



# The Rattler

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## Juggling it all

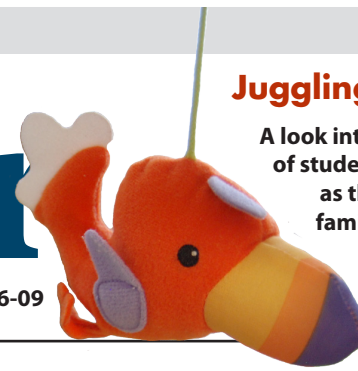
A look into the lives of student parents as they raise a family and get a degree

PG. 12

## New facilities

University donors campaign to add \$23 million collegiate sports complex.

PG. 18



## Alumna hopes for immigration reform bill

By Stephen Guzman  
Features Editor



Benita Veliz

The DREAM Act, or the Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act, is a piece of bipartisan legislation which would grant a path to citizenship to some 65,000 undocumented students who were brought to the U.S. before the age of 16. These students must also demonstrate good moral character and graduate from high school.

On Sept. 23, 63 organizations from 15 states will hold a number of events in favor of the DREAM act for the Back to School DREAM Act Day of Action. These events may include informational forums, rallies, press conferences or marches. Many of these events will take place on college campuses including The University of Texas in Austin, The University of California Los Angeles and Arizona State University.

In June, 7 pro-DREAM act organizations from six cities across Texas united and formed the Texas DREAM Act Alliance. With organizations in Arlington, Austin, Dallas, Houston, College Station and San Antonio. Members of the Texas DREAM Act Alliance strive to grow activism, awareness of what the DREAM Act is and advocate for it on a legislative level.

The San Antonio chapter of the alliance, Students United for the DREAM Act, formed on campus after alumna, Benita Veliz, faced deportation.

Veliz, 24, is a Mexican native. She traveled to the U.S. with her parents at the age of eight on a tourist visa from Nuevo León, Mexico but has called the U.S. her home ever since.

As valedictorian of Jefferson High School in 2002, Veliz was able to attend the university on a full scholarship and graduated under the honors program in 2006 with a 3.4 GPA.

In January, when a police officer stopped Veliz for not making a complete stop at a stop sign, she found herself in a situation that would eventually cause her to face deportation. With only a Mexican consular identity card in hand, Veliz was handcuffed and turned in to the Federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Before this incident, Veliz said she had never been in any sort of trouble with the law that would expose her to Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Veliz, currently employed by a non-profit church organization, is not bitter toward the U.S. judicial system. "I know that there are laws and regulations," says Veliz. "I think that that's one of the things that makes America great, to be able to have laws which allow for freedom. But at the same time I'm in the position that there is nothing I can do to adjust my status."

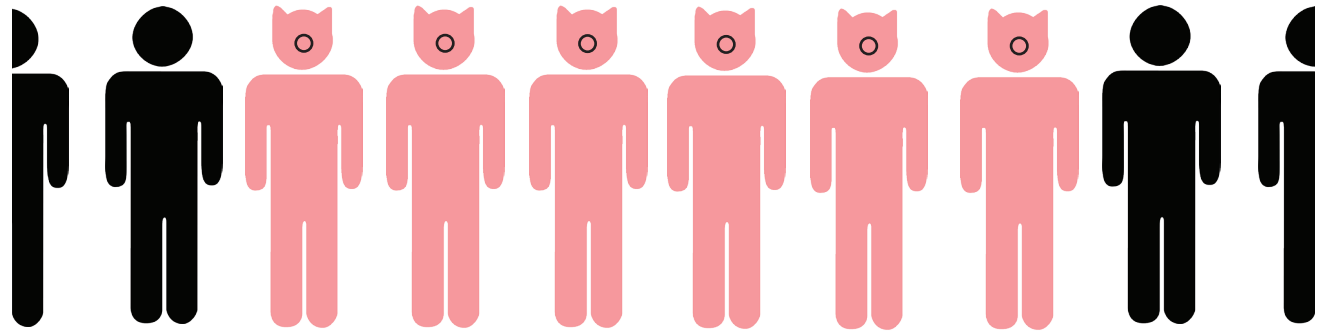
U.S.-born or not, Veliz said she holds American

Cont. on PG. 11 and 12, SEE "Dreaming"

"My fear is there is going to be many cases before the vaccine comes."

- Sandra Vasquez, director of the student health center

# H1N1 COMES TO ST. MARY'S



The campus prepares to prevent future outbreaks of the new epidemic sweeping the nation after six students contract the swine flu.

By Denice Hernandez  
and Valerie Sanchez  
Managing Editor and Staff Writer

The student health center is hoping to receive 1,000 doses of the H1N1 flu vaccine mid-October for students on campus.

Sandra Vasquez, director of the student health center, said she has already registered the University with the Texas Department of State Health Services, which will be distributing the H1N1, or swine flu vaccine.

"My fear is there is going to be many cases before the vaccine comes," Vasquez said.

Since school began, six cases of influenza have been confirmed at the University, the first five of them commuter students, according to Vasquez. The sixth case – the first resident to have the flu this semester – became ill the Friday before Labor Day according to Dean of Students Tim Bessler and Director of Residence Life James Villareal.

"Normally we don't see seasonal influenza this early in the school year so this is very unusual," Vasquez said.

Although the sick students' illness has not been confirmed as swine flu, Vasquez said she assumes it is because at other health

facilities and testing centers in San Antonio, 99 percent of cases have been confirmed as H1N1.

Roger Sanchez, an epidemiologist in Bexar County explained that sentinel clinics, which are surveillance sights where specimens are taken from patients usually for influenza tests, have only come across two seasonal flu cases in the past couple of months. Ninety-nine percent of the positive tests were from H1N1, Sanchez said.

Although the Centers for Disease Control estimates that 36,000 people die from the flu every year, the swine flu has had more media attention because of the virus' ability to mutate and transfer. Vasquez and the Web site of the CDC describe symptoms to be similar to seasonal flu, but with digestive problems such as upset stomach and vomiting.

Students who were diagnosed with H1N1 have recovered in several days, Vasquez said, and they can quickly get back into their school routines if they seek treatment early.

It is crucial that any individual with the virus take the prescribed medication within 48 hours of symptoms in order to reach

Cont. on PG. 5, SEE "Swine Flu"

## H1N1 Symptoms

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention the Swine Flu symptoms are similar to the symptoms of seasonal influenza.

However, If you feel ill it is recommended that you stay home from work or school. Most physicians agree that the virus will shed 24 hours before the symptoms begin to show.

It is highly recommended you contact your local physician if you exhibit any of the following symptoms.

- Fever or chills
- Headache
- Nasal Congestion or runny nose
- Sore throat
- Cough
- Body aches and lethargy
- Lack of appetite, nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Graphic Illustration by Jaime Perez