In CAMP there is only one thing guaranteed each year: a merry-go-round of cat and mouse between staff and students. CAMP students, by and large, remain the same each year. They caper into UTEP and are jittery, skittish, happy, and, unfortunately, sort of naive: Oh my Gosh, I have to do homework everyday? What about my boyfriend, and cumbias, and reggaeton, and my novela? Yes, you have homework, your boyfriend you can break up with, and that backyard junk you call reggaeton is about as enriching as watching a street bum sing and dance for a stick of gum.

To be fair, the CAMP staff and peer leaders enter each year with the bleak fantasy that things might be easier than the year before. But they aren’t. Each summer semester, with a breeze of new CAMP students, everything is wild. The last cohort of CAMP students had to wake up before 7:00 am for their History class, which meant that the peer leaders had to as well, and the next gaggle of CAMP students will be doing the same. All the previous CAMP classes (before the 2006-2007 group) didn’t have as strict schedules, where the peer leaders and Rueben, during the summer semester, spent an average of eighteen hours per day with them. When I was a peer leader, with the 2003-2006 classes, the summers were more relaxed, with the result that the students zipped around like children set loose in a zoo, especially the 2004-2005 class. Controlling that class was something of a miracle, and a pain—it was like trying to douse a fire by rolling your body all over it and getting burned in the most uncomfortable places.

The CAMP events and tutoring, however, have pretty much remained the same. The students are usually peeved by it, grousing about their instructor, about fulfilling their tutoring hours, about their peer leader, about life. Some of it, however, is actually deserved.

Continues on page 3
Victorino graduated from Clint High School and participated in the CAMP program in 2003-2004. The Biology Major is expected to graduate in December 2008. Being a CAMP Alumnus has helped her as a Peer Leader: “I love being a peer leader, this is a great opportunity to be with students & help them everyday possible, especially because I’ve been in their shoes.”

During the mid spring semester, an Alumnus of the CAMP program joined our staff as a new peer leader. Gilda

As the year 2006-2007 progressed, the camp office has been full of surprises. This spring there was a new staff member, Rosalinda Quiraz. She was appointed as the new Student Development Specialist II, replacing Antonio Garcia. Ms. Quiraz graduated in May 2006 from The University of Texas at El Paso with a BBA in Finance and Marketing. She became the new recruiter for CAMP, having duties like recruiting new students from High Schools around West Texas. Other responsibilities are to assist the selected incoming freshmen with financial aid, UTEP admission, and the CAMP application. “I have really enjoyed working for the College Assistance Migrant Program even though I’ve been here for a short period of time. The staff and peer leaders are great people to work with and also having the opportunity to help high school students make an easier transition from high school to college life has been an extremely rewarding task for me.”

This spring semester the campers were engaged in different activities, including community service. The El Paso Museum of Art Foundation had an event titled Azul, which was held on April 14, 2007. The Azul Gala Spectacular was a fundraiser for the El Paso Museum of Art Foundation Organization. The campers helped setting up tables, decorations, and outside scenario with couches. With precaution, the campers helped setup a $10,000 table with 10 seats, where each seat cost $1,000.

Another community service event that the campers were present at was a fundraiser for ST. Puis Catholic Church. The campers helped out by setting tables with custom menudo spices and cutting the traditional bread. They also helped with the fundraiser advertising after mass.
Each of the cats had an interesting story. They not only sang it, but they also danced. The gellico cats got to sing their life story. The main idea was telling why they meet once every full moon. This Dinner Theater was fun and can be recommended for children, teens and adults.

Have you ever seen a night full of cats? Have you seen cats singing? No, don’t consider when a cat meow’s as singing but consider them singing like a normal human. On March 18, 2007, the CAMP students got the privilege to see cats singing on a night with a full moon. If you have not guessed what happened that night, we went to see a Dinner Theater called CATS. In order to enjoy CATS, we had to have a full stomach, so we had dinner, which was composed of the rice soup and salad, veggies and chicken stuffed with ham, and for dessert, cheese cake.

After dinner we enjoyed the CATS production.

FIVE YEARS OF CAMP CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The CAMP staff and peer leaders are annoying; they needle the CAMP student, hound him, dog him, call over and over, sometimes just hanging up when the student answers, just to confirm things that, at the immediate moment, seem like life and death.

Paradoxically, the mobs of students that have shuttled through the CAMP office remain as distinct from one another as they remain similar. Each year they’re irked when it comes to completing their tutoring hours; each year there are a few that are talented at flaking out of anything they don’t want to do; each year there is a feud between this one and that one. But, individually, their quirks and personalities are like spinning kaleidoscopes. Sometimes it’s a baffling thinking about how barbed, witty, quick, and plain humorous many of these students are. Of course, some of them keep you at a broom’s length, but most are more than willing, and equipped, to fight with you (and each other) in a free and jocular manner. Such is the purpose of the CAMP activities and events every year; dinner theater, tailgates, plays, eatouts, even, at times, tutoring (and the seminars). CAMP fosters an atmosphere—at least, I’d like to think—that is for the student, welcoming and, hopefully, comfortable and cheerful for everyone.

Overall, Harvey is a very funny and joyful play that made us realize that we all are “insane” in our own way.
A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR
BY RUEBEN MORENO

As we close the books on another successful semester, we look ahead to the next chapter of UTEP-CAMP. For Spring 2007, 85% of the current students in CAMP completed the semester with a cumulative Grade Point Average of a 2.0 or higher. This was the most successful semester for CAMP since it opened in Spring 2003. The current cohort of students will be assisted an additional semester, Summer I. Students will continue to receive financial assistance (stipends), participate in community service and fun events, and live at Miner Village.

Although the current federal grant ends on June 30, 2007, CAMP staff will remain available to assist all CAMP alumni. In addition, UTEP-CAMP was awarded a grant from the Upper Rio Grant Workforce Board. This grant will allow CAMP to serve 20 incoming freshman students for summer II. The format will be very similar to the past two Intensive Summer Programs. The grant was written by Dr. Edens, Dr. Ward, Dr. Stein and I. The grant runs from June through August 2007.

As previously mentioned, the current grant expires on June 30, 2007. I am happy to announce that on behalf of UTEP-CAMP, I successfully submitted the Request for Proposal (RFP) on Tuesday, May 15, 2007. We should hear from the Department of Education, Office of Migrant Education sometime in late August or early September 2007.

Finally, we will have our 2007 CAMP graduation on June 22, 2007 at the Vista Hills Country Club. Immediately after the graduation, we will have a dance and karaoke for all CAMP alumni at 8:00 pm. Please call Olga Strange at 747-6688 to make your reservation for this event. Have a great summer!

For updates on UTEP-CAMP, please visit our website at www.studentaffairs.utep.edu/camp. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Regards,
Rueben Moreno, M.A.
Director
UTEP-CAMP

HULLABALOO STRIKES BACK
BY RUEBEN MORENO

Hullabaloo Studios was founded in January 2006 by Rueben Moreno and Jose Reyes. To ensure that we “capture” each moment, all video is shot live and is unedited. All work is completed at the CAMP office located at Graham Hall. After being in CAMP for eleven months, students get to travel back in time and relive some of their most treasured memories, such as the Lip Sync Contest, Homecoming Week, and Dinner Theater. This year’s movie will be approximately 30 minutes in duration and will have new features such as staff interviews and a tribute to Braulio Vargas. Also, the cover of the DVD has been redesigned. On June 22, 2007, Hullabaloo Studios will unveil it’s second DVD movie entitled “Gold” at the 5th Annual CAMP Graduation Ceremony at the Vista Hills Country Club. The DVD will focus on the 2006-2007 CAMP cohort accompanied by some serious music.
Braulio Vargas began his CAMP participation as a freshman in the Summer Intensive Program in June 2006. Even though he had a delicate health condition, his great determination to succeed took him through the fall semester and ending in the Spring of 2007. He will be missed by all his fellow classmates and all who knew him...

“I will always remember how positive you were and that you never gave up. I never saw you mad or upset; you always had a positive approach to things”

“I respect you for your insistence on not receiving special treatment but being treated as an equal, just like everyone else”

“I’ll always remember your will to live. Your determination to graduate from college with your mind set and ready to go. Thank you for showing me the many possibilities in life and one great thing I’ll always remember about you is your passion to argue – to anyone”

“He had a great sense of humor! He asked once when we were going to stop reading, Claudia replied when we all go blind. He started laughing and yelled out – I’m done!!”

“I will always remember your independence and strong will”

“I will always remember your persistence to achieve your dreams and living each day to the fullest”

“I will always remember the 1st day we met. You told us that you were coming to UTEP because you wanted to come to college and our program. You were so determined to succeed and I believe you did”
C.A.M.P. STAFF

Director
Rueben Moreno, MA

Student Development Specialist II
Rosalinda Quiroz

Student Development Specialist I
Aaron I. Moreno

Administrative Assistant
Olga Strange

Peer Leaders
Anna Garcia
Claudia Ochoa
Gilda Victorino

CAMP Mentor Liaison
Jose A. Reyes

YOU ARE INVITED TO CAMP’s 5th YEAR ANNIVERSARY DANCE!

CAMP has reached the end of its 5th year grant cycle. We hope you join us for a reunion dance commemorating CAMP students for the past 5 years.

Friday, June 22, 2007, 7:30 p.m.
Vista Hills Country Club
2210 Trawood Dr.

Please call Olga Strange at the CAMP Office at (915) 747-6688 by June 14, 2007 to confirm your reservation.

To keep up with CAMP updates, visit our website at:
www.studentaffairs.utep.edu/camp

The University of Texas at El Paso
Graham Hall 303
500 West University Avenue
El Paso Texas 79968
Phone: 915-747-6688