

Politics has nothing to do with it. This newspaper does not have an agenda and the reporter who wrote the article (me) does not have one either (fun fact: I'm a Democrat), or a personal vendetta.

Politics has nothing to do with it. This newspaper does not have an agenda and the reporter who wrote the article (me) does not have one either...

steps to ensure that he is no longer working on anything related to our organization. In the coming weeks, we will launch a new Battleground Texas chapter at UTPA to ensure the students on campus are registered and engaged in the issues that matter to their community and able to vote this November."

The statement from Battleground Texas was unedited and straight from the organization.

"Johnson was convicted of first-degree aggravated sexual assault April 28, 2003, and served three years in Garza

Facts. All facts with attribution, links, sources. There is no false information in this.

"Information regarding registered sex offenders that attend the University can be found via the UTPA Police Department website."

And to close the article, the handy website to help keep students informed is provided.

Why this caused a stir is beyond me. Sex offenders in Texas are required by law to register with the Department of Public Safety. This information is public and available to anyone.

#UTPA
Tweet at and follow us @ThePanAmerican

I just saw a cockroach on the third floor of the library.. And I just stood there while it hid underneath a shelf. NO JUST NO #utpa

-@ ayyu_caramba

UTPA needs more couches in the library!

-@ selenadearly

Since when did UTPA confessions become a more ratchet version of e-harmony? #gross

-@totallyana

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 cannot publish anonymous letters or submissions containing hate speech or gratuitous personal attacks. Please send all letters to:

thepanamerican@gmail.com

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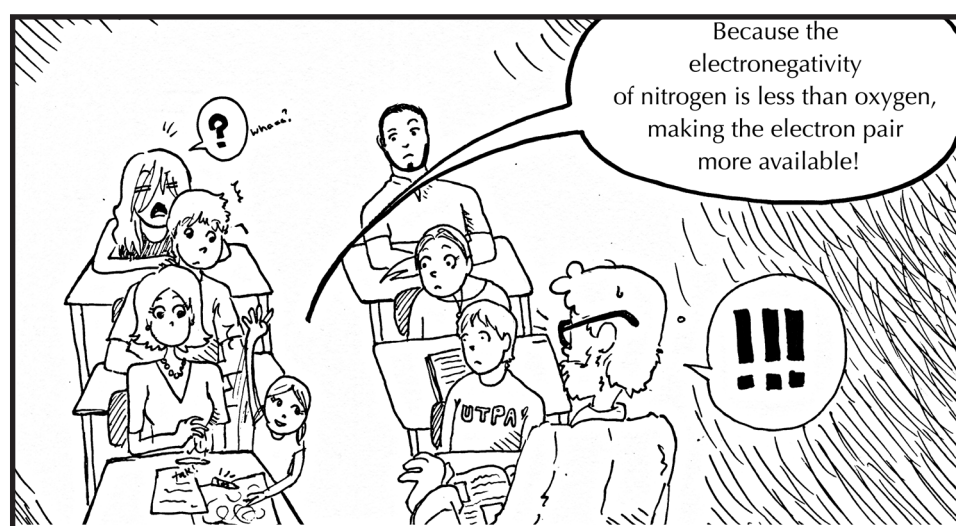
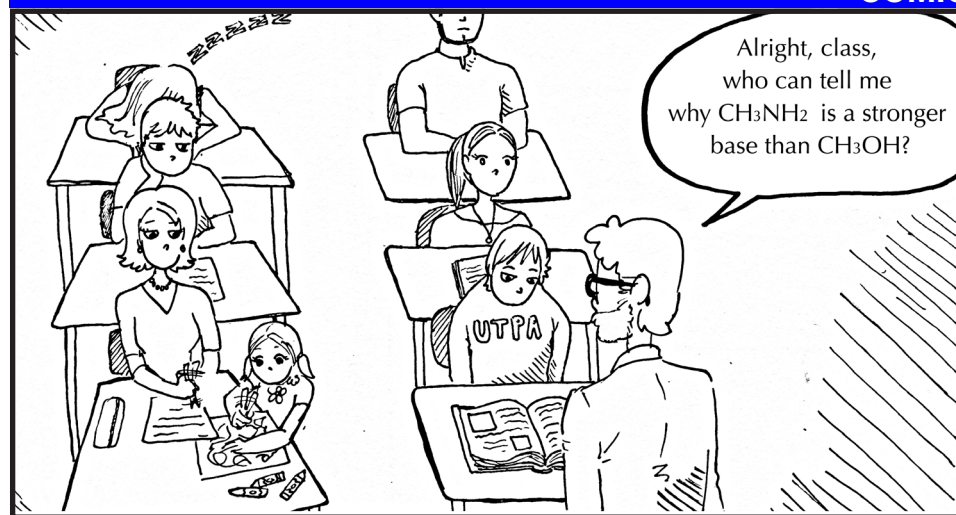
PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Jon Nutt/The Pan American

Miguel Espinosa plays with his dog, Kiara, at the South Quad Sept. 30. Kiara was given to Espinosa as a gift by his girlfriend after joining the U.S. Army. Espinosa has been enlisted in the U.S. Army for more than a year.

COMIC



Itzel A. Lopez/The Pan American

RAISING AWARENESS National Hazing Prevention Week events held at UTPA

By Claudia Victoria Lemus
The Pan American

At least one hazing-related death has occurred on an American college campus each year since 1970, according to statistics provided by HazingPrevention.org. With the purpose of educating students and promoting hazing prevention at UTPA, members of the Greek Council organized campus-wide events during National Hazing Prevention Week, which took place Sept. 23-27.

According to the organization's website, hazing is any action taken or created to purposely cause embarrassment, harassment or ridicule new members of a group or team. Further, based on a study conducted by the National Collaborative for Hazing Research and Prevention, hazing is commonly practiced in gangs, sports teams, schools and university Greek organizations in the U.S. as a ceremonial way of initiating new members.

PENALTIES

In Texas, individuals who commit hazing face penalties ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and up to a two-year confinement, depending on the severity

of the offense. Those with knowledge of hazing who fail to report it are subject to a \$1,000 penalty and up to 180 days in jail. Presently, a total of 44 states in the U.S. have anti-hazing laws.

The Texas Education Code considers hazing both a violation of University policy and a

Life Advisor Erika Lopez, Greek Life President Joshua Johnson, or any other university official.

HAZING AT UTPA

Currently, there are 14 fraternities and sororities at UTPA with a total of approximately 300 members. Leaders of

“ Hazing is a dangerous and degrading institution whose effects are far reaching and often permanent.

**- Joshua Johnson
Greek Life president**

criminal offense that may result in the arrest and prosecution of those involved.

UTPA specifically prohibits hazing with or without the consent of a student. If the victim fails to inform an official, he or she, along with the hazer or hazers, is subject to discipline.

Students with knowledge of hazing should immediately report it to Dean of Students Mari Fuentes-Martin, Greek

the Greek Community councils at UTPA have taken the necessary measures to ensure that all members are well-informed of the dangers of hazing and the severe consequences of violations.

Together with the Greek Council, members of the Multicultural Greek Council and the Panhellenic Council work to promote relationships that emphasize the general preservation of the Greek systems at UTPA.

“The most important action I can take given my position is to provide the Greek community with the knowledge and resources regarding hazing...and the actions which will be taken if they should be broken,” said Joshua Johnson, Greek Life president. “This week, Greek Council held two events. One was an anti-hazing pledge. We had around 150 pledges sign.”

As a token for pledging “no” to hazing, students who signed received free buttons.

“It feels great to give your word for the greater good,” said Iriss Gonzalez, a political science major who signed the pledge.

In addition, the council held a free presentation on hazing and the legal system, as well as a webinar to teach students when and how to intercede and intervene. During these interactive presentations, students learned about their rights and tips on what to do if they become aware of hazing and how to avoid participating in it.

“Hazing is a dangerous and degrading institution whose effects are far reaching,” Johnson said. “It’s sad that it still happens in so many places and affects so

many people.”

Despite the Greek Council’s efforts to emphasize the importance of abstaining from hazing, Eta Omega Tau, a multicultural sorority, was recently suspended for hazing, according to the Greek Life president.

“I believe they are in the process of appealing the decision,” Johnson said.

Though some organizations may choose to not abide by the rules, other Greek groups such as the sorority Delta Zeta, firmly oppose hazing.

“We don’t take hazing lightly,” stated Gracie Perez, a Delta Zeta

member and communication disorders major. “DZ is completely against hazing.”

UTPA Greek members and leaders encourage both Greek and non-Greek students to refrain from hazing and report any hazing activity they may have knowledge of.

“The Greek Community at UTPA is a strong proponent against hazing. We strive to continually educate our community and campus on how it can be prevented,” Johnson said. “It is our greatest hope that every student at UTPA has a positive and healthy college experience.”

In Texas,
individuals who commit hazing face penalties ranging from
\$5,000 to \$10,000
and up to a **2-year** confinement, depending on the severity of their offense.

CHANGING EDUCATION

Faculty member plans to improve education system in Vietnam

By Andrew J. Vera
The Pan American

The recent release of the World Economic Forum’s 2013-2014 global competitiveness report showed a lag in the education system of Vietnam. It ranked lower than neighboring countries in terms of higher education and training, including Korea, Thailand and Malaysia.

Thanh Nien News in Vietnam reported that lagging scores for primary and higher education are due to curriculum and teaching methods that are outdated and inefficient. Vietnam native Ngo Ai Nhan, a lecturer in the department of English at the University, wants to help fix this.

“I am not pleased with education in Vietnam. Critical thinking skills are not being developed there,” said Ngo.

In the United States, the family name is used as the last name. However, in Vietnam, the family name is first. So she is listed as Ai Nhan Ngo in the UTPA directory, but that is not how she is referred to in Vietnam.

Ngo moved to the Rio Grande Valley nearly three years

ago to complete her master’s degree at UTPA in English second language. She received a bachelor’s in foreign language studies from Hue University in Vietnam. Upon receiving her

“ I am not pleased with education in Vietnam. Critical thinking skills are not being developed there.

**- Ngo Ai Nhan
UTPA lecturer**

master’s in ESL, she became a teaching assistant and is now a lecturer. While she had difficulties adjusting to a new culture, she said she will take back her educational experiences from America and spread them to the youth in her home country.

Many of the problems with the education system, according to AsiaNews, can be attributed to the prevailing communist government structure found in Vietnam. Because the

government controls the education system, AsiaNews said there is little room for education to grow and for free thinking to occur among young students. Ngo and other Vietnam natives

feel this type of education system is detrimental to the future of the nation.

Ngo, aware of the challenges she will face in her country, said that many Vietnamese college graduates come to the states for a doctoral degree and find it very hard to change the education system in Vietnam once they return.

“Just because it’s hard to do,” Ngo said, “does not mean you don’t try.”

According to the Critical Thinking Community, an online organization that promotes education reform and improvement, critical thinking is the ability to analyze and evaluate gathered information and develop an answer or conclusion based on logic.

“I see the role of critical thinking (in the United States) and I want my students in Vietnam to learn and think, not just memorize,” the 27-year-old said when discussing what she hopes to apply to her teachings in Vietnam.

The role of critical thinking in the classroom is also seen as something very important to Sarahi Ruiz, a senior education major from UTPA.

“The main goal of education is to promote and develop critical thinking skills so that students can think for themselves as adults,” the 20-year-old said. “And also be themselves; be individuals.”

AsiaNews reported that a monopoly on the education system in Vietnam may also be part of the problem, with the country’s government focusing on earning money from universities rather than educating youth.

The World Economic Forum currently ranks Vietnam 95 out of 148 countries worldwide in higher education and seventh out of eight countries in Southeast Asia in the same category, just ahead of Cambodia.

*Source: World Economic Forum

“(Asia is) not like America where just anyone can get a scholarship or a grant from the government,” said Irish Bautista, a senior in the nursing program and Philippines native. “You have to have a lot of money (before you start college).”

Ngo discussed how a corrupt government stands in the way of educational advances in her country, adding that there is a lack of skills in the classroom that perpetuates this problem.

“Research and critical thinking skills are lacking in Vietnam,” Ngo said. “I had to learn (these skills) here (in the United States) and developed

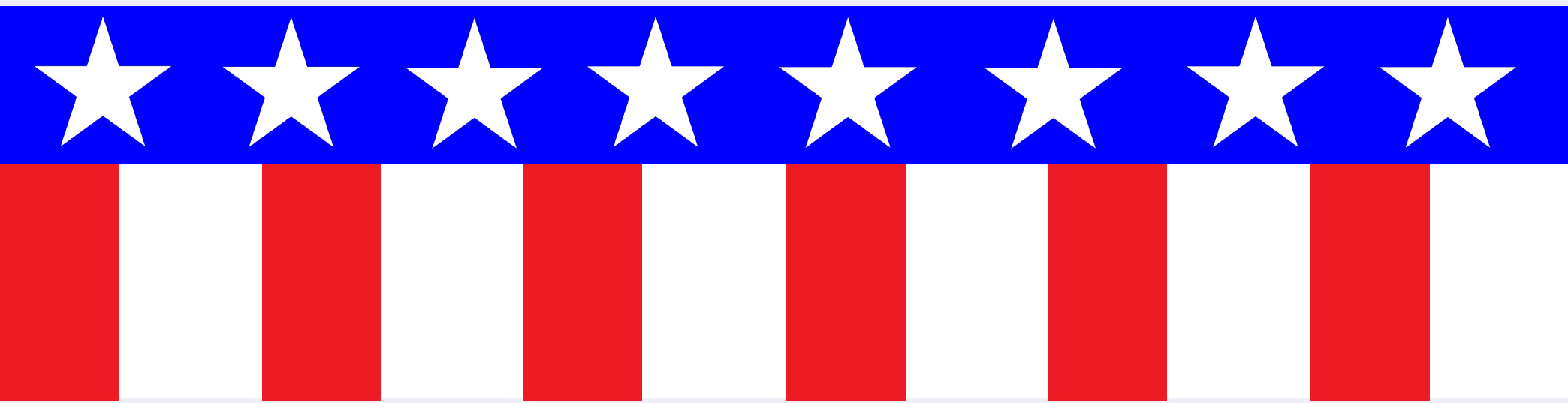
them here as well.” Ngo plans to teach at UTPA for four to five more years to gain as much education experience as possible. Then she will return to Vietnam to try and reform the education system. She said that by taking all she has learned about research and critical thinking back to her country, she will be able to implement these theories into her teaching methods there and possibly change education in Vietnam for the better.

“If I am going to learn something,” Ngo said, “I am going to do something meaningful with it.”

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

TEXAS VOTER ID LAW TAKES EFFECT

Critics fear voter disenfranchisement



ID laws, approximately 500,000 eligible voters do not have access to a vehicle and reside at least 10 miles from the closest office that issues IDs.

Since 2004, Attorney General Greg Abbott has pursued 66 people in Texas on charges of voting irregularities, with four cases actually involving illegally casting a ballot. In the majority of his cases, the voter fraud violations were mail-in ballots, the others involved felons who weren't authorized to vote.

Jacen Sammons, a sophomore life sciences major, said he supports the new law, thinks it will help prevent voter fraud and believes it can prevent those without valid citizenship from affecting the election process. "The law is meant to allow only those who are citizens of the United States to vote in our elections," Sam-

mons said. "If you're not a citizen, I'm sorry but you haven't earned the right to vote in the USA. After all, would I, an American citizen, go down and vote in a Mexican Election?"

Organizations such as the NAACP of Texas, the Mexican American Legislative Caucus and the Justice Department have all filed lawsuits to overturn the voter ID law. They argue that the Republican-controlled Legislature generated an illegal block to voting for those who live in rural areas and poor minorities. According to the Associated Press, minorities account for the majority of voters who do not currently own one of the six types of ID required.

"I believe (Republicans) fear that the Hispanic population is growing so fast and becoming a majority that they're looking for ways to prevent more Dem-

ocrats, if you will, or more Hispanics, from being elected," said de los Santos. "Those who are in power, which is the Republican Party, are trying to put a halt to that."

According to a poll by CBS News, 64 percent of Hispanics who were born in the U.S.

I suspect that fewer people that are minorities and elderly will vote.

**- Miguel de los Santos
Associate Professor**

prefer Democrats while the number to favor Republicans is 30 percent. It is estimated that 11 percent, or about 20 million people, do not have government issued IDs. At this moment, 33 states have proposed or already adopted the same voter ID laws.

"I suspect that fewer people that are minori-

ties and elderly will vote," de los Santos said. "I think that we're gonna have a lot, especially among the elderly and the poor, those who don't have transportation, will not go vote because they don't have a driver's license or they don't have an ID."

Gov. Rick Perry ar-

state houses and signed into law by Republican governors.

"The ID laws will prevent fraud and make voting fair across the board," Sammons said. "I don't see how this would prevent minority groups from voting. After all Latino, White, Black, we all must have valid drivers licenses to drive right, which are issued by the state, which requires you to prove citizenship when you apply." Valid picture identification required from voters before entering a poll include a driver's license, election identification certificate, Dept. of Public Safety personal ID card, U.S. military ID, U.S. citizenship certificate, U.S. passport or a license to carry a concealed handgun issued by the Dept. of Public Safety. The new rules will also shorten early voting by a week, end straight-ticket voting,

which allows voters to select a party's complete list of candidates with just one ballot marking and end same-day registration, which permits residents to go to the polls on Election Day, register and then vote on the same day. There are currently four types of states with voter IDs: strict, non-strict, photo and non-photo. Strict states do not allow voters to cast a valid ballot without first presenting ID. States, such as Texas and Tennessee, require that the ID presented at the polls must show a picture of the voter.

"These are very political moves, very strategic, the argument that is being used by those who are passing the laws is that it's preventing fraud," said de los Santos. "But all the studies show that there is almost no fraud whatsoever with the system we have."

Acceptable forms of ID in Texas:



★ Driver's license

★ Election identification certificate

★ Dept. of Public Safety personal ID card

★ U.S. military ID

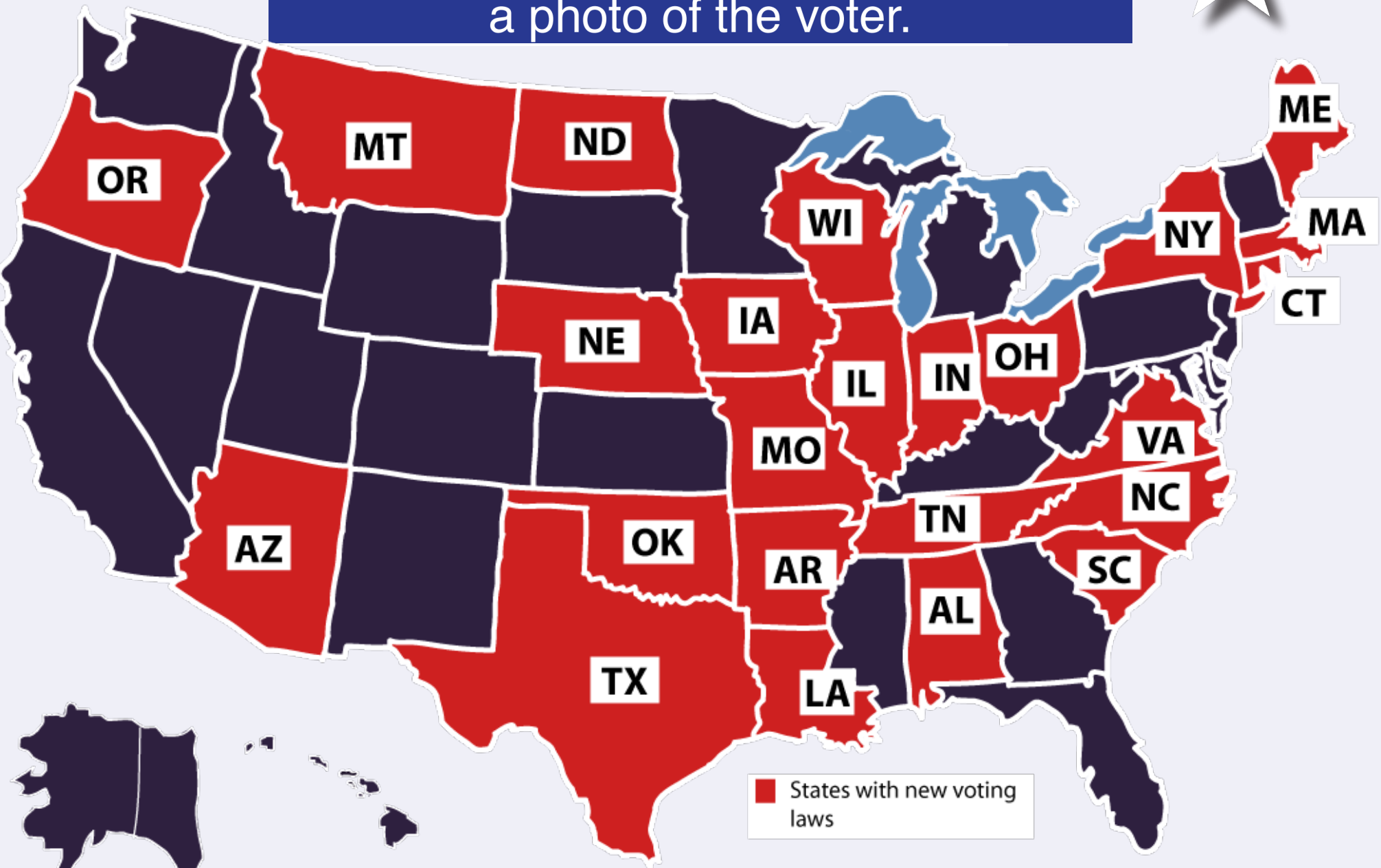
★ U.S. citizenship certificate

★ U.S. passport

★ License to carry a concealed handgun issued by The Dept. of Public Safety



All of the above must include a photo of the voter.



FROM PAPERS TO

PAMPERS

The Lives of student-parents

By Elisa Garcia
The Pan American

Textbooks, homework and children's coloring books lay scattered on Kashia and Uvaldo Rodriguez's dining table. The items are cleared before the couple heads out the door to make their morning classes.

Kashia explained that her husband, a senior at UTPA, often reminds her that they must both continue their studies to make a good life for their family.

"I hope (my daughter) sees that she has two parents that will be college educated and learn that school is a priority," 25-year-old Kashia said. "I want her to see that anything is possible to overcome."

In 2010, researchers at the University of Illinois

surveyed 966 student-parents and found that 24.5 percent of participants lived with a spouse or partner.

That same year, 19-year-old Zulema and Salomon Ortiz married and started a family soon after. The Pharr couple's decision to attend college was pushed by their kids and the belief that it would benefit their family.

"As a young mom, I promised myself to give the best to my children," Zulema said. "I have to look at the big picture. Everything I'm doing is to provide a better life for our kids."

According to the Institute for Research on Poverty, children born to women with a college degree gain substantial investments in higher education.

When it comes to receiving a degree from UTPA, tuition for non-resident students such as Zulema, Uvaldo and Kashia costs about \$3,972

explained that she never wanted to put her child in a day care because if she was able to take care of her daughter, then she would. She admitted

on-campus day care, parents can focus on their studies and feel comfortable that their children are in a safe place. She also feels that the Center lessens the load of student-parents.

challenging, but ultimately hopes her daughter will apply those experiences toward her own life as she grows up.

"My parents never went to college, so that really impacted me," she said. "Seeing them struggle as I grew up...I didn't want that for my child."

After a day of school and work, the Rodriguez family walks through their front door. Kashia rests her textbook-filled backpack on the dining table while her daughter pulls out some coloring books of her own.

Kashia plans on continuing her studies to earn her doctorate, while Uvaldo anticipates his own graduation. Meanwhile, Salomon looks forward to seeing Zulema receive her diploma come 2016.

“ As a young mom, I promised myself to give the best to my children... Everything I’m doing is to provide a better life for our kids. ”

- Zulema Ortiz
UTPA student-parent

per semester, according to the University's Fact Book. In addition to tuition fees, CNN said that an average-income couple raising a child will spend over \$241,080 until the child turns 18-years-old.

Salomon, a UTPA alumnus, believed that in order to provide for his wife and two kids, he had to get a college degree.

"I knew I had to get a decent job. I couldn't be living off minimum wage," the 22-year-old said. "My family is what kept me going."

LITTLE BRONCS

While the Ortiz couple has Salomon's mother to care for their children while they are away at work and school, Kaisha uses the Child Development Center at the University as a way to fulfill her daughter's needs when she is busy on campus.

The psychology major

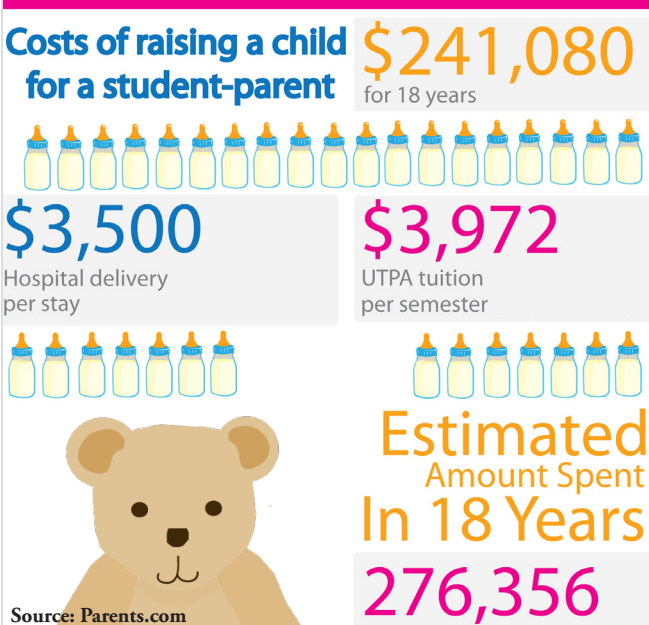
that school and work made it challenging for her and her husband to tend to their child's needs.

"I always felt bad because she loves books and would want me to read to her...and I had homework or other stuff that I was focused on," the Edinburg native said. "I felt bad not giving her that attention."

Kashia also said that she sometimes doesn't want to part from her daughter, but realizes that her 2-year-old is receiving an education.

"I didn't even know we had a day care on campus until I had (my daughter)," she said. "Trying to handle school and raising a child wasn't overwhelming anymore. I finally felt like I could breathe. I know she's in a safe place and I'm nearby. I wouldn't have it any other way."

Rosalinda Ramirez, assistant director for the UTPA CDC, said she believes that with an



The CDC opened in 2005 under its present Director, Elda M. Perez. According to their website, the building accommodates 140 children a day with the help of 20 full-time teachers.

Ramirez, a Progreso native, believes that by providing an on-campus daycare, student-parents are able to graduate.

Kashia explained that undergoing school, work and raising a child was



EVENTS CALENDAR

Oct. 3	Oct. 4-6	Oct. 4	Oct. 5	Oct. 5-6	Oct. 8
<p>Third Annual Oktoberfest</p> <p>Specialty German food, beers, games, contests and music.</p> <p>Time: 6:30 p.m. Place: The Vermillion Restaurant, Brownsville</p>	<p>Sandcastle Days</p> <p>The 36th annual sandcastle-building contest, sand art, arts and craft and activities for children.</p> <p>Time: 9 a.m. - 11 p.m. Place: Clayton's Beach Bar and Grill, SPI</p>	<p>Nightmare on Broadway 4D</p> <p>The largest indoors haunted attraction in the RGV with creaking floors, cold drafts and eerie sounds.</p> <p>Time: 8 p.m. - 11 p.m. Place: South Broadway, McAllen</p>	<p>All Star Fight Night</p> <p>The annual "international folklife celebration" includes fajita cookoff, live music, Kidsville, the McAllen Heritage Village and more.</p> <p>Time: Noon - Midnight Place: McAllen Convention Center</p>	<p>Palm Fest 2013</p> <p>Live boxing returns to the Valley. Main event: the return of Raul 'El Tigre' Casarez.</p> <p>Time: 7 p.m. - 11 p.m. Place: Pharr Events Center</p>	<p>Artist Networking Mixer</p> <p>This month's mixer features Jose G. Cano Guillen and Hector D. Astorga.</p> <p>Time: 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Place: Sekula Memorial Library, Edinburg</p>



ISLAND RUN

CROSS COUNTRY RUNS IN CORPUS, REGIONALS NEXT

Adrian Castillo/The Pan American

The men's cross country team, led by Martin Casse (foreground), warms up before the 8K Islander Splash in Corpus Christi Sept. 28.

By Marco Torres
The Pan American

On Sept. 27, the UTPA cross country teams attended the Islander Splash run in Corpus Christi at West Guth Park, with the men running an 8K and finishing fourth and the women coming home sixth of eight in the 5K.

Prior to that there was a meet in San Antonio Sept. 20 where both teams finished third.

Individually, the top two runners in San Antonio for UTPA were senior Luis Serrano, eighth, and senior Robin Galloso, ninth. Both were standouts in high school, Serrano at Edinburg North and Galloso at Edinburg High.

Head Coach Xavier Richardson said he expects his teams to excel at each of the competitions to better prepare for the conference championship.

"The Islander Splash gave us the opportunity to compete

on one of our more hill-intensive courses, and it also provided some good competition, so it has been another great test for where we are right now," Richardson said.

In Corpus Christi, Galloso recorded her best finish of the season with a time of 18:40, finishing one second behind Sam Houston State's Alyssa Dooley for third place. Rice's Katie Jensen took the top spot after recording a time of 18:04.4.

On the men's side, Serrano recorded a sixth-place finish with a time of 27:02, two seconds ahead of Texas State's Joseph Pena.

Serrano continues to push himself every morning by running a 10K or more.

"My goals for this season are to help lead my team to conference title and most importantly, represent my school well," Serrano

no said. "Seeing my teammates and I improve week after week, running faster times, helps me to keep moving forward."

The senior's early work has gotten some attention. The Western Athletic Conference named Serrano WAC Cross Country Athlete of the Week for the second time this season Oct. 1 for his efforts at the Islander Splash.

Richardson has expectations for his athletes, but said Serrano and Galloso seem to be ahead of the curve.

"Serrano and Galloso have already separated themselves as the leaders for their respective squads," Richardson said. "But as we emphasize, they cannot do it alone in a team competition, so we push everyone to contribute. Every runner is important, so we are pushing everyone to do their part."

Other notable performances came from Edinburg High grad Rebekah Rodriguez, who posted a time of 20:08.7 and finished 28th out of 62 runners, and Beatriz Garza, who finished in 34th place. For the men, Martin Casse came in 16th and Hansel Ibarra finished in 25th place.

Richardson was pleased by his team's performance and is encouraged by their willingness to fight.

"We've gone up against some teams that have historically done well at the South Central Regional Championships, so we have some good teams to run with," he said.

The Broncos have some rest time before returning to action Oct. 12 at the University of the Incarnate Word Cardinal Invitational in San Antonio Regional Championships.

Mission Pink

A run for survivors



By Kristela Garza
The Pan American

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and in response, the Mission Regional Medical Center will host its annual run/walk for cancer awareness Oct. 5.

This run/walk is known as Mission Pink, a 5k set to raise money for the regional center's breast cancer center.

According to Mission Pink coordinator Evelyn Sáenz, 25 percent of the proceeds raised at the event will help fund free mammograms for uninsured patients.

Open registration for the event will begin at 6:30 a.m. and the run start at 9 a.m. This is the events fifth consecutive year, and each run the amount of participants grows.

Last year over 2,500 people participated. This year, Mission Medical is hoping for a turnout of more than 2,800.

"It's grown a lot," Sáenz said. "We have a lot of recurring participants. They're our biggest motivators and our biggest spokespersons. The participants from the previous years, they make it worthwhile and they spread the word."

According to Sáenz, the runners' money go to raising money towards early detection methods.

Early detection is vital because if the disease is caught early, measures can be taken to improve the chances of the cancer going into remission, is when the cancer stops growing and the patient's symptoms virtually disappear. Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer among American women, second only to skin cancer, overall.

According to Cancer.org, about one in every eight women in the U.S. will at some point develop breast cancer during their lifetime.

These numbers add up, as the American Cancer Society explains. In the U.S., every year there are 232,340 new cases of breast cancer diagnosed. In addition 64,640 women will be diagnosed with Carcinoma In Situ, the earliest form of this cancer. Almost 40,000 will die from the disease per year.

This is a reality, explained Linslee Brunson, a Mission Pink veteran, who believes that along with the challenge of the run, this is her chance to do her part for a cause she considers vital.

"Cancer is touching so many people's lives right now, it seems like every time we're turning around someone is getting diagnosed," Burnson said.

According to Sáenz, it's due to runners like Brunson that the events mission, promoting cancer prevention, is still going strong.

Registration fees range from \$10 for ages 7-12, \$15 for ages 13-17, \$20 for cancer survivors, and \$25 for ages 18 and older.

As someone who knows the run well, Brunson explained how the Rio Grande Valley comes together to raise awareness. Though every year the run it takes its toll on Burnson, emotionally and physically.

"Every year I breakdown in tears," she said. "Just seeing those 'I'm a survivor' shirts, it's very emotional. But if this is a little something I can do to contribute to help someone out, then that's great."



Arturo Villalobos/The Pan American

Alejandro Sanoja executes a return after receiving his opponent's serve Sunday Feb. 3.

Tennis ready for Wesbrooks Oct. 19

By Marco Torres
The Pan American

The UTPA men's tennis team went to Corpus Christi Sept. 20-22 to compete in the 2013 Marco & Co. Catering Islanders Open.

Senior Sebastien Job defeated University of Texas-San Antonio's freshman Harley Pearson 7-5, 2-6 in the semifinals to reach the finals against Texas A&M-Corpus Christi's sophomore Javier Pujol, where the Bronc lost in two straight sets, 6-0 and 6-2.

In the round of eight, brackets are determined by first-round winners and losers. First-round losers go to the back draw bracket and contend for the consolation prize while the winner's bracket teams play

for first and second prize.

This week the Broncos prepare to travel to Beaumont for the Ron Wesbrooks Invitational set to take place Oct. 4-6.

Head Coach Brandon Stokes said he believes in his team to compete in every set and said they must believe in themselves.

"He is nowhere near his potential as a senior," Stokes said of Job. "But he must have the courage to let it out on match day. I believe in him."

As Stokes continues to prepare his team for the upcoming invitational, he preaches to athletes that they have to focus on their daily efforts to improve their overall game and sustain a higher level of competitiveness.

The first-year coach wants to use what the team learned in Corpus to correct mistakes, and apply it all to the game plan for victory.

He expects his opponents to bring their best effort, attitude and spirit, the same things he demands from his Broncos.

"We are not concerned with them. We set the standard and challenge others to match us," Stokes said. "We are the constant and the other teams are the variables."

According to Stokes, the team improved from each round in the last tournament.

After the Wesbrooks Invitational the Broncos have the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Regionals in Waco, Oct. 19-22.

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