

TODAY  
MORE THAN  
**\$85**  
IN SAVINGS

**SUNDAY**

IN S.A. LIFE & CULTURAS

**One shining night**

LUMINARIA WILL CELEBRATE THE ARTS IN S.A.

# San Antonio Express-News

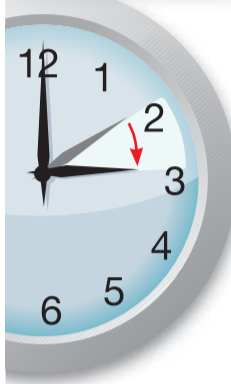
METRO EDITION

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2008

www.MySanAntonio.com

THE VOICE OF SOUTH TEXAS SINCE 1865

## IN THE NEWS



### Spring those clocks forward?

Hopefully you remembered to set them an hour ahead. Daylight-saving time is here.

>> MYSA.COM

**Keyword: Multimedia**  
For a video on how the time change strikes a clock-shop owner.

### Obama wins Wyoming

The Democratic presidential hopeful from Illinois chalks up another victory in another caucus state. **Political news: Pages 3A-6A**



### Bush vetoes waterboard ban

The president halts a congressional effort to limit harsh CIA interrogations. **Page 8A**

### ACLU honors two women

A gala on the 70th anniversary of the American Civil Liberties Union of Texas falls the same day as a women's march. **Metro, 1B**

### Putting on the dog

Preening and prancing pooches beg judges for top titles at the Alamo City Cluster of Dog Shows, which runs through today. **Metro, 1B**

### Today's forecast

Mostly cloudy  
7 AM: **47°** NOON: **66°**  
5 PM: **69°** 10 P.M.: **62°**  
**Detailed weather report, 16C**



Officers Mario Salas (from left) and Jesus Garcia of the Tactical Response Unit check the serial number of a weapon for K-9 sheriff's Deputy R.L. Wann at a hotel in December. The unit, which officially began in 2007, has targeted high-crime areas while trying to avoid a perception that it's harassing minorities.



# TACTICS UNDER FIRE

STORY BY LOMI KRIEL AND JOHN TEDESCO

PHOTOS BY NICOLE FRUGÉ

## SAPD unit for high-crime areas questioned over its use of force

Oscar Alvarado didn't think it was a big deal when his brother, driving a souped-up Honda Civic, passed another car on Castroville Road as if it were a four-lane street. Everybody did it.

But technically, the wide road was only two lanes. And the minor traffic violation was exactly what San Antonio's premier police squad, the Tactical Response Unit, was looking for.

When TRU officers pulled over the brothers, Officer Yvonne Mauricio thought Alvarado was trying to swallow drugs to avoid getting busted. She grabbed his throat, and Alvarado, 22, threw punches, according to Mauricio's police report describing the July 6 incident.

In the end, Alvarado was in

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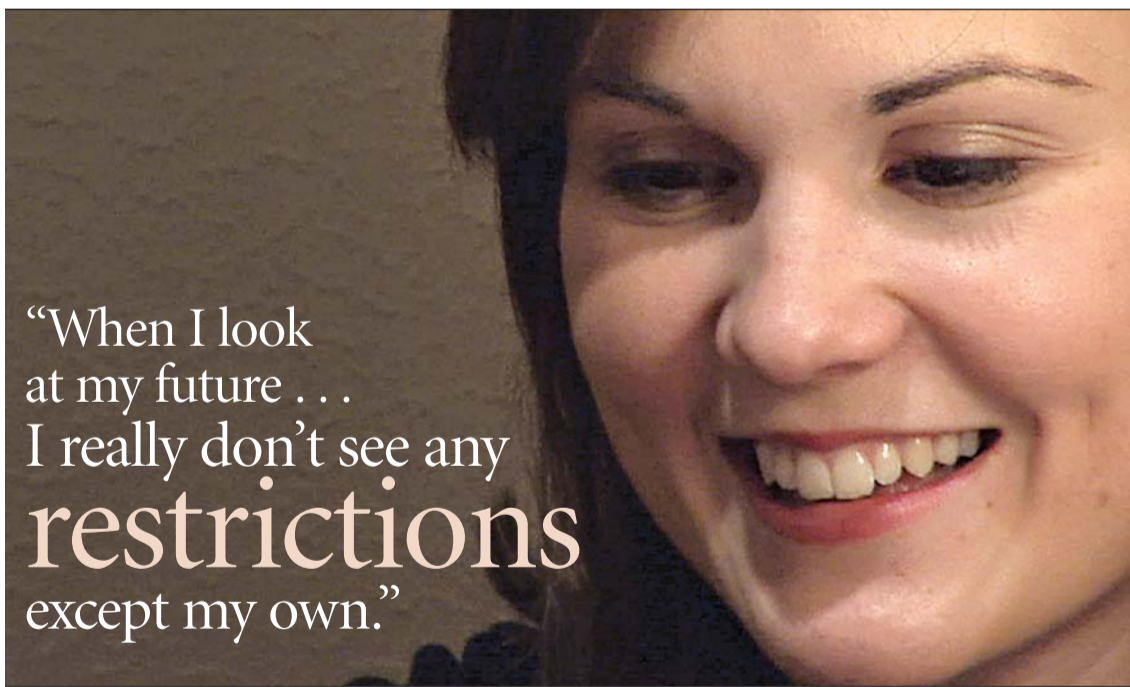
**Keyword: Talkback**  
Do you think TRU officers cross the line between proactive policing and harassment?

handcuffs and TRU was chalking up another arrest — one of 7,800 tallied by the unit since Police Chief William McManus created it last year to snag violent criminals, drug dealers and guns in high-crime neighborhoods.

But Alvarado had a clean criminal record. He denied fighting police or having the marijuana joint that police say they found in the car. His case, and others like it, raise questions about TRU's sweeping method of stopping thousands of people for minor incidents.

See CHIEF/20A

DEGREES OF DIFFICULTY | SECOND IN AN ONGOING SERIES



"When I look at my future . . . I really don't see any restrictions except my own."

Motivation, supportive parents and financial resources spell good things at Trinity University for Elise Goen.

## Well-suited for success

The path to a college degree varies for different students. To tell that story, we follow three students through a year of college — this is Elise's story.

BY MELISSA LUDWIG  
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

Elise Goen sat in a U.S. history class last semester at Trinity University listening to the professor talk about oil and steel barons such as John D. Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie.

When newspapers ran stories about how these wealthy men paid their workers a pittance for long hours, the professors said, the barons would drum up positive press by donating money for a university, museum or library.

>> MYSA.COM

**Keyword: Education**  
To link to the first story in the series and to see slide shows of the students.

Elise's hand shot up. "I have a problem with that," she said. "Every time something bad would happen, they would build a library, but no one had time to use the library."

College is a buffet of knowledge for Elise, a 19-year-old sophomore from

See TRINITY/15A

## Countrywide now subject of criminal investigation

Fed probes looking at statements on finances, loans.

BY RAYMOND HERNANDEZ  
NEW YORK TIMES



MOZILO  
**INSIDE**

Failure of usual remedies to help economy is raising questions. **9A**

WASHINGTON — Federal authorities have opened a criminal inquiry into Countrywide Financial Corp. over suspected securities fraud as part of the continuing fallout over the mortgage crisis, government officials with knowledge of the case said Saturday.

The Justice Department and the FBI are looking at whether officials at Countrywide, the nation's largest mortgage lender, misrepresented its financial condition and the soundness of its loans in security filings, the officials said. The investigation, first reported Saturday in the Wall Street Journal, is at an early stage, the officials said. It's unclear whether anyone will be charged with a crime. Richard Kolko, a spokesman for the

See OFFICIALS/9A

## IN THE KNOW

### Spurs coach in fret mode

Gregg Popovich doesn't think team is 'at the same level' as last year at this point in the season. **Sports, 1C**

### It's time to vote for S.A.'s best

The polls are open for the Express-News' 2008 Readers' Choice Awards. Cast your vote for best food, shopping, entertainment and more. **Ballot: Page 8H in S.A. Life & Culturals**



### Diabetes drives growth industry

The city's high incidence of the disease sparks a boom in services. **Business, 1J**

### Party like a hoops star

Taylor Swift, Robert Earl Keen among musicians on tap for a series of free festivals during Final Four. **S.A. Life & Culturals, 1H**

### Comic Tina Fey juggles her life

Busy with a big show and a baby, the comedy writer and actress tries to make it all work. **Parade**

MySA.com

### Grooving to music

Get your groove on with the Tune Table bloggers, who share a bond. They're not music critics — just people who love music. **Keyword: Blogs**



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