

'Shrew': Slocum's swan song

Jenina Hernandez
LAKE REPORTER

The "Taming of the Shrew" has never been seen like this.

Shakespeare's classic play has undergone a makeover by drama professor Ric Slocum. In his 37-year career here, Slocum has received many accolades, including becoming an associate member of the Dramatist Guild of America and receiving the Alamo Theater Arts Award for best original script. In, "Taming of the Shrew," Slocum's adaptation will play upon the audience and enhance its understanding of the play's message.



SLOCUM

"'Shrew' is a play within a play; it deals with what is identity and reality which is a constant theme in Shakespeare," Slocum said.

SHREW CONTINUED ON 6

Food Bank focus of fund-raiser

Jenina Hernandez
LAKE REPORTER

Students have heard of Lakeapalooza, but chances are they have not heard of the similarly named event, Tunapalooza. The event is geared to raise money for the San Antonio Food Bank and is held at the Lake with the help of students in service-learning classes.

Tunapalooza takes place Nov. 18 and has been a work-in-progress since the start of the semester. It combines the efforts of the students in Human Behavior in a Social Environment part 2 (SOWK 3332) and Advanced Studio Art (ART 5371) as well as members of the Art Student League who will be adding to the event a fundraiser called Empty Bowls.

This is the second year Tunapalooza has been held at the university and hopes are high that combining the two events can start the holiday season off well for the San Antonio Food Bank.

TUNA CONTINUED ON 4

Labs: What are they used for?

Melissa Gonzalez
EDITOR

Visiting any of the computer labs on campus anyone can see that students are in full late-in-the-semester mode. Little to no elbow room, trashcans filled with various energy drinks, and the sounds of sporadic typing break the silence.

With much talk lately surrounding the possibility of obtaining laptops for students, this idea is now being placed under the microscope regarding their actual need and the question arises of whether students are using the resources already available.

"Eighty percent of the time you'll see 20 percent of the computers being used for academics, the rest of the time they're using them for personal use," said computer lab manager James Sepulveda. "Once it comes

down to crunch time, say towards the end of the semester, that's when it's used for academic use."

According to Sepulveda, there are roughly 185 computers that LITS (Library, Instructional & Technology Services) are responsible for and with that, only about half are used at all available times, with the exception of midterms and finals. Distributed throughout nine different labs on campus, these computers are available to students, faculty or staff for use, whether it is academic or personal.

Senior Nancy Velez said that she believes students are using labs effectively. She said that the labs are often full and she welcomes the push for laptops as a positive factor, especially for commuters.

LAPTOPS CONTINUED ON 5

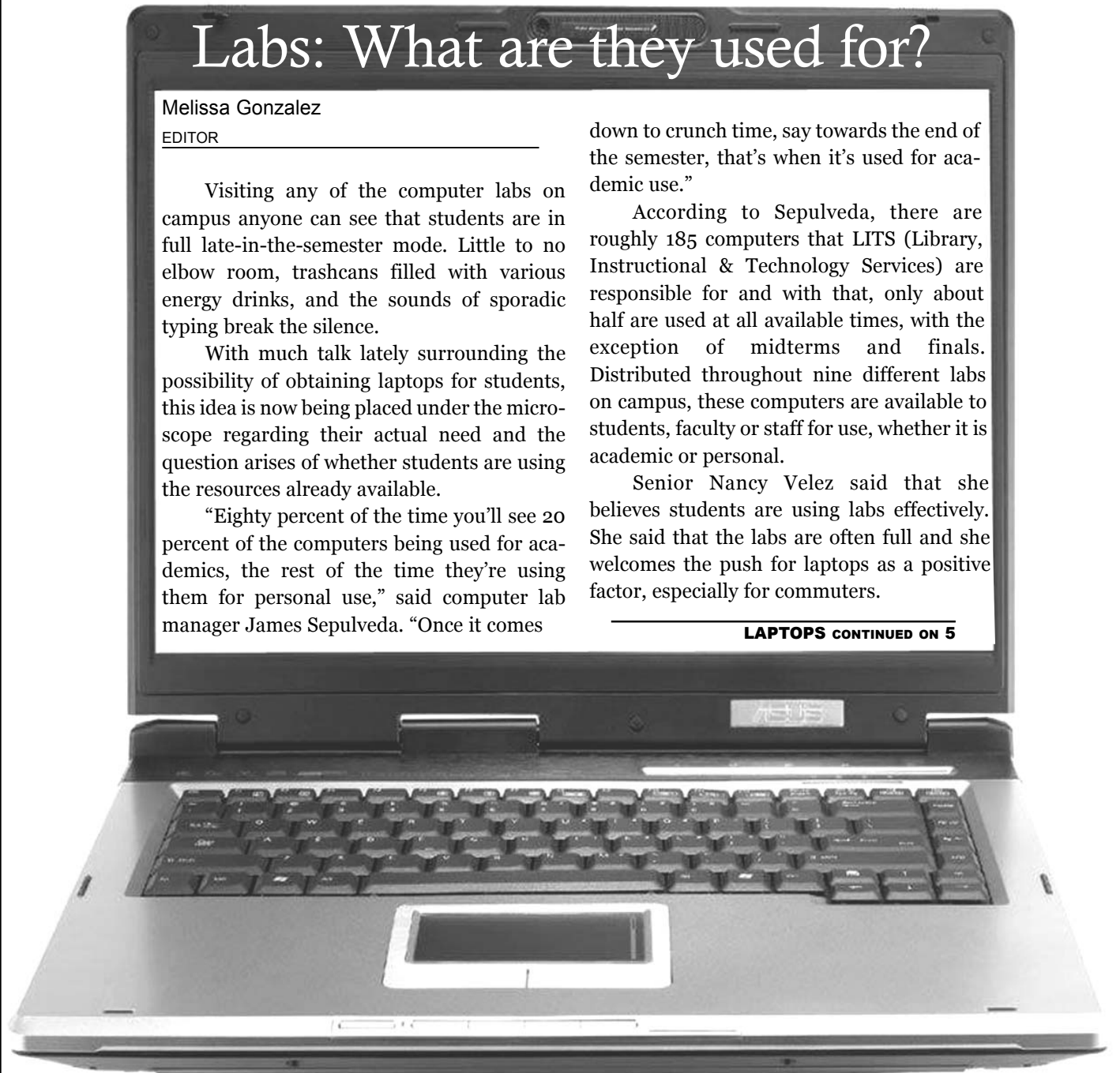


PHOTO COURTESY OF DELL

Computer issue a hot topic

Gloria Roriguez
LAKE REPORTER

As a college student these days, computers are crucial. Whether it is creating spreadsheets in Excel, manipulating images in Photoshop, learning new graphics, or typing countless essays for multiple courses, computers are necessary to pursue higher education. At the Student Government Association's recent Open Forum, a concern about the lack of computers was raised and since then laptops have been on the minds of SGA representatives.

On Oct. 11, SGA hosted its Open Forum where students could voice questions to faculty and staff including, Reggie Harmon, Sodexo Services director; Paul Frisch, vice president of Library Institutional Technology Services; and Dr. Jackie Alexander, vice president of Academic Affairs. Other panel speakers were Allen Klaus, vice president of Finance and Facilities, and Dr. Cindy Skaruppa, vice president



PHOTO BY TESSA BENAVIDES

Executive Vice President Howard Benoist talks to students at a recent Open Forum.

of Enrollment Management.

SGA representatives began the discussion by asking Frisch, "What is the possibility of getting laptops for all students?" Frisch responded that the

laptop idea is a cost issue. If laptops were to be implemented, they would give students a bigger burden, he said, as the laptop fee would be added to a student's tuition.

Frisch also stated, "Different disciplines have different needs for applications and programs. Unfortunately, one size does not fit all."

A week later, the laptop issue was raised at SGA's General Council meeting. Some representatives seemed adamant about making laptops available for students when they enter the university, while others proposed that laptops should be optional.

SGA Director of Marketing Kristen Price said, "I would prefer a 24-hour lab to be accessible to students. I do not want the university adding extra money to tuition for a laptop."

Price also said, "I know a lot of people who bought their own laptops when entering college. We should have more desktop computers, because they are always being occupied."

SGA CONTINUED ON 6

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Baldwin, Benning film hits box offices and drops to the floor.

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CDP TRIBUTE

Next issue: Students, faculty and staff will pay tribute to the life of Sr. Anita de Luna.

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SOUNDING OFF

How do you feel about the laptop/tuition issue?



LESLEY PECHE
sophomore

"Tuition is already high, but laptops for everyone would be good."



CRAIG WARDEN
senior

"If it helps the students, I'm all for it."



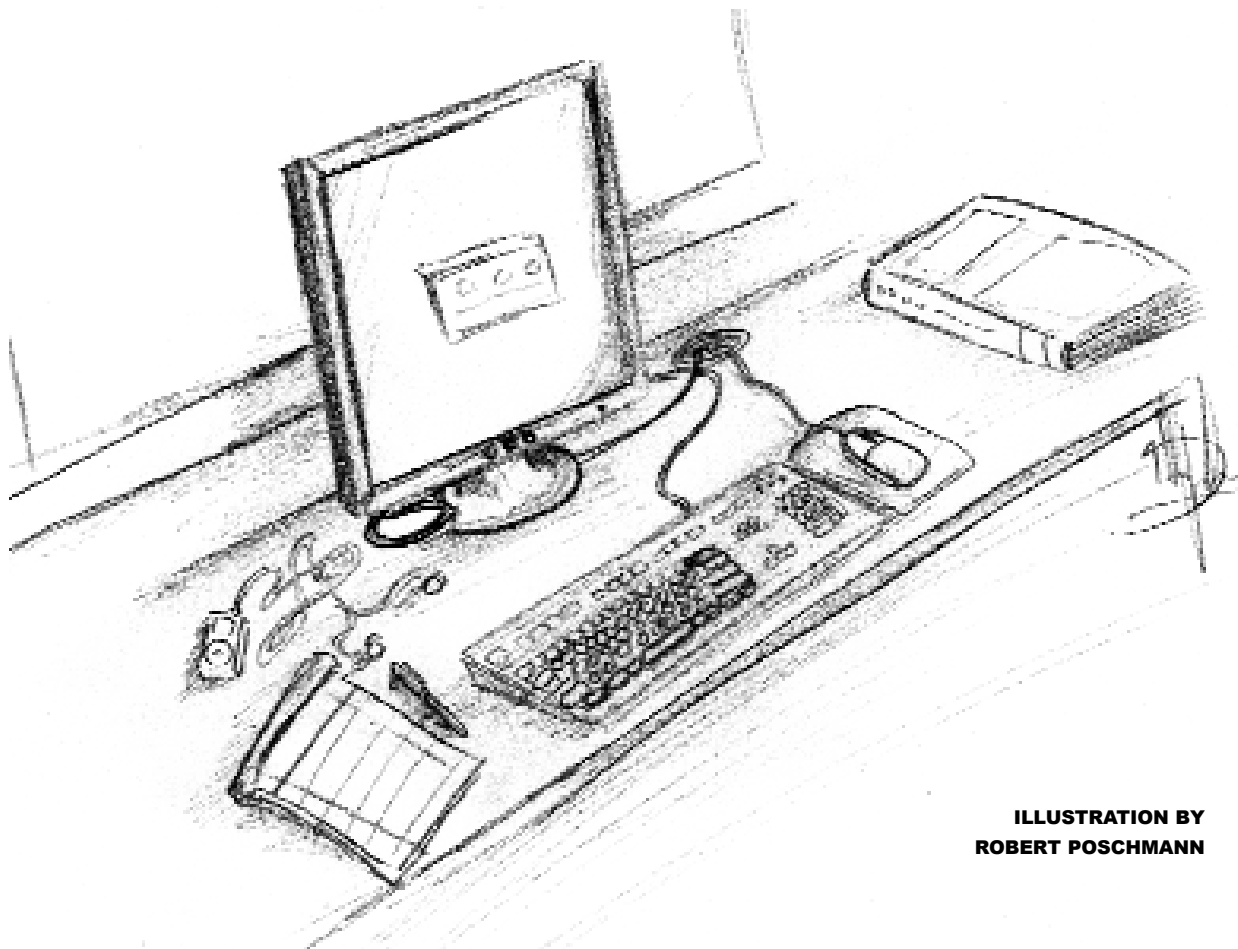
DANIEL AGUILAR
freshman

"If they gave everyone a laptop I would be the first one in line."



EMILY SOTELO
sophomore

"I don't think it would be fair if tuition was increased for everyone."



**ILLUSTRATION BY
ROBERT POSCHMANN**

LAB USE:

One part academic, two parts personal

With finals quickly approaching, students are beginning to hit campus labs in herds. But often when students enter the labs, instead of studying for that world religion final, they spend hours on MySpace filling out surveys and updating their background to match their current mood.

Forget about studying, at the moment it is the least of a student's concerns.

Most students will admit that staying in the academic mindset is becoming more and more difficult these days. With the invention of the Internet, cell phones, iPods, and the most addictive of all, MySpace, students are finding themselves torn: surf the Internet or pass biology class.

The decision is more complex than what it may seem. With so many distractions students have to work 10 times harder to stay focused than students did, say, 20 years ago.

On campus this phenomena is very evident. Step into Grossman Lab, and nine out of 10 times you'll find half of the students on MySpace, Facebook or blogging. Most of the time, students are doing this to take a break from academics, using the Internet as a way to get back into reality, as absurd as that may sound.

Even with all these new distractions, students appear to be performing quite well. The Corporation for National & Community Service recently released the report "College Students Helping America," which stated that between 2002 and 2005, college student volunteering increased by 20 percent. It may seem as if students are getting little done, but it is quite the opposite.

Students are getting their work done, even if it means that they are staying up later and working in their dorms or homes.

When it comes down to it, students are utilizing campus computer resources. An hour before that world religion final, students are on Web-CT studying PowerPoint lectures, jotting down notes, and rereading discussions. Students worried about passing that biology class are printing out lectures, notes and e-mailing the professor about possible extra-credit assignments.

The bottom line is that students are using the resources they pay for. It may be in the form of a mixture between personal and academic use, but, regardless, the job gets done.

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Road less traveled

Journey for Sister has many twists, turns

Tessa Benavides
LAKE WRITER

At the age of 46, Sister Marjie Filler can say that she has been there, done that, and seen more in her life than most people her age.

Filler is a rather new member of the Congregation of Divine Providence (becoming an affiliate in 2000); before that she was in the Navy and worked for NASA. She is now working at Providence High School, pursuing a degree in theology here, and adding to the list of things she has accomplished in her life.

"I will have done it all the day that I am called home to God," Filler said. "You never know what God has waiting for you around the corner."

This June she took her first annual vows, which she will continue to take for a minimum of three years. She has been in the process of joining the CDP's since 2000. She was not raised a Catholic and so this decision was not something she had predicted for herself growing up.

"I finally reached a point that I felt God was really pushing me to at least look at what religious life was all about, so I began looking," Filler said. "It was not an easy decision.

Before choosing religious life, Filler spent 20 years in the NASA program working on the visual systems for the space shuttle simulators.

After graduating high school, Filler joined the Navy because she did not have the funds to go on to college. She spent nine years on active duty.

According to Filler she will never forget the experiences.



PHOTO COURTESY OF
CONGREGATION OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE

Sister Marjie Filler, CDP, once worked for NASA and was in the Navy. Now she is assisting the president of Providence High School.

Filler's first ministry with the CDP involves assisting the president of Providence High School with activities to increase enrollment.

"I really love this school, the spirit, and the camaraderie," Filler said.

Filler's plans include getting her master's degree in theology and continuing work at Providence High School.

"Hopefully God and I are on the same page, but if not, then my future is whatever God has planned for me," Filler said. "What an adventure!"

After leading a life with so many twists and turns, Filler has one piece of advice for young adults about to make decisions for their own lives.

"Keep your eyes and hearts open to whatever God is calling you to. I know that each new path I took helped me become the person I am today," Filler said. "So don't close yourself to all the opportunities that God has filled this world with."

SISTER ANITA



PHOTO COURTESY OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Sister Anita de Luna, MCDP, died Oct. 27 after a four-year battle with ovarian cancer. De Luna served as assistant professor of religious studies and as director of the Center for Women in Church and Society. A tribute to de Luna will appear in the December issue of The Lake Front.

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CDP's honored donors for their contributions to the university and the convent (pictured here).

PHOTO BY
JENNIFER HERRERA



Founders Day honors donors

Gloria Rodriguez
LAKE REPORTER

OLLU has strong bonds with its past, primarily the Congregation of Divine Providence. All entering freshmen learn about the university's past during Camp Dillo week; there are lectures on Moye Circle, Sacred Heart Chapel and the university's mission statement.

However, the university would not be able to continue its legacy if it was not for the donors that help keep it running. OLLU thanked these donors with a special event held Nov. 8 in Chapel Auditorium.

The first Founders Day at OLLU was held in 1911. The event was held to honor the Congregation of Divine Providence who founded OLLU Academy and College. In addition, this paid tribute to the academy's faculty and staff. Friends of the Academy and College who supported the institution

were also honored at this event.

Today, the festivities are very much the same as it was in 1911. The Congregation of Divine Providence and donors were honored with a formal luncheon where they got to meet with the faculty, staff and students.

Lake Ambassadors were among some of the students who attended and volunteered at the event. Ambassador Amy Rodriguez said, "Founders Day is an important event for the university because it gives the donors a chance to meet and interact with the people they're helping. It's great for them to see how much they are appreciated."

Some other students who attended the event were student leaders, such as the Student Government Association's president, Doug Mercado, and vice president, Sarah Galvan. Other students who have been awarded university scholarships were given the opportunity to meet with their scholarship money donor at the event.

Worden, food bank team up for benefit

TUNA CONTINUED

"Tunapalooza surfaced during a lunch meeting one day with a volunteer coordinator for the San Antonio Food Bank," said Cynthia Medina, Associate Director for the Center for Service-Learning and Volunteerism.

According to Medina, the result of that lunch meeting was a benefit concert with the price of admission being five cans of tuna or \$5 admission with all proceeds going to the food bank. Tuna was chosen as the canned food donation of choice because of the nutritional value it offers, and because of this, it is a heavily requested food item at the food bank.

Last year's Tunapalooza raised more than \$800 for the San Antonio Food Bank. That money was able to buy about 5,666 meals, which in turn fed 1,036 people for four to seven days. This achievement made Tunapalooza a national event for food banks across the country.

"The big shock is that for every dollar donated to the food bank it equals \$13," service-learning student Janisa Hodges said.

Students from SOWK 3332 experienced the hardships in attaining food stamps when members of the San Antonio Food Bank made a presentation in their class. "It really opened our eyes to see how hard it is for people who are food insecure to become food

"The big shock is that for every dollar donated to the food bank it equals \$13."

Janisa Hodges
SERVICE-LEARNING STUDENT

secure," Hodges said.

The empty bowls portion of the event had its humble beginnings in 1990. According to emptybowls.net, since then it has evolved into a fundraising event held across the world and has generated millions of dollars to aid food banks and soup kitchens. Empty bowls begins with volunteers who make ceramic bowls for the event; once made, they are up for sale for a minimum donation of \$10.

"A person can come and select a bowl and we will give them a ticket, with that ticket they will be able to take it to one of the restaurants who will give them one complimentary bowl of soup," Medina said.

Entertainment for Tunapalooza includes bands such as Starchild, Alter Ego, Bliss, Vinal Affair, Santa Monica and the OLLU Mariachis who will be performing in Thiry Auditorium from 5-10 p.m. There will also be vendors such as Inca T-shirts and Starbucks.

"We have a lot of great bands, prizes and vendors so \$5 or five cans of tuna can buy a really good time," Hodges said.

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Soccer program kicks into high gear

Tessa Benavides
LAKE WRITER

The World Cup may be over and the rest of the world may have gotten over "soccer fever," but soccer is still the rage here.

On Nov. 10, newly appointed men's soccer head coach Shane Hurley and the rest of the athletic department will host a second meet and greet session.

The session is a chance for both current and future students interested in the men's soccer program to show off their skills, meet the new head coach, and learn about the program. A session was held last week and according to Vice President of Student Life and Athletic Director, Jack Hank, it was a huge success.

Hurley is the latest addition to the athletics program. Within the few weeks he has been on campus, Hurley has already begun to make plans for the future of the program.

"I've heard that there are some quality players here already, and I want to give them a full opportunity to get to know me through some training sessions prior to having the pressure of try-outs," Hurley said.

"This is about being the



PHOTO BY MARTIN RODRIGUEZ

Men's head soccer coach Shane Hurley rallies potential players recently for the upcoming NAIA soccer team.

caliber of a player to compete at the collegiate level; I want to get to know as many students as possible that have a passion for the game."

Before arriving here, Hurley was a member of the state staff of the South Texas Olympic Development Program. He was responsible for helping conduct try-outs at various age groups to identify potential candidates for the program.

Hurley is also involved in a local soccer club, XLR8, as the director of coaching. His club teams have won several state championships and one of his teams won a regional championship while representing South Texas in Alabama over the summer.

According to Hurley, what attracted him to the Lake was "the potential of the program, as well as what the school has academically to offer all stu-

dents."

Hurley is already enjoying his time here.

"So far, I love it at the Lake," Hurley said. "There is a real sense of community here. Those that I've become fortunate enough to come in contact with have been accommodating and seem to be real patriots for our school and community."

In other NAIA news, according to Hank a potential

candidate for the women's volleyball head coach was interviewed last month. The school is also still petitioning for admittance into the Red River Conference. Hank is very pleased with the direction the program is heading.

"This has opened a new avenue for students to get an education while affording them the opportunity to play the sport they love," Hank said.

Lab hours, controversial sites a continuing issue

LAPTOP CONTINUED

Though 185 terminals sound on par with student attendance numbers, when midterms and finals are in full swing, the odds of finding a computer during peak hours in the afternoon and evening are quite slim, thus the student outcry for additional support.

Many colleges and universities have sought out controversial Web sites such as MySpace and blocked them from being accessed on school property in addition to restricting students' computer usage to solely academics. This has opened a substantial number of computers for use.

"Other universities have limited sites and it becomes a real big problem. I can see it happening," Sepulveda said. "I wouldn't want it to happen because there is academic freedom. Some sites do disrupt bandwidth and when it does that, it disrupts everybody and that's not a good thing."

Junior Melissa Ollervides is a Grossman Lab assistant and she said she believes that limiting students' Internet usage would be singling out those who do not have Internet/computer access at home.

"Students use them (lab comput-

"Other universities have limited sites and it becomes a real big problem."

James Sepulveda
COMPUTER LAB MANAGER

ers) for academics as well as when they're done for personal use. Most students don't have computers at home so they have to use them (lab computers) for personal use at times," said Ollervides.

Computer restrictions have already been established on campus. Sueltenfuss Library has a group of 10 computers that are designated for academic use only. The library management reserves the right to kick off individuals for using them for personal use.

Some tips for making the most out of the Lake's resources are using vacant labs (Worden School Lab), avoiding major ones (Grossman and Information Skills labs) during midterm and finals, using computers during the morning hours, and, most importantly, using computers and printers for solely academic purposes.

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Rehearsal becomes focus of play

SHREW CONTINUED

Set to open Nov. 17 in the 24th Street Theater, the actors, which include students, staff and professors, have been rehearsing since September and have undergone direction from Slocum on how to become well-versed in the theatrical delivery of Shakespeare.

"Working with Shakespeare is very trying," senior, Jei Villamayor said. "Slocum wants us to find the true meaning behind the words; he wants us to know what we are saying so the audience will understand."

A lot of thought was put into the selection of Shakespeare's play. Because

the university has a majority of female students, the selection can be "hard ... you can always do the classics and students will be encouraged to attend Shakespeare," Slocum said.

Since "Taming of the Shrew" is Slocum's last production for the university, he wanted to incorporate his favorite part about producing plays.

"I cut the text and when it was finally shortened I asked myself, 'How do I do this?'" Slocum said. "Since it was my last show, I decided to show what I enjoy doing most — rehearsal. The show begins like an actual rehearsal and it ends with the final product."

The play has many charac-

ters who are not who they seem to be. The large cast features servants playing masters and plenty of power and role reversals that are sure to keep the audience entertained.

"Playing Katherine is a lot different because I am not used to being angry," junior Judith Martinez said. "It is a very physical play and it is funny."

Having produced more than 40 plays including those with the 24th Street Experiment, Slocum has called on former students and actors who he has worked with to fill some roles in the production.

"I go back many years with the Slocums," drama professor Roger Alvarez said. "We've

been working on the 24th Street Experiment and so he calls me in for a lot of stuff. As far as his swan song here it is a good one. It is a nice mixture of the students and the 24th Street Experiment."

Slocum has one more semester left before he retires and would like to see the university move in a positive direction. "It seems to me that we have an incredible opportunity to help develop leaders, among women in particular, and others who have been marginalized; we have a golden opportunity to do that. Education is not a matter of money or class but of life experiences," he said.

Adjunct instructors an issue at SGA forum

SGA CONTINUED

One question that was asked at Open Forum was, "Why are some classes taught by part-time faculty?"

Alexander responded by saying, "Many professors teach at other universities, however, they are directed to have office hours whether it be virtual or before or after class."

Alexander added, "Their contact information should be on the course outline and if you still can not get a hold of your professor take your complaint to the department chair or the dean."

Another topic that was raised is the rotation of courses in different disciplines. The rotation of certain courses differs in various concentrations, and some say it can affect graduation dates. Senior and SGA representative Jei Villamayor has brought this issue to the Academic Affairs Committee.

Villamayor stated that some disciplines that have course-rotation problems include biology, communication arts, social work, philosophy and accounting. In reference to this problem, Villamayor said, "It's ridiculous that we have to spend so much money on tuition and wait for the rotation of appropriate classes to graduate."

Residence Life director focuses on what counts

Michael Hobbs
LAKE REPORTER

Newly appointed director of residence life Mark Center is a new face here and is already making an impact on the university with his friendly humor and positive attitude.

Whether it's participating in activities planned by resident assistants or making life more comfortable for the students, Center calls The Lake a second home. He even says he would live here if he could.

"Sure, I love the students here already; they make me feel so welcomed here," Center said. "This campus is so rich in religious and cultural background. It's really been different working here than other universities."

"I've almost always lived on campus, in my college, as an RA, and even after graduation. I discovered my life's passion in student housing as my career of choice," Center said. "I know what it takes to make the students feel welcome, since I used to be one, and I want to make sure they're getting their money's worth."

Center has only been on campus for a couple of weeks and is already assuming the role as an active member of the university.

His role in residence life is to supervise the RA's, making sure they're catering to student needs, seeing that safety is maintained in student dormitories, and that nothing is neg-

"I just want to make (students) feel as comfortable as they've made me feel already."

Mark Center
DIRECTOR OF RESIDENCE LIFE

lected with no complaint going unheard.

"I just want to make them (students) feel as comfortable as they've made me feel already. It's been a pleasure working with the RA's and I feel they deserve so much more credit than I do," Center said. "I'm actually surprised about how small a campus can bring such rich leadership as the RA's I've worked with."

He motioned toward the Halloween costume he wore to welcome the children from St. Martin's Hall as they celebrated Halloween at Boo Bash.

"Boo Bash was so successful and well done, this is why I enjoy working here; the RA's have already done a superb job of getting things done. I can only anticipate the next events to come," Center said.

When asked about what future projects or changes Center would make, he explained that, "I don't think any changes need to be made. Why fix what isn't broken," he said. "My only goal is that the students are getting their or their parents' money's worth and that I can make them as comfortable as possible."

They love the West Side

Twenty people who love this neighborhood

Leticia Vela
LAKE REPORTER

Young, old, in their prime or passed on, the people on this list are connected by their passion for the West Side. Some have put their lives and reputations on the line for the community; others have strived for personal success. Some have worked within the mainstream while others have fought side by side with the marginalized.

Whether you agree with their stance or not, in their own way, they have done something for the community. They represent the best of the West Side, a neighborhood that many people hold dear. Here is a sample of this neighborhood's past, present, and emerging leaders.

Maria Antonietta Berriozabal

First Chicana elected to the San Antonio City Council. She served from 1981 to 1991.

Antonia Castañeda

History professor at St. Mary's University. Writes historical essays about early Mexican American women.

Julian Castro

The Stanford Daily said the former, youngest-ever San Antonio City Council member "was born on Mexican Independence Day, grew up in a mostly Mexican-American neighborhood in San Antonio, and attended Stanford University and Harvard Law School. Then, with all of the opportunities in the world, he went back home"—lucky for us.

Henry Cisneros



High-profile former mayor of San Antonio.

Pastor Alfredo "Freddie" Garcia

Former drug addict turned preacher. Author of "Outcry in the Barrio," he started the Victory Fellowship in 1972, a ministry for addicts and ex-convicts.

Efrain Gutierrez

Without formal training and on a shoestring budget this filmmaker made films that were selected for preservation by UCLA. His collected papers have been purchased by Stanford.

Henry B. Gonzalez

Served in the U.S. House of Representatives for 37 years.

Elena Guajardo

Courageously serves on the San Antonio City Council since 2005. The council's first openly gay member. Holds a master's degree in social work from OLLU.

Jaime Martinez

Main organizer of the annual Cesar Chavez march.

Ruben Mungia — Political icon who opened Mungia Print Shop in 1934.

Albert A. Peña

Born on the West Side. Served as municipal judge, county commissioner and founded the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF).

Tessa Martinez Pollack

Seventh president of OLLU. Has implemented recruitment programs aimed at increasing enrollment from West Side schools.

Patti Radle

An educator who represents the West Side on San Antonio City Council.

Ron Radle

Director of a housing assistance corporation and a Board of Trustees member at OLLU.

Graciela Sanchez

A West Side native. She directs the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center.

Andres Sarabia

Respected activist and leader of the faith-based group, Communities Organized for Public Service (COPS).

Carmen Tafolla

A San Antonio native and award-winning poet who author Alex Haley called a "world-class writer."

Emma Tenayuca

Leader of a labor movement in pecan shelling and cigar factories during the late '30s and early '40s.

Jesse Treviño

Veteran and OLLU alumnus known for his photo realistic paintings of San Antonio's West Side community.

Willie Velasquez

Founder of the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project.

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Melissa Gonzalez
EDITOR

In "Nip/Tuck" director, Ryan Murphy's dark comedy, "Running with Scissors," a teenager, Augusten Burroughs (Joseph Cross), recounts his experiences growing up with an alcoholic father (Alec Baldwin), an emotionally unbalanced mother (Annette Bening) and an eccentric adoptive family.

Based on Burroughs' memoir with the same title, Murphy attempts to replicate subtle Wes Anderson-like humor with a deep underlying tone of cynicism.

When Augusten's struggling-poet mother, Deirdre, seeks professional help for her crumbling marriage, she expects the best and receives the most peculiar, Dr. Finch (Brian Cox). Though his credentials are impressive, his practices are the most unconventional, to say the least.

Upon Deirdre's mental breakdown, caused by a steady diet of Valium, Augusten is taken in by the odd Finch family where he encounters a wide -spectrum of characters, finds himself as well as his sexuality, and follows a dream. No longer are Augusten and his mother inseparable, but now estranged. The Finch family has become his own and will play a significant part in him finding himself

The faint hints of humor slide in and out but the cynicism over-

powers the picture as a whole. If you were expecting the "Royal Tennenbaums" think darker, more outside of the box with a splash of "One Flew over Over the Cuckoo's Nest." The variety of characters, each crazy in their own ways, are is what will retained retain viewers.

Gwyneth Paltrow plays Finch's oldest daughter, Hope, a soon-to-be spinster who enjoys long conversations with her cat, dead or alive. With a Bible in one hand, and questions in her head, she asks the Bible as if it were a magic eight ball on what to eat and how to live. Though Paltrow's character has similarities to past Anderson ones,; Hope definitely exhibits Paltrow's versatility as an actress.

Youngest child, Natalie, played by Evan Rachel Wood, is perceived as the most normal of all the family members, that is, until her tragic past is revisited and she too finds her place amongst the Finche's.

Wood joined joins a list of accomplished actors in "Running with Scissors." Though the sex appeal was is there it was is hard to differentiate her from her past character in her famed breakout role in "Thirteen."

"Running With Scissors" dares audiences to perceive alternative family values, and though they may not be typical, but they work and this encourages the underlying theme of choosing to be different.

After all, what is normal, anyway?



And you thought your family was crazy...

Murphy film redefines crazy



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRISTAR PICTURES
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ALFREDO VALENZUELA

RATING GUIDE BOX

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3 DECENT

4 WORTH YOUR \$

5 CLASSIC



Soundtrack falls short of classic

The soundtrack for "Marie Antoinette" may have wowed audiences with Sofia Coppola's eclectic choice of songs for her lackluster film, but the CD as a whole is a disappointment.

This diverse album contains genres of several types from new wave, post-punk, dream pop, electronica and classical pieces.

The remix of the 1980s hit "I Want Candy" by Kevin Shields can be heard on the two-disc soundtrack. The remix adds a new and different sound to the original track.

Classical music can be heard throughout the album, however, each track is tucked in between unwanted songs.

There are only a few films that have been followed by a hit soundtrack, but sadly this album does not fall in that category.

Christa Silva
lake reporter

Gypsy Kings stay home on 'Pasajero'

On their latest album, "Pasajero," the Gypsy Kings masquerade as passengers exploring the musical heritage of their ancestors. It's too bad their ride was traveling at breakneck speed, barely slowing down between world destinations.

The 14 tracks on the album are said to feature Cuban, Latin, reggae and Arabic rhythms but the songs sound more like they've been put into a Mediterranean blender. Take for example, "Chan Chan," the Cuban song by Compay Segundo, outstandingly performed by the Buena Vista Social Club.

On "Pasajero," the Kings exchange the slow tempo and elongated cadence, BVSC techniques that result in irresistible anticipation, for standard Gypsy Kings guitar-on-fire fare, devoid of Cubanismo, suspense or surprise.

American journalist Elizabeth Drew once said, "Too often travel, instead of broadening the mind, merely lengthens the conversation." With "Pasajero," the Gypsy Kings continue to chatter but fail to rise to new dimensions.

Leticia Vela
lake reporter



COURTESY OF TRISTAR PICTURES

Ethan Embry, Breckin Meyer, Peter Facinelli and Eddie Mills lounge in the road they hope will lead them out of their small town in 'Dancer, Texas Pop. 81'

Small-town movie also speaks to big-city folk

Tessa Benavides
LAKE WRITER

Small-town life is a unique experience, to say the least. For those who have lived in small towns or went to a small high school where the lines from the "Cheers" theme song "Where Everybody Knows Your Name" never rang more true; this is just a part of life. It never fails that in such places there is a group of friends who can't wait to move on.

The 1998 film "Dancer, Texas Pop. 81," directed by Tim McCanlies, is about such an experience.

The movie chronicles four best friends, Keller Coleman (Breckin Meyer), Terrell Lee Lusk (Peter Facinelli), John Hemphill (Eddie Mills), and Squirrel (Ethan Embry), on the eve of their high school graduation.

The four took a solemn vow at the age of 11 to leave Dancer when they graduated and head to Los Angeles. However, within the 48 hours between their graduation and the morning they are to climb on the first bus out of Dancer, the group faces decisions that will change both their plans and the rest of their lives.

The movie not only speaks to anyone from a small town, but to anyone who has ever been in a situation where the realization that "nothing stays" is discovered.

More than anything the movie is one to check out, watch with a few good friends and think back to those times when the bonds of friendship are stretched and tested.



MUSIC GUIDE BOX



ALTERNATIVE



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COUNTRY



ROCK



POP



LATIN