

12-2-2010

The Prospector, December 2, 2010

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AGGIES SWEPT

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Las Cruces
SPORTS • B9



Photo courtesy of University Communications

Culpepper prepares for life after the Don

“Since high school, my mom and my grandmother always told me to use basketball, don’t let it use me. Meaning, since I got a scholarship, a free education, take advantage of it and get your diploma. So, I just do it to make my family proud.”

- Randy Culpepper, graduating senior

BY DAVID ACOSTA

The Prospector

Coming off his most successful season in 2009-10, in which he led the team to a Conference USA championship, the NCAA Tournament and was named the C-USA Player of the Year, Randy Culpepper is used to hearing cheers at the Don Haskins Center, but Dec. 11 will be different—it will be special, Culpepper said. On that day, he will enter the Haskins Center donning, not a jersey and shorts, but a cap and gown.

“Since high school, my mom and my grandmother always told me to use basketball, don’t let it use me,” Culpepper said. “Meaning, since I got a scholarship, a free education, take advantage of it and get your diploma. So, I just do it to make my family proud.”

Before basketball practices and games, Culpepper is usually one of the first players on the court warming up, taking practice shots and preparing. He is known by coaches and teammates as a player who is willing to put in extra work to help his team succeed and to lead by example.

“I think the fact that he’s graduating tells you that he’s different from a lot of guys, it shows you that he came here with the right priorities,”

head coach Tim Floyd said. “We’re real proud of him and the other guys that are graduating.”

Culpepper who began taking classes at UTEP as a freshman from Memphis, Tennessee, in the fall of 2007, put that ethic to work in his class work as well. He says he “overloaded” himself with classes spring, fall and summer so that he could graduate a semester early with a degree in electronic media and focus on getting the Miners back to the NCAA Tournament in the spring.

“A lot of people think (athletes) have it made but it is tough on us to have practice, have games, travel and also get our books and homework done,” Culpepper said. “At times it was stressful, but I would call my mom and my family just to vent to them and they helped me.”

Culpepper credits his mother for getting him involved in athletics at a young age, enrolling him in gymnastics years before his older brother first taught him the game of basketball. It was as a gymnast where he first learned how to use and develop his amazing jumping ability.

UTEP basketball fans got their first glimpse of Culpepper’s show stopping ability during his freshman season. That year, he averaged 12.8 points per game and ranked third in C-USA in steals while coming off the bench for then head coach Tony Barbee. Culpepper also set the C-USA record for three-pointers made by a fresh-

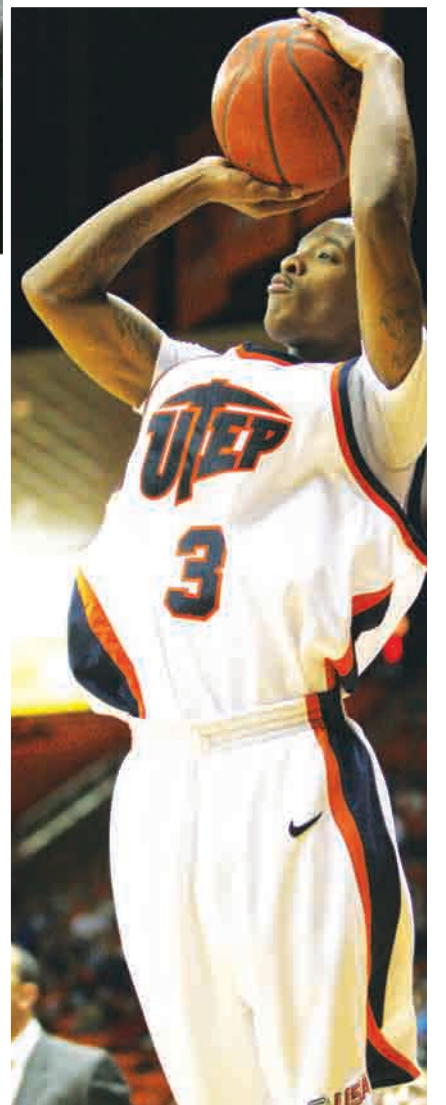
man, making 81 baskets from behind the arc. For those efforts, he was named the 2007-08 C-USA Sixth-Man of the Year.

Since the 2007-08 season, Culpepper has wowed UTEP basketball fans with his speed, ability, and his trademark “thunder dunk,” a one-handed tomahawk jam that seems impossible for a young man of his height. Listed at an even 6-feet by the UTEP Athletic Department, Culpepper, with a smile, claims to be “5-foot-11-and-a-half.”

The Miners are hoping those tools can be put to good use on the court once again this year. Coming in to the 2010-11 season, not only is Culpepper the defending C-USA Player of the Year, he is the pre-season pick to once again be the conference’s top player. So far this season Culpepper is averaging 18.8 points per game, and passed Antoine Gillespie to become the school’s third leading all-time scorer. Barring anything unforeseen, he could finish his career at UTEP trailing only Stephon Jackson for most points in school history.

“All those things, the Wooden Award, the Naismith and all that, they don’t mean anything unless we win,” said Culpepper prior to the season.

see LIFE on page A11



File photo

Randy Culpepper, senior electronic media major, will walk in the Dec. 11 commencement.

SEE PAGE A3 FOR
INFORMATION ON
THE COMMENCEMENT
CEREMONY



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Column

I can see the finish line

BY HERMAN ROJAS
The Prospector



Well, I never thought that I would get to see this day come, but that was probably a good thing.

From my beginning at The Prospector in 2007 as a sports correspondent to my climb as staff reporter, sports editor and multimedia editor, I didn't think that I would last long enough to write this column. Somehow, I managed to survive long enough to earn this privilege.

Deflating my big head and keeping my mouth shut probably helped keep me around at first, while becoming a sponge gave me the longevity to make it this far.

It took a lot of hard work and a lot of support from fellow reporters, editors and advisors over the better part of the last four years that allowed me to get to this point. For that constant push of encouragement and faith from everybody at this paper, a simple thank you does not even begin to describe how much of an impact you have had on my life.

Hard work and support from our friends and family is how all of us have come to this point— just over a week away from hearing our names called as the ever-elusive walk to receive a sheepskin takes place. Everyone has gone through their own growing pains that helped make this moment possible, and for that, be proud.

It hasn't been a short journey or even an easy one, but it has been one full of dreams and desires that are getting closer to becoming a reality.

For the better part of the last two decades, we have navigated through the different levels of school and have stuck it out with the promise of developing and obtaining the necessary tools to succeed in the world. Now it is time to put all that into practice.

A lot of us have overcome challenges that could have put a halt to academic success. Some chose different paths to get to where they are today, while others gave the scholastic route a second chance. While the stories vary on how we got to this point, no matter if it took a few years or a few decades, the finish line for us comes in nine days on a stage at the Don Haskins Center.

Applaud yourselves for conquering the obstacles and soak up these final days at UTEP. Appreciate it all, reflect on all the men and women you

encountered here, and cherish the friendships and memories because an environment like this will be nearly impossible to replicate from here on out.

Many of us will be starting on the next chapter of our lives. For some, the challenge of another degree looms ahead, while others will hit the ground running, trying to snag one of those all-elusive jobs that degree holders should (in theory) have no problem finding. The reality, however, is that a different type of competition is about to begin.

All the skills that we have learned inside and outside of the classroom are all that we have in our arsenal to succeed from here on out. Will it be enough to make us early winners or is a grueling march looming?

Regardless of what the outcome may be, I say, "let the game begin."

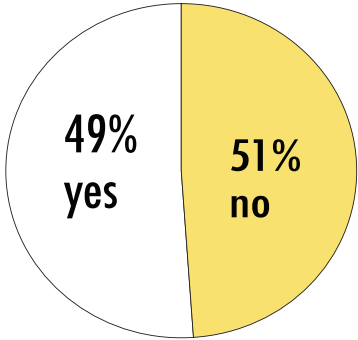
Herman Rojas may not be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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The Prospector (USPS 448-020) is published by the Student Publications Board, 105 E. Union, 500 W. University Ave., El Paso, TX 79968. During Fall & Spring semester The Prospector is published twice weekly: Tuesdays and Thursdays, except holidays and when classes are not in session, once a week on Wednesday during the summer session. Subscription rates: \$20 per year; \$4 taken from fees to pay for student copies. Periodicals postage paid at El Paso, TX. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Prospector, 105 E. Union, El Paso, Texas 79968-0622. The Prospector is not responsible for claims made by advertisers. Additional policy information can be obtained by calling The Prospector at 747-5161. Opinions expressed in The Prospector are not necessarily those of the university.

Commencement

Seniors prepare for graduation

BY DIANA ARRIETA

The Prospector

Sparkling confetti, caps flying in the air, loud cheers of congratulations and emotional farewells will mark the end of the long college journey for thousands of UTEP students as they cross the Don Haskins' stage into life after school.

"I feel really happy and excited to know that I will be finishing soon," said Essau Ramirez, senior computer science major.

Three commencement ceremonies, which will take place Dec. 11, will offer the opportunity for families and friends to gather at the Don Haskins Center and celebrate one of the most important events in the lives of graduating seniors.

"The graduation is an opportunity to enjoy and relax after having worked hard throughout your career," Ramirez said. "It is also a chance to have fun and share the moment with your family and friends."

The 125th commencement ceremony will offer graduating seniors the opportunity to share their stories. Topics including the impact of UTEP on students' lives, the challenges faced throughout the students' academic careers and the plans they have for their future will be presented through stories submitted to the University Relations program, Tell us Your Story. The stories selected will be addressed by President Diana Natalicio during the ceremony.

"The commencement ceremony offers graduating seniors the opportunity to become models for other UTEP students," said Francis Regalado, senior multimedia journalism major. "The honor to be able to have your story mentioned in front of everyone present, however, will provide an even greater chance to share your experiences at UTEP and inspire future graduates or incoming students to follow."

While the commencement ceremony is a rewarding opportunity to enjoy the end of a long academic journey, it is also a stepping stone into the real world.

"Graduation is opening the door to the real world because it's no more babying; you're getting exposed to your field of study and what you do is all up to you," said Jesus Navarrete, junior biology major. "Graduation is the final step before leaving the nest and immersing yourself in the adult field."

It is through this opening reality that graduating seniors look forward to their future plans and aspirations.

"After graduating, I would like to find a job that will enable me to enhance my experience in my field and in the future, be able to start my own company," Ramirez said.



Photo courtesy of
University Communications

The 125th commencement ceremony will take place Dec. 11 with morning, afternoon and evening ceremonies for graduating seniors.

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Dec. 11, 2010 at the Don
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Morning Ceremony, 9 a.m.
College of Liberal Arts and
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sponding Graduate Programs.

Afternoon Ceremony, 2 p.m.
College of Business Admin-
istration and College of
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Diana Arrieta may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

Internet

Software puts privacy at risk

BY AARON MARTINEZ
The Prospector

A new online threat that endangers the privacy of UTEP students has raised concerns around campus. A recently released program called Firesheep, a Firefox add-on created by Eric Butler, allows any would-be hacker access to monitor or hijack information from anyone connected to an unencrypted Wi-Fi network. According to Computerworld’s website, Butler released Firesheep “to demonstrate just how serious this problem is” of popular websites failing to offer end-to-end encryption.

“This is scary and a huge privacy issue,” said Krystal Anais Soto, freshman psychology major. “I don’t feel comfortable about using the wireless Internet on campus anymore.”

Soto said she believes that nobody at UTEP should even be using or trying that program.

“It seems to me that the only reason why somebody would even use that program would be to steal peo-

ple’s private information,” Soto said. “There is no good reason and if they are using that program, they are up to no good.”

The program allows the user to view and take control of accounts for websites such as Facebook, Twitter, MySpace and Hotmail, which is the email client UTEP uses for students, faculty and staff. Anyone that is connected to the same Wi-Fi network and is logged in to one of his/her accounts for these websites is vulnerable to having their information stolen or their account hijacked.

“This is a big concern for everyone here at UTEP,” said Jose Lagos, senior mechanical engineering major. “Now, I am worried and will be using the wireless here at school less often.”

Gerard Cochrane, UTEP chief information security officer, said that as new technology threats come out, his office will inform students of any potential dangers and take the necessary steps to protect the UTEP wireless network.

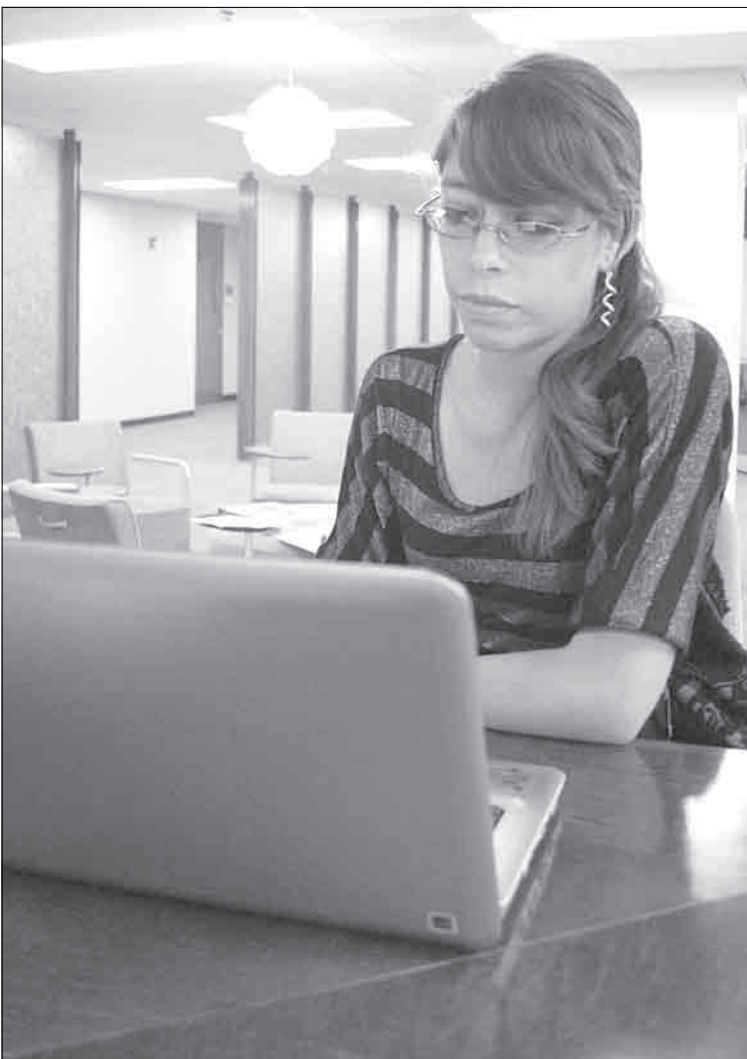
“UTEP uses the latest software and procedures to protect student information on UTEP’s systems. When we encounter or learn of new threats we review our practices to ensure that our data is safe,” Cochrane said. “Our policy is that if we learn of threats, which require user action, we immediately inform all account holders; describe the actions people should take or avoid and inform the help desk.”

The program is becoming popular and has created issues across the nation as users at Starbucks and other open wireless networks have been affected. The Information Resources Planning Department has begun to take security measures to protect UTEP wireless users.

“We are taking steps to secure access on the wireless network,” Cochrane said. “This should provide the necessary protection for UTEP’s community while using the wireless network.”

Cochrane also said that if any faculty, staff or students have been affected or have any information about compromises in the system, they should immediately notify the UTEP Technology Support Helpdesk. All reports dealing with privacy threats are kept confidential. The help desk may be reached at 747-5257.

HTTPS Everywhere is a security program that users can access to help protect themselves from Firesheep. According to Computerworld’s website, “HTTPS Everywhere alters browsing so that your



DIANA AMARO / The Prospector

Kystal Anais Soto, freshman psychology major, works over the UTEP wireless network Dec. 1 at the Miners Lounge in Union Building East.

default connection is no longer unencrypted http, but the more secure, encrypted https, whenever a site offers that capability. So, if you use Twitter without HTTPS Everywhere (or similar protection), the connection is unencrypted; with the extension, you’re switched over to https.”

However, HTTPS Everywhere only protects a handful of websites from programs like Firesheep. Some of the sites include Facebook, Twitter, PayPal, Amazon, Hotmail and Wordpress.com blogs. For more information on HTTPS Everywhere, visit www.eff.org/https-everywhere.

Aaron Martinez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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Student Life

Regalia ordering days numbered

BY SERGIO JIMENEZ
The Prospector

It is almost time to wear the gown, switch the tassel and throw the cap up in the air. As commencement approaches Dec. 11, so do deadlines for ordering graduation items such as caps, gowns, announcements and cords.

“Right now, it’s a little late in the semester, so there are really not a whole lot of options left for students,” said Fernando Padula, UTEP Bookstore manager. “The only option available for students at the moment is to come to the bookstore starting on Monday (Nov. 29), and what we are going to do is place a special order for the students, and we’re going to expedite (through) overnight shipping.”

Students who ordered early in the morning will be able to receive their items the next business day, while students who placed their order later in the day will receive their items within two business days. Special orders will be available until Dec. 3 at the bookstore.

“Unfortunately, this late in the semester, the website’s already closed, and the best option is to rush to the bookstore, so we can place orders (for students) as quickly as we can, just to make sure everybody will have their regalia in time for Dec. 11,” Padula said.

For graduating seniors, it is difficult to keep up with deadlines for ordering graduation regalia.

“Sometimes there isn’t even time to plan your graduation, with so much work that we have left for school and so many final projects,” said Ernesto Galicia, senior marketing and management major. “Since these are the last courses, we cannot lose track of our work, and it is hard to focus on other things.”

This semester, the UTEP Bookstore website for ordering regalia opened in late September and closed Nov. 15. The website reopened on Nov. 16 for late orders with rushed shipping, which ended on Nov. 21. The bookstore has been taking special orders since Nov. 29.

“My wife had no idea that there was a deadline to order,” said Gerson Guerra, senior kinesiology major. “The only reason I found out about the online ordering was because I walked into the bookstore two weeks ago. What about all the students who think they can simply walk into the bookstore and walk out with their graduation caps and gowns as before?”

Padula explained that since spring 2007, the UTEP Bookstore has changed its cap and gown service to an online-ordering system from Herff Jones, the official provider of graduation regalia for UTEP.

Another concern for graduating seniors is the shipping and handling charges for their caps and gowns.



DANIEL ROSAS / The Prospector

Graduation accessories, such as caps and gowns, will soon be unavailable for purchase.

According to the Herff Jones website, prices are \$35 for the bachelor cap, gown and tassel, \$65 for the master cap, gown, hood and tassel, and \$85 for the doctorate unit. These prices do not include shipping and

handling, which vary depending on ordering dates and whether orders are placed online or at the UTEP Bookstore.

As an additional service, the UTEP Bookstore offers at least one Gradu-

ation Fair every semester. The fairs allow students to order straight from vendors, have their items fit to size, and save on shipping costs.

see **REGALIA** on page A7

Health

Finals stress is hard to avoid



DIEGO BEDOLLA / The Prospector

Rudy Castaneda, senior biology major, Kayla Hinson, senior biology major, Rebecca Solis, junior biology major and Luz Macias, senior biology major, prepare for final exams in the library.

BY KRISTOPHER RIVERA
The Prospector

Take a look at your agenda, organize your thoughts and gather your notes. With final exams nearing and term papers due avoiding mounting stress is vital.

Stress is on the rise as students juggle classes and prepare for final exams. Jaded by the pressure of the semester, many students are restless and have reached their limit.

Elias Muñoz, senior chemistry major, said students just need to focus on their goals and try not to let stress get the best of them. Munoz said students should take advantage of the services offered by the university, such as the UTEP Math Tutoring Center and the University Writing Center.

“Be able to snap out of it and recover,” Muñoz said. “Ask for help, the library has great resources for students.”

Eli Garcia, communication professor, advises students to understand the material of their courses as well as become familiar with the grading and testing methods of each professor. Time management is vital to a successful semester. He suggested students review their course material daily, and avoid distractions like Facebook.

“Stress comes as a consequence of not being ready,” Garcia said. “This is an issue of time management instead of stress for a test.”

According to Emily Haltiwanger, clinical associate professor of occupational therapy, finding ways to cope with stress is important, because

too much stress damages short-term memory. Also, Haltiwanger said students helping each other can relieve the tension that builds up over the course of the semester.

“Hippocampal areas of the brain are damaged by cortisol build up,” Haltiwanger said. “Successful students can help students best with improvements.”

Haltiwanger will be conducting a stress management program called Pure Assistance Student Support, which is a seven-week program that helps students discover alternative ways to deal with any issues they have coping with school, work and other obstacles in someone’s life. Graduate students will initiate procedures that help them understand students. Then depending on each students’ issue, they will be given tips and carry out activities that are intended to help reduce stress and make it easier to cope with any difficulties that exist in their everyday agenda.

For further information on this program and how to participate you can contact Haltiwanger at 747-7271. She is taking participants for the program now.

For students having problems coping with stress, the University Counseling Center may be reached at 747-5302.

Kristopher Rivera may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

Staff photo

The Prospector 2010 staff



BOB CORRAL / The Prospector

Bottom row: (left to right) Marisa Montilla, Monica Ortiz, Yasmin Marquez, Alejandra Guerrero, Karina Sandoval, Selene Macias, Justin Anthony Monarez.

Top row: (left to right) Lourdes Cardenas, Michael Galindo, Kathleen Flores, Dave Acosta, Juan Salomon, Jesus Martinez, Nicole Chavez, Aaron Martinez, Beatriz Castañeda, Blake Lanham, Sarah Burchett, Herman Rojas, Claudia Martinez, Ivan Liberato, Daniel Rosas, Catherine Jones, Ignacio Esparza, Pablo Garcia, Jackie Devine, Isabel Castillo, Javier Villanueva, Marcela Luna, Alex Morales, Sal Guerrero and Bob Corral. Not pictured: Veronica Gonzalez, Sergio Ramirez, Vanessa M. Juarez, Anoushka Valodya, Diana Arrieta, Sergio Jimenez, Kristopher Rivera, Candice Duran, Esteban Marquez, Fernando Hernandez, Alheli Tocoli, Omar Lozano, Audrey Russell, Matt Munden, Crystal Robert, Alejandro Alba, Greg Castillo, Diego Bedolla and Diana Amaro.

REGALIA from page A6

"We really want to encourage students to come during the Graduation Fair, because that's pretty much the only time when they will be able to order their cap and gown and not have to pay any kind of shipping," Padula said.

The fairs are the only time students are able to order class medallions and cords, since these items cannot

be ordered online. Students are also able to join the UTEP Alumni Association, and order other items such as diploma frames, class rings, graduation announcements, envelopes, and certificates of appreciation.

This term, the UTEP Bookstore held one official Graduation Fair Nov. 2 and 3, and two additional fairs in August and September.

"Next semester during the fair we will have the merchandise here

in the bookstore and [students] can pick up their gown and go on, so the Graduation Fair is very important," Padula said.

Students who have not yet ordered their caps and gowns have until 6 p.m. Dec. 3 to order them from the UTEP Bookstore.

Sergio Jimenez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.



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Top left: Pre-game festivities changed when UTEP implemented stricter tailgating rules early in the football season.

Top right: The new roundabout on the west end of campus gave UTEP a new piece of public art and altered traffic flow.

Above: UTEP students were shocked and saddened when two students were killed in Ciudad Juárez.

Academic

Program helps homeless, former foster care students

BY BEATRIZ A. CASTAÑEDA
The Prospector

After entering the foster care system at a young age, Jessica Archuleta spent several years being shuffled between different foster homes. Despite the hardships, she continued to chase her dream of earning a college degree.

She eventually aged out of the foster care system at 18 years old and again hit a road block when trying to earn that sought after degree. Archuleta, wanting to transfer to UTEP from El Paso Community College, found it was difficult to contact both offices of financial aid at UTEP and EPCC. She dealt with educational vouchers she had, but they wouldn't be accepted in the financial aid office.

"I started at EPCC to take my basics and I always wanted to go to UTEP, but I was intimidated," Archuleta said. "For some reason the financial aid office couldn't wave the vouchers and it was a difficult process to speak to both offices about it," Archuleta said.

She eventually learned and took advantage of Texas Senate Bill 1652, which waives tuition and fees at state-supported vocational schools, colleges and universities for students who aged out of the foster care system in Texas.

Although her educational goals were now financially secure, a class she took last year was not waived and she had to pay for it out of her own pocket.

"It did the whole ripple effect where I had to pay for the class when I shouldn't have," Archuleta said. "I felt lost, nobody knew how to deal with a situation like that and it was very difficult."

Archuleta then contacted Josué Lachica, an academic advisor at the Academic Advising Center and the coordinator of the Foster, Homeless, Adoption Resources (FHAR) program.

She discussed her situation with Lachica and he was able to get her a refund within five days.

"He helped me get the refund, it was good to know somebody was there to help and advocate for me," Archuleta said.

Lachica has done previous work as a social worker in different cities and he felt a program was needed that would help students who were homeless, adopted or lacked a support system.

"We started this program as an idea about two years ago," Lachica said. "We didn't have a program where there were a couple of subpopulations that were not being helped very well such as foster students."

Along with Lachica, Beau S. Pihlaja, academic advisor and lecturer at the Academic Advising Center, also works with these student populations.

"We try to help students who have aged out of foster care get access to their tuition waver and we facilitate that process," Pihlaja said. "(For) individuals who are homeless, we also work with them, and those who want to make education part of their life as well."

Pihlaja and Lachica said the FHAR program works with community organizations like the Opportunity Center and the Pride Center to spread the word about the program. The program also refers students to these centers who may need their services.

During the 2009-2010 academic year, Lachica said 101 students marked "yes" to some sort of homelessness in their FAFSA application. This year, Lachica said there was an increase of 130 students that marked "yes" to homelessness.

"There's always a need for an understanding within a community and what we hope to do here is not only help students, but it's important for the community to understand



File photo

Students who were formerly in foster care, are homeless or adopted, the FHAR program provides support.

what they're going through," Lachica said.

Archuleta started working for the FHAR program and said her own experience helps potential students with the application process.

"I talk with students and make sure they have the support system they need and advocate for them on what needs to be done with the whole process of the program," Archuleta said. "It felt great to work with a program that helped me with the support system I needed, and it's been a great opportunity to deal with my experience and is certainly helping towards my degree because this is what I want to do."

Beatriz A. Castañeda may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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File photo

Randy Culpepper drives the lane against a UAB defender in 2008 at the Don Haskins Center.

LIFE from page 1

Culpepper has been named to the watch list for both the Wooden Award and the Naismith Award. Both awards are given to the top college player at the end of the season.

Culpepper said when Barbee first recruited him, he had no idea

where El Paso was. Now, he is happy to have called the city his home and feels that both the town and the students at UTEP have made him feel like he belongs.

"Randy has become more of a man since he's been here, I'm really proud of him doing what he has to do and finishing early," se-

nior guard Julyan Stone said. "We interact with students because that's who we are, student athletes. Randy means a lot to his fans, the team and his family. The community has embraced him, he's almost like a son to everybody."

David Acosta may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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National

Street Sense shares stories by and about the homeless people



RAYMUNDO AGUIRRE / SHFWire

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Conrad Cheek Jr. takes the stage on street corners throughout Capitol Hill, selling the latest issues of Street Sense, a newspaper written by homeless people about homelessness.

BY RAYMUNDO AGUIRRE

Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

WASHINGTON - Conrad Cheek Jr., a stack of newspapers in hand, steps onto the sidewalk like an actor stepping onto a stage. He extends his arms and takes a deep breath – his performance is about to begin.

“The homeless aren’t helpless when you have your latest edition of Street Sense!” Cheek says to people walking by his corner.

The deep song and cadence of his voice draw the eyes of his audience on a busy corner of Pennsylvania Avenue three blocks from the Capitol.

Street Sense is a newspaper that aims to improve the lives of homeless people by contracting with them to sell the bimonthly paper. Vendors pay 35 cents per issue and distribute them for a suggested \$1 donation. More than 100 vendors are registered to sell the paper. Cheek can sell up to 800 issues a month.

Street Sense articles deal mainly with issues concerning homelessness. It also contains photography, art and poetry submitted by local homeless people.

It is run by four paid employees and dozens of volunteers, who write, edit and coordinate from two small rooms in the downtown Church of Epiphany.

Cheek, 56, holds a batch of the latest Street Sense issue in one hand and gestures grandly with the other, doing his best to encourage those passing by to buy a copy.

“Get your latest edition of Street Sense! With poetry by D.C.’s own homeless!” Cheek says.

Cheek wears his hair in tight braids, one hanging down behind each of his ears. He dresses in a collared shirt under a black sweater and a dark jean jacket, careful to keep the afternoon autumn chill off his bones.

He buttons up his jacket to look more presentable.

Cheek has been homeless since 1995.

He grew up in D.C., in a middle-class, single-family home. After graduating from George Washington University, he moved with his girlfriend to Riverside, California.

He worked as a biomedical engineer technician in a hospital where he was responsible for the repair of medical equipment. He said he was fired when a machine he was not in charge of shocked a patient.

Cheek, no longer able to afford his apartment, started living in his 1979 pearl-blue Volvo. The car brought him back to D.C., but died a few years ago.

He heard about Street Sense from a security guard. Cheek signed up the

next day. He has been selling the newspaper for seven years.

Bad credit prevents him from renting an apartment. But he pays by the night to sleep in friends’ living rooms, basements or dens for a few days at a time then moves on, never staying in any one place too long.

“His voice is fantastic. He’s got great oratory abilities,” said Stephen Cheung, 27, owner of Fusion Grill, a Capitol Hill restaurant.

“Even on the street, you can tell he’s somewhere close by,” Cheung said.

Cheek earns some money from Cheung by handing out coupons for Fusion Grill.

Darrel Benjamin, 21, works for the Starbucks on the corner where Cheek often sells his papers and has known Cheek for four years.

“No matter if it’s cold, rain, sun... if he can get to work, he’s here,” Benjamin said.

Cheek picks up odd jobs whenever he can. He can fix almost anything, whether it’s installing electrical wiring or grouting a bathtub.

He volunteered to teach chess to children at the neighborhood library for several years. Cheek has played since he was 7. He can count on one hand the number of people who have ever beaten him.

His father, Conrad Hugo Cheek Sr., was one of the few who could. One of the last Tuskegee Airmen trained before the end of World War II, he died two years ago.

Paul Meagher, 67, is a bartender at the Hawk and Dove on Pennsylvania Avenue. Cheek comes in some nights after work to eat baked potatoes and hot wings while he sips his “antifreeze” – a shot glass of whiskey.

“In my funeral, I would like him to speak, because of his great voice,” Meagher said with a chuckle. So long as it is not too soon, he said.

Raymundo Aguirre, UTEP senior creative writing major, is an intern at the Scripps Howard Foundation’s Semester in Washington program. He may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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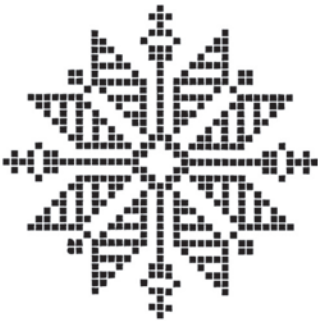
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Vida académica

Estudiante cumple sus sueños y obtiene dos diplomas



Octavio Pulido verá coronado su esfuerzo académico el 11 de diciembre cuando obtenga dos diplomas universitarios.

POR NICOLE CHÁVEZ
The Prospector

Escribir, conducir y actuar han sido la pasión de Octavio Pulido Nevarez. Después de varios años de estudios en UTEP y varias pasantías, Pulido dice estar listo para ejercer sus dos carreras, una en medios electrónicos, la otra en teatro.

“Siempre me ha gustado el teatro, actuar. Me gusta todo lo que tenga que ver con el radio, conducir, dirigir. Para mí, las dos carreras se complementan una a otra”, dijo Pulido, quien asistirá a su ceremonia de graduación el 11 de diciembre. “Nunca me vería sentado trabajando en una oficina”.

Pulido, de 24 años, es originario de Nuevo Casas Grandes, Chihuahua. Inició sus estudios universitarios en Arizona y luego estudió en Utah. Para él, una de las mejores experiencias que UTEP le dio fue la oportunidad de estudiar en España, donde por ocho meses, tomó clases en la facultad de periodismo de la Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

“Te da otra visión de las cosas, de lo que tienes aquí, aunque sea el mismo idioma, las costumbres cambian de país a país”, dijo Pulido. “Siempre había protestas, marchas, y los estudiantes tomaban el edificio”.

Al volver de España hizo una pasantía en el San Diego Union Tribune a través de Scripps Howard Foundation y también en la estación de radio por Internet, RSP Radio donde conducía el programa Viva Pop Latino al lado de Angie Aviles.

Pulido dice que las oportunidades hay que buscarlas o aprovecharlas cuando te llegan, por eso participó en un

programa local de Telemundo y trabajó en la estación de radio 95.1 Latino Vibe en Phoenix, Arizona.

“En estos tiempos, los trabajos son escasos, es necesario desarrollar tus talentos y tu competitividad”, dijo Pulido.

En su paso por UTEP, Pulido contagió a profesores y estudiantes de su buena actitud. Zita Arocha, profesora de periodismo multimedia del Departamento de Comunicación y directora de Borderzine dijo que Pulido fue un estudiante sobresaliente.

“Octavio es un estudiante muy talentoso. Es el estudiante más amable que he conocido en UTEP. También es muy persistente”, dijo Arocha.

Desde que Belem López, graduada en psicología, conoció a Pulido supo que él llegaría lejos. “Él es una persona que transmite alegría a todos, yo se que esto es solo el inicio de su carrera en películas, música, televisión o radio”.

A un paso de graduarse, Pulido decidió dirigir la obra de un acto “The Other Women” del dramaturgo estadounidense David Ives, como parte de su proyecto final de teatro. Su más grande sueño es estar nominado para los Oscars o transmitir la ceremonia de los premios, aunque está consciente de que muchos piensan que su sueño es inalcanzable.

“Es mejor soñar alto y caer un poco más bajo que soñar bajo y caer más abajo, te tienes que ir a lo mas alto que puedas soñar”, dijo Pulido.

Pulido sabe que al graduarse, el español le abrirá puertas. Él cree que la comunidad hispana es fiel a los medios de comunicación en su idioma y por eso busca encontrar un empleo en los medios de comunicación en la ciudad o fuera de El Paso.

“Quiero irme a una ciudad donde pueda ejercer mis dos carreras”, dijo Pulido.

“No descarto un empleo aquí, pero El Paso todavía está creciendo”.

El mayor apoyo de Pulido han sido sus padres, quienes nunca le han permitido abandonar sus sueños.

“Siempre he tenido el apoyo de mis papás, estoy muy agradecido porque nunca me he quedado con ganas de hacer algo, siempre me dicen ‘tú ve, a ver cómo le hacemos’”, dijo Pulido.

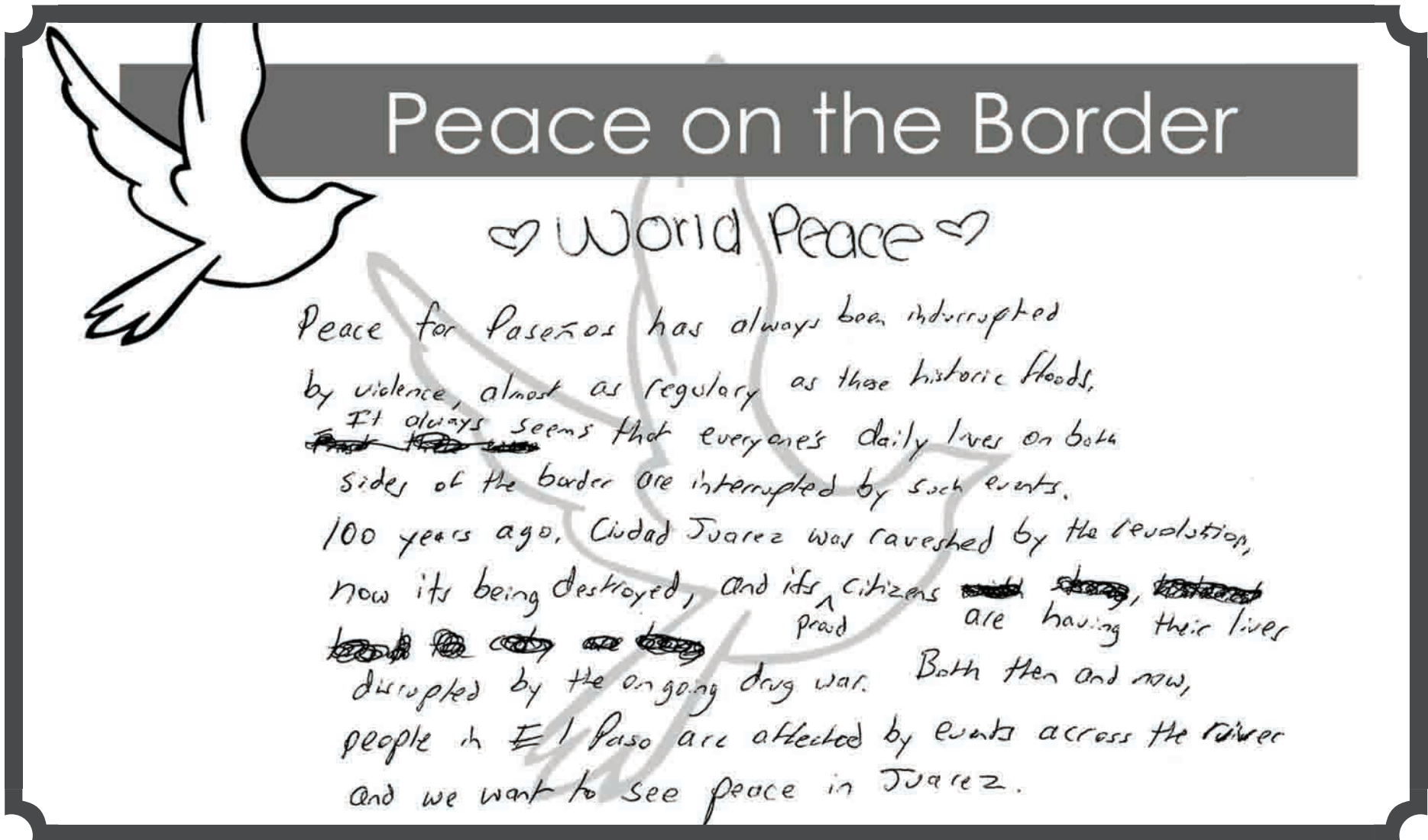
Nicole Chávez puede ser contactada en prospector@utep.edu.

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Rights

Act would protect undocumented students



DIANA AMARO / The Prospector

Rock the Dream took place Oct. 27 to support the Dream Act. LULAC members gathered to sign letters in support of the act.

BY JOHN DE FRANK

Special to The Prospector.

EL PASO, Texas — Many of the 65,000 undocumented immigrants who graduate from high school in the U.S. every year live under the entrapment radar, risking deportation at any time as they attempt to attend college or serve in the U.S. military.

According to statistics from the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), most of these students in all grade levels have been raised in the U.S. and educated in American public schools. Many only speak English and the American culture is what they know. They have little left of their culture of origin.

“It’s a very sad experience to forget where you came from because you’re accustomed to life here. You could hardly remember that you came here from another country,” said a UTEP student who asked to remain anonymous because he/she is undocumented.

Like thousands of undocumented high school students who graduate every year in the U.S., this student was not brought to America by choice. The parents made that choice.

“It’s a difficult situation. I don’t feel like I came from my country of origin. I feel American and that’s who I am now. Even if people say I am not American, I’m just like them. I speak their language. I act like them. I dress like them. I watch the same shows as

them I might not have the papers but I’m American,” said the student at a recent Rock the Dream event in support of the Dream Act.

The purpose of the event hosted by the UTEP LULAC chapter was to gather signed letters in support of the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act, also now as the Dream Act. The letters were addressed to Texas state senators. The event hosted live music from Key Lime Pie and Red City Blues as well as keynote speaker El Paso representative Marisa Marquez of the 77th district who supports the bill.

“These are hundreds of thousands of children in our country. Cheerleaders on a cheerleading squad, members of a high school football team, students who work hard and play by the rules, students like yourselves,” echoed Marquez’ voice over the speakers to a crowd of about 100 students.

“The fundamental premise of the Dream Act is to not punish the children for the parent’s actions. That’s not what this nation is about,” said Marquez.

Humberto Cruz, senior political science major and the vice president of the LULAC chapter at UTEP, said that Rock the Dream was not just to promote the Dream Act but to raise up to 3,000 signatures to send to Texas senators, Kay Bailey Hutchin-

see ACT on page A16

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5	2	9	7	6	8	4	3	1
6	7	1	2	3	4	5	8	9
7	3	2	4	8	6	1	9	5
1	8	6	9	5	3	7	2	4
9	5	4	1	2	7	8	6	3
2	9	7	6	4	5	3	1	8
8	1	5	3	7	9	6	4	2
4	6	3	8	1	2	9	5	7

Answers to 11-23-10

Did your parents come
to UTEP 85-86?
Free yearbooks 85-86
Pick them at Union
East 105

BRAIN ZONE

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Kane's
Rosebud,
e.g.
5 Decline
8 Kelly or
Krupa
12 Newsweek
rival
13 Noon, in a
sense
14 Yoked team
15 "Yeah, right!"
16 Army rank
(Abbr.)
17 Raced
18 Fancy cake
20 "Star Wars"
weapons
22 Pompous
one
23 Up to
24 Help in
wrongdoing
27 Model
32 Curse
33 Tex-
restaurant
34 Tokyo's old
name
35 Champion of
a cause
38 Vortex
39 Falsehood
40 River to the
North Sea
42 Tristan's love
45 Bad news
from the
factory
49 MacDonald's

place
50 Muumu
accessory
52 Buckeyes'
home
53 Gratis
54 Past
55 Cavort
56 Knitting need
57 Neither
partner
58 Category

DOWN

1 Unpartnered
2 Bart's sister
3 Send forth
4 Vanquish
5 "Oops"

6 Story of a
lifetime?
7 Check
8 Tabloid topic
9 Made to
leave
10 -do-well
11 Remnants
19 Symbol for
arsenic
21 \$ dispenser
24 Mimic
25 Carton
26 Lewis or
Clark
28 Foreign
(Prefix)
29 Outside
30 Tack on

31 Trigger's
rider
36 Rockefeller
et al.
37 Actor Beatty
38 Go with
41 North-
eastern-
most st.
42 Questionable
43 Poet
Teasdale
44 Verve
46 "Hey, sailor!"
47 Flaccid
48 Run easily
51 Id counter-
part

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MWF 7:30 a.m. or MW 7:30 a.m.:
Dec. 10 7 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

MWF 8:30 a.m. or MW 9 a.m.:
Dec. 6 10 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

MWF 9:30 a.m.:
Dec. 8 10 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

MWF 10:30 a.m. or MW 10:30 a.m.:
Dec. 10 10 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

MWF 11:30 a.m.:
Dec. 8 1 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

MWF 12:30 p.m.:
Dec. 10 1 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

MWF 1:30 p.m. or MW 1:30 p.m.:
Dec. 8 4 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.

MWF 2:30 p.m. or MW 3 p.m.:
Dec. 6 1 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

MW or M or W 4:30 p.m.:
Dec. 6 4 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.

MW or M or W 6 p.m.:
Dec. 8 7 p.m. – 9:45 p.m.

M or W 7 p.m. or MW 7:30 p.m.:
Dec. 6 7 p.m. – 9:45 p.m.

TR 7:30 a.m.:
Dec. 9 7 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

TR 9:00 a.m.:
Dec. 7 10 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

TR 10:30 a.m.:
Dec. 9 10 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

TR 12 noon:
Dec. 7 1 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

TR 1:30 p.m.:
Dec. 9 4 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.


TR 3 p.m.:
Dec. 9 1 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

TR or T or R 4:30 p.m.:
Dec. 7 4 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.


TR or T or R 6:00 p.m.:
Dec. 9 7 p.m. – 9:45 p.m.

T or R 7 p.m. or TR 7:30 p.m.:
Dec. 7 7 p.m. – 9:45 p.m.

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ACT from page A14

son and John Cornyn. The two Texas senators stand on the opposing side of the issue arguing that it would be unjust to reward citizenship to those who broke the law.

“We felt it was important for us to have a big event here on campus so we could raise awareness of the Dream Act and to also let our senators know that there are people here in El Paso, Texas who care about the education of other individuals who are less privileged,” said Cruz.

Even if the Dream Act were passed, it would only remedy a portion of what is the overall problem of immigration.

“Even by passing the Dream Act, this will only affect 38 percent of undocumented immigrants that could potentially attend college,” said Cruz.

Cruz estimated that around 1,000 letters in support of the Dream Act were signed during the event.

Although much of the opposition to the Dream Act comes from conservatives on Capitol Hill, there are a good number of Republicans that support the legislation as a bipartisan movement.

“We believe that it’s a viable route for illegal immigrants that come here as minors to have the opportunity to become citizens and fulfill their American dream as well as a benefit to universities all across America and the armed forces,” said Ryan Padilla, junior civil engineering major and vice chairman of the UTEP College Republicans.

The Dream Act would allow students who have graduated with a diploma or a GED and are in the country without proper documentation a chance to gain their citizenship through a pathway of temporary residency if they have been in the country for over five years, are under the age of 16, have good moral character, (which means they have not been convicted of a crime), and can complete at least two years of a four-year higher education institute or completed two years in the service. Although, there is nothing mentioned in the bill that requires completion at the four-year university or military term, they must finish the second-year requirement within a six-year period in which they will be granted a temporary residency. Upon completion of the requirements they will become eligible for citizenship.

The story was published previously in Borderzine.com. This version was edited for length and brevity.

Special event

‘Alegría’ to dazzle El Paso audiences



BOB CORRAL / The Prospector

A trapeze artist runs through rehearsals before the first performance of Cirque Du Soleil’s ‘Alegría’ Dec. 1.

BY OMAR LOZANO
The Prospector

The fantastical internationally-recognized production company, Cirque Du Soleil, debuted in the Sun City on Dec. 1 at the Don Haskins Center.

“Alegría” which means “profound elation” in Spanish, is a baroque-style ode to the blissful energy and power that youth entails.

For those who are unfamiliar with the epic series of productions, Cirque Du Soleil blends dramatic elements of colorful surrealist theatre with the intricate and death defying acts of high-stakes circus to create one of the most awe-inspiring presentations to take international stages across the world.

“Cirque Du Soliel: Alegría” will be the largest production event to date to grace El Paso with its vibrant universe of unique characters.

“It’s a huge deal for the university and for the market that we are bringing an internationally-renowned event to El Paso. It’s definitely one of the top shows in the world and we are going to be able to see it in our backyard and that’s amazing,” said Jorge Vazquez, director of UTEP Special Events.

The multi-million dollar production will take on the daunting task of pulling off eight shows in five days, something Vazquez said has never been done before in El Paso.

“Financially it’s a very important thing for the university, entertainment-wise it brings attention to El Paso in a whole new level,” Vazquez said. “We are pioneers (in bringing) such an aggressive financial venture. It definitely paves the way for our neighbors at the (Plaza Theatre) to bring “Wicked” in 2012 (and) to bring

multi-performance shows to the market and that’s huge.”

Sophomore dance major Rosa Villanueva said she hopes her experience at “Alegría” will help her understand some of the deeper intricacies of dancing.

“Choreography is what I really want to see the most,” Villanueva said. “You learn a lot from watching different people doing performances and watching such a big company, of course, I’m going to learn a lot.”

Performances for Cirque Du Soleil have been called nothing short of phenomenal by critics and audiences around the world. “Alegría” features a dream-like world filled with meticulous high-flying trapeze stunts, body-bending contortionists, colorfully bizarre characters and even acts incorporating live fire.

“Audiences are going to see a show they have never seen come to El Paso, it’s going to be something completely different. People are going to leave the venue in awe, (amazement) and just fascinated with the show itself,” said April Martinez Quinn, senior public relations major and intern who worked closely with UTEP Special Events on marketing efforts for “Alegría.”

“Cirque Du Soleil: Alegría” took the stage at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 1 at the Don Haskins Center. The event will continue with two shows each day starting Dec. 2 through Dec. 5.

Tickets are on sale now at Ticketmaster and the UTEP Ticket Center. All ages are welcome.

For more information please call UTEP Ticket Center at 747-5234.

Omar Lozano may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

Film Holiday movies to screen at Plaza Theatre

BY MATTHEW MUNDEN
The Prospector

Everyone has a favorite holiday movie.

“My all-time favorite Christmas movie is ‘Elf,” said Jazmin Salinas, junior English and American literature major. “I know it isn’t a classic but Will Ferrell is at his best.”

One film showing at the Plaza Theatre’s Third Annual Holiday series is not too likely to be anyone’s favorite holiday movie – “Gremlins.”

“When I saw that I was a little surprised,” said Ashley Tantimonaco,

event marketing manager at the Plaza Theatre. “But if you remember, the movie kicks off with a Christmas gift being wrongly delivered, so it still makes sense to be a holiday film.”

Hilariously, the Plaza Theatre website seems to expect some to question the reasoning behind “Gremlins” being shown and has a small parenthetical statement to try and explain the choice. But some are still questioning that choice.

“I’m not sure that ‘Gremlins’ has won its title as a Christmas movie,” said Gabriel Adame, junior biological science major. “Just because it definitely doesn’t

obtain those ‘Christmas elements.’ Seeing a Gremlin being turned into pulp doesn’t necessarily bring me that Christmas spirit.”

Luckily, the Joe Dante 1984 horror/comedy is not the only thing playing at the event. On Dec. 4, the Plaza Theatre is presenting “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” (and other animated classics) and “Gremlins.” On the following day, “A Christmas Story” and “It’s a Wonderful Life” will be shown.

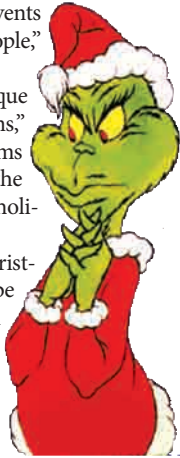
“This is a weekend to kick off the holiday and give younger children a chance to see the plaza theater, since they might not have been able to come

see it since most events are for older people,” Tantimonaco said.

Despite the unique choice of “Gremlins,” the three other films represent some of the best and most loved holiday films made.

“My favorite Christmas movie has to be a close tie between ‘A Christmas Story’

see MOVIES on page B4



Column ‘Tis the season of junk

BY MATTHEW MUNDEN
The Prospector



I have a strange history with holiday films. I find most of them unbearable.

I like a few. “National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation” is one I love,

but this year I think Randy Quaid going crazy and becoming Cousin Eddie in the real world might have ruined it for me. I also have a lot of affection for “Love, Actually” which pretty much hired every English actor for a role along with Alan Rickman, who happens to be my favorite actor of all time (just watch “Die Hard” and try to say he is not great).

But recently, holiday movies are crass and annoying films with families that you hate to spend two hours of your time with. In the past couple of years, due to my dream of being a “real” film critic, I find myself dragging my family to movies that are Academy Award hopefuls and finding myself creating largely depressing days for everyone.

Fun fact: “The Wrestler” is not a great holiday movie. In fact, it is actually the opposite. Most people do not think about Mickey Rourke injecting steroids into his rear end, trying and failing miserably to start a relationship with a stripper and his estranged daughter, and wrestling until his heart explodes, when they think of the holidays. Yet I do. I then followed up watching “The Wrestler” with “Requiem of the Dream” because I wanted to see how Darron Aronofsky, the director of both films, had changed stylistically. I do not think my mom or grandmother appreciated either film.

This year I think the family holiday movie might be “Tron: Legacy.” The art style looks awesome and I think my family might appreciate going to something that might end with the main character not dying a horrible and pitiful death. Of course, if “Tron: Legacy” sucks, I might drag them to “True Grit.”

I think the way I would ask my grandmother if she would like to go to “True Grit” would go like this, “Hey, Grandma, I’m taking you to a movie where a young girl’s father is gunned down and she hires a man to track the killer. On the way, she

see HOLIDAY on page B5

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Profile

Tech job lands student touring gigs

BY ALEJANDRO ALBA

The Prospector

Jorge Luis Aguilar-Cruz has come a long way from milking cows and growing corn in Durango, Mexico, to going on tour with Paramore and Norah Jones across the United States.

His degree in communication, and his job as a backline technician have helped him make many connections.

Cruz has had many experiences in the music industry. He is the bass player and the second vocals in a Tigres Del Norte cover band. This group gave him the chance to meet the actual band and travel with them too. Cruz said meeting the real Tigres Del Norte was so memorable because he relates to the material in their songs.

“I work as a backline technician, where I tune the guitars, bass, drums, do sound checks,” Cruz said. “Most importantly I make amazing friends, travel and rock n’ roll with my favorite bands.”

During his summers, Cruz goes on tour with famous artists like the Deftones, Paramore and Norah Jones, just to name a few. These experiences, besides being gratifying, have also influenced Cruz to become a teacher assistant so he can pass down his experiences to other students.

“I believe that students here in El Paso that are in bands and want to make it big are delusional,” Cruz said. “I believe that they should get out of El Paso to really find satisfaction.”

As a teaching assistant, Cruz has learned valuable lessons through his academic life. Working under a communication professor and a sociology professor, Cruz is working toward a master’s degree in communication.



Special to The Prospector

Backline technician Jorge Luis Aguilar-Cruz, communication graduate student and teaching assistant, has toured with bands such as Deftones, Paramore and Norah Jones, and he plays bass in a Tigres Del Norte cover band.

His main goal is to study gender and Mexican-American identities in El Paso.

“It is truly unique to have him, he is a great asset to the university class,” said Kim Kilpatrick, communication professor. “I also find him very versatile.”

Aside from being a teaching assistant and a backline technician, Cruz

said he enjoys other activities. As a second job, he bartends and, as a hobby, he boxes.

“I like keeping myself busy with different activities,” Cruz said.

Cruz also mentioned how he didn’t find it hard to balance his many worlds. He credits his mother for being able to multitask.

“My mom is my role model, I just love her sense of humor, her work ethic and her traditions,” Cruz said. “Most of those traits I inherited in me.”

Cruz is also very supportive and plays for the Rio Grande Adelante Group. This group is a gay, lesbian, bisexual based group that plays softball on Sundays. Through communicat-

ing with different groups in society, Cruz says he fully practices what he has studied.

“These are just wonderful people,” Cruz said as he wrapped up his story. “I believe I’ve gained so much meeting all kinds of people through communicating. I just find it gratifying to see people’s different views.”

Alejandro Alba may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

Theater

Christmas classic ‘Wonderful Life’ at El Paso Playhouse



Special to The Prospector

Local actors Sarah Vasquez, Kate Keyser, Andrea Paz and Jim Duross practice their parts in the El Paso Playhouse rendition of ‘It’s a Wonderful Life.’

BY JACKIE DEVINE

The Prospector

This holiday season the El Paso Playhouse will do an unconventional rendition of the Christmas classic “It’s a Wonderful Life.” The beloved American drama will come to life onstage in the form of a live radio show.

“It’s going to be an interesting twist on this story,” said Vanessa Keyser, theater administrator for the El Paso Playhouse. “This is the first time we’re doing a show like this. It will focus on the actor’s voices.”

Before television sets, radio dramas were popular in the first half of the 20th century. They depended on dialogue, music and sound effects to help listeners imagine the characters in the story. “It’s a Wonderful Life” made its film debut in 1946 and starred James Stewart as George Bailey, who contemplates suicide on Christmas Eve. His guardian angel intervenes and shows George what life would be like if he had never been born.

“For this type of play there is no requirement to memorize, the actors will have their scripts in hand. Unlike stage plays, where you need to see expression, it is not necessary in this play,” said Ron Szatkowski, director of the radio play.

Joe Landry wrote the script with the studio audience in mind. The actors do all the sound effects like car horns and people walking. The audience also gets to feel what it’s like to be at a radio sta-

tion while the performers are acting out their parts.

Unlike a typical play where audience members see a story unfolding before their eyes, spectators have to use their imagination. The actor’s voices help the audience envision the characters.

A 55-year-old can play a 28-year-old character and the audience would never know it because of the emphasis on the voice, Szatkowski said.

Every year the El Paso Playhouse puts on a holiday-related production and for many years it was “A Christmas Carol.” According to Keyser, “It’s a Wonderful Life” remains a classic to this day because the film’s message is still relevant today.

“It’s a beautiful story about people coming together in a small town to support one another. It never gets old,” Keyser said.

The film is a staple of Christmas television. “It’s a Wonderful Life” was on the list of the American Film Institute’s 100 Best American films ever made and placed number one on the list of the most inspirational American films of all time.

“The main character, through the help of his guardian angel, realizes how many lives he’s touched. Every life is important and we affect people in what we say or do at one time or another,” Szatkowski said. “So he comes to realize that he had a wonderful life all along.”

see CLASSIC on page B8

Recreation

Winter wonderland in the desert

BY OMAR LOZANO
The Prospector

During these brisk seasonal months many Sun City residents long to embrace the classic winter tradition of ice skating. Although many wait until the year's cold festive season to glide gracefully on ice, most are unaware that El Paso's rink is freezing cold through most of the year's mildest months.

"For public skating, especially around the holiday season, Thanksgiving and Christmas, people tend to go ice skating a lot more so you will see a lot of people out there having a good time," said Tom Herman, director and coach for El Paso's Youth Hockey League. "People don't think about ice skating during the warmer months but we're actually open from late August up until the end of June. We always have the public skating and our hockey programs going on."

The desert's warm climate during most of the year doesn't exactly lend itself to the idea of ice skating when people are splashing gleefully in their sun-drenched pools. Throughout a bulk of the year, however, the Sierra Providence Event Center, located next to the El Paso County Coliseum, is open to anyone who wants to get their ice skate on.

The event center provides public skating and winter sports such as figure skating and hockey for youths and adults.

With public skating available from 7-10 p.m. every Friday and Saturday and from noon-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and over 900 pairs of skates available for rental, Herman said, ice skating in El Paso can only grow.

"Every year we are getting bigger and bigger," Herman said. "The ice rink really brings kids and families

together and it becomes a pretty big, small community in its own."

Many El Pasoans might also be oblivious to the fact that the city's hockey team, the Rhinos, is first place in the mid-western division of the Western States Hockey League (WSHL).

Mike Erramouspe, a parent with three children who all participate actively in hockey, said programs that encourage adult and youth involvement in ice skating have helped the community growth.

"The involvement of the YMCA's youth leagues have really grown the sport. Each session has about 75 kids and it's growing," Erramouspe said. "I see that more kids and adults who try it, sure love it, I think more people just need to get out to try it."

For those who can't picture ice skating without holiday cheer might benefit in knowing that the Sierra Providence Event Center will be having its annual Holiday on Ice public skating event Dec. 18-31.

"I think it's a great place to take the family on a budget here in El Paso. It was not very full which was nice and they had a little concession stand with hot chocolate and snacks that were not expensive at all. I liked that spectators where not charged," said America Guevara, senior political science major. "The service was great and everyone was very helpful."

The event will be themed just in time for the winter festivities and will cost \$8 for rental and admission. Holiday on Ice public skating is open from noon to 4 p.m.

For more information, visit elpasoicemonitor.com or call 497-PUCK.

Omar Lozano may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.



ESTEBAN MARQUEZ / The Prospector

Public ice skating is available from 7-10 p.m. every Friday and Saturday and from noon to 4 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday at the Sierra Providence Event Center near the El Paso County Coliseum.

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Performance

El Paso Youth Ballet performs 'The Nutcracker'

BY AUDREY RUSSELL

The Prospector

The Magoffin Auditorium will show one of the most upheld traditional holiday ballet performances for only three days this month. From Dec. 17-19, The El Paso Youth Ballet will perform "The Nutcracker Ballet" for the second year in a row.

The classic ballet's detailed and challenging choreography is directed by Erick Campos from the Compania Nacional de Danza in Mexico City. He has worked with the El Paso Youth Ballet before and said he was very happy to work with the young company again.

"This production is a big accomplishment for the company. It's amazing to see the progress that they've made and I really enjoy working with them and UTEP as well," Campos said.

The El Paso Youth Ballet's studio was first opened by Marta Katz three years ago, but the non-profit company was founded nearly two years ago when Katz saw the need for a ballet company in El Paso. Since then she has worked on filling the void that the city has in dance.

"This performance is about giving back. It's so valuable to El Paso and Ciudad Juárez because it offers so many experiences to the dancers from both cities," said Katz, who is the Artistic Director of the El Paso Youth Ballet. "Although we're not professional we try to be as professional as possible. It's a very unique performance to our community. The kids in it are very dedicated and are putting in the effort to make this happen."

The dancers are on a fast track to becoming professionals with rigorous practices and rehearsals. Most of the dancers in the company range in age from 7 to 23 years old. Out of the 80 dancers in "The Nutcracker," only 20 of the performers are adults, the rest being young people.

The majority of the dancers have all been trained in El Paso or have come back to perform "The Nutcracker"



DIANA AMARO / The Prospector

El Paso Youth Ballet, which is composed of dancers ranging in age from 7 to 23 years old, will perform 'The Nutcracker Ballet' at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 17-18 and at 2:30 p.m. Dec. 19.

after leaving for training in programs elsewhere.

Lesley Lopez, formerly trained by Andree Harper, a ballet instructor at UTEP, is currently studying at the Pittsburg Ballet Theater, but came back to the place where she grew up to be in "The Nutcracker Ballet."

"I started dancing with Mrs. Harper when I was six and being able to come back and perform in this is really great," Lopez said.

The performance is a great learning experience for all the dancers and each student takes on a lot of responsibility even when managing a small role.

"Each role is important to the whole, so making sure they get everything right in their role no matter the size of it, is a big contribution. These kids are inspirational. Older ones will see them performing and think to themselves 'if they can do it...I could too,'" Katz said.

Aimeé Galindo, 10, and Victoria Vallarreal, 8, are two of the young dancers who will take turns playing Clara, one of the main roles of the play. Both of them must memorize patterns, know each song and time each step correctly in order to make the production flow.

They said the dancing was difficult, but not the most challenging part of the ballet. They said the acting was most difficult.

"Sometimes we're here from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.," Galindo said. "We're here a lot, but we like dancing a lot."

Special to the performance this year is the addition of help from volunteers in the community. The company gained recognition when both performances of "The Nutcracker" sold out last year.

Cynthia Gamez, who works at UTEP in the economics department, used her expertise to do all of the budgets, grant writing and promotional

contracts. Others such as Estelle Levy gave her time to perfect the rehearsals of the older students and keep them motivated. Artist and dancer Richard Glass devoted much of his time to designing and making the dreamy props come to life.

"What has really been neat this year is that the production brought out a lot of dancers from the ballet scene in the '70s, '80s and '90s. These groups of volunteers have helped with wardrobe, design, props, costumes and some of them do rehearsals," Katz said. "It's just great to see the outside's gravitation to this art and to receive help from all of their expertise."

Tickets to "The Nutcracker Ballet" range from \$15-\$25. For more ticket information, call UTEP Special Events at 747-5623.

Audrey Russell can be reached at theprospector@utep.edu.

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Special to The Prospector

'Gremlins' is one of the films featured in the Plaza Theatre's Holiday series Dec. 4-5.

MOVIES from page B1

and the original animated 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas,' Adame said. "Those movies just bring me back to my childhood where Christmas meant a time of purity, fun, giving, receiving and that good feeling that's only explained by Jesus' love."

The Plaza Theatre's Holiday series cannot escape comparisons to the Classic Film Festival in the summer, but Tantimonaco said they currently have no plans to expand the series to last longer. For now, it remains a small event at the start of the season.

The film festival is called a holiday series, yet the only holiday that seems

to be honored during the event is Christmas. Maybe next year the holiday term in their series' title will be more than just political correctness. But until that happens, the Plaza's holiday series is a nice event that honors Christmas with some great classic films and animated shorts.

Tickets are \$5 for each screening and are available now at the Plaza Theatre Box Office. "Grinch" starts at 3 p.m. and "Gremlins" starts at 7:30 p.m. Dec 4. "A Christmas Story" starts at 2 p.m. and "It's a Wonderful Life" starts at 5 p.m. Dec. 5.

Matthew Munden may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

Column

Rising porn addiction



BY CRYSTAL ROBERT
The Prospector



It's no secret that sex is the most searched for topic on the Internet. There are an estimated 4.5 million known pornographic websites on the Internet. Every second \$3,075 is spent on pornography. In that same second, 28, 258 Internet users are viewing pornography. Every 39 minutes a new pornographic video is created in the U.S. The Internet has made pornography highly accessible for anyone wishing to access it, adding to the increasing number of individuals who have become addicted to pornography without having to venture into dark and sticky corners. The National Council on Sexual Ad-diction and Compulsivity estimate that six to eight percent of Americans are sex addicts, 70 percent of that popula-tion reported having a problem with Internet pornography over the last 10 years.

Women are quickly becoming un-conventional victims of Internet por-nography. According to Internet Filter Review one in six internet pornography visitors are women, 17 percent of these women admit to having an addiction to internet pornography. Mark B. Kastle-man, author of the book, "The Drug of the New Millennium, The Brain Science Behind Internet Pornography Use", one out of every six women strug-gles with an addiction to internet porn, and more than 80 percent of these women will take their addiction offline. The poll conducted by Internet Filter Review also found that 13 percent of women admit to accessing pornogra-phy while at work. Finally, the ratio of women to men in chat rooms is now two to one. The experts from the Society for the Advancement of Sexual Health ask that one consider three basic things when defining sexual addiction. The first is loss of control over whether or not you engage in specific out-of-control sexual behavior. Second, are there sig-nificant consequences because of this sexual behavior, and finally do you feel like you're always thinking about your sexual behavior, especially unwillingly. The Society for the Advancement of Sexual Health also suggests a sexual ad-diction checklist that is more specific to cybersex. Behaviors to look out for are an increasing number of online time focused on sexual encounters and involvement in multiple romantic or sexual affairs in chat rooms. Also be aware of online use that interferes with

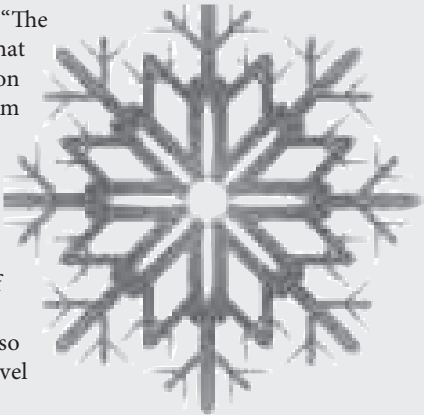
sleep or work. The most serious on-line behaviors are engaging in fantasy acts or experiences that would be ille-gal if carried out such as rape or child molestation. However, not every person who fre-quents pornographic Internet sites is an addict. Although several male UTEP students admitted to frequenting por-nographic Internet sites more than once a week, they do not feel this habit interferes with their daily activities. For the UTEP students I spoke to, Internet pornographic sites were used mainly for entertainment purposes and stress relief. One female UTEP undergraduate student admitted to frequenting Inter-net pornographic sites that exhibited female-on-female sexual activity. Al-though this student admitted she is not homosexual or bisexual, she enjoyed this type of pornography, as it was more sensual, explaining that not all pornog-raphy is geared toward women. The introduction of Chatroulette, a website that pairs strangers from around the world together for webcam-based conversations, has changed the direction of pornographic and anony-mous encounters on the web. Chatrou-lette has now prohibited pornographic material banning some users for several minutes, hours or months for violating the terms. However, there are still other web-sites like Omegle and the nefarious Rude Roulette that join strangers to-

see SEX on page B8

HOLIDAY from page B1

gets abducted by the killer. A lot of people die. It is directed by the guys who directed a film where a cop gets his throat ripped opened and an old man gets his head blown off with an air gun in the first five minutes. They also directed the movie where Brad Pitt gets shot by George Clooney and a film where a man finds out he has terminal cancer and his young son probably gets killed by a tornado. Want to go?" My family is the sort of fam-ily that enjoys watching "The Christmas Story" during that awful 24-hour marathon on TBS every year. I like the film a lot, but I can only take lamps that look like legs, tongues stuck to cold poles and a fat blonde kid getting kicked down a slide by Santa a couple of times every year. If I watch something so sweet too many times, the level

of vitriol that I keep inside might start to go down, leading to me actually growing a heart. Then these articles will be so much worse and I will be writing about how great Homecoming pag-eants are because of all the hard work that went into them. But luckily, I do not plan on letting go of my hate and will probably die at a very young age because of it. Happy Holidays. Matthew Munden may be reached at prospector@ utep.edu.



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I would like to thank all my family and friends for their love and support, especially my mother who is a fellow Miner. I will miss UTEP and will forever cherish my experience here. Go Miners! Class of 2010!

Love,
Jessica Solis-Banuelos

I would like to thank my family for all the support & encouragement they have always given me. Thank you to all the special people who have been there for me throughout my journey. I will never forget the UTEP memories!

Love, Norma Reyes

First of all I want to Thank God for allowing me and helping me get through these years of hard work. I want to thank my family for their endless love and support, wouldn't have gotten here without you. Thank you for everything!! To my Baby and Friends, Thank you for all of your help!!! Love you all!!! and... Go Miners!!!

BS c/o 2010 Priscilla Alvarado



GRACIAS IGNACIO
GRACIAS IMELDA
GRACIAS ANA LORA
GRACIAS VERO
GRACIAS ROSS
THANKS MRS MITCHELL
GRACIAS PROSPECTOR
GRACIAS DIOS POR
BENDICIRME CON TODAS
ESTAS PERSONAS QUE ME
AYUDARON EN ESTE
TRIUNFO NACHO

I would like to thank my family and friends for their continuous support these past 2 years. I could not have done it without you. I would especially like to thank my parents, particularly my mom, for never letting me give up and pushing me when I thought I couldn't go on. I would not have achieved this if not for everyone's love and encouragement. Thank you all!

Go Miners!
MS
c/o 2010
Leslie Grijalva

Finally!!
Andrea Benitez

I would like to thank all my family and friends for their love and support, especially my mother who is a fellow Miner. I will miss UTEP and will forever cherish my experience here. Go Miners! Class of 2010!

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Thanks to the Dept. of Veteran's Affairs for this opportunity. Don't settle for less fellow Vets. Hey Chika, I did it!! Gerson G.

Good-bye & good luck to Jessie, Sandra, Gloria, Rocío, Vanessa, Peter & Melissa. Beverly you're awesome! Thank you to my CS & Pol's professors. Once a Miner always a Miner... Maria Pangborn Class of 2010!

GOOD BYE UTEP, THE BEST IS YET TO COME!!! THANKS TO EVERYBODY FOR THE OPPORTUNITIES AND THE INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCES GO MINERS!!! Class of 2010

Le doy las gracias a mi mamá por todo el apoyo que me da para terminar este gran paso. También a mis hermanas por todo su apoyo. Me siento muy feliz de dar este gran paso pero eso no estado con tengo un gran camino que me espera y es ser Doctor!!!

Con Muchísimo Cariño Para mis Padres que siempre me apoyaron lo más grande que me ayudaron a lograr este gran paso. A lo que este gran paso me espera y es ser Doctor!!!

QUIERO AGRADECER PRIMERO QUE NADA A DIOS POR PERMITIRME LEVANTAR UNA CARRERA Y AL FIN TERMINARLA. A MIS PADRES QUE FUERON TODO MI APOYO PARA PODER COBRARLO. LES AMO PAPA'S GRACIAS POR TODO.

Este logro se lo dedico a mis padres y a mi abue y a todos mis amigos les deseo lo mejor. GO MINERS!!! Class of 2010 By Zorayda Cabralis

Para mi mamá y abuelita. Este logro se lo dedico a ellas. Muchas gracias a su apoyo y amor. Clase 2010 Jessica Guerrero.

First I would like to thank God and my family I could not have done this without you. Thank-You so much to UTEP for all the great professors that were taught me great things that I will use in my future classroom. Class of 2010!

Thanks to all my professors who reminded me that I was as able to do this school thing as anyone else. Go Miners for all Class of 2010 Sharon Lynn Whitehouse

Para mi PAPA: Miguel A. Alamillo Silva lo logre, PAPA! lo logre! TE EXTRAÑO, TU HIJA CYNTHIA ALAMILLO REYES

Thank you dad, Thank you mom for all your support during these years. Thank you friends: Familia Gedillo, Fam. Gonzalez Neto, Hanny, Terriola children, Junix, REDA. Thank you UTEP. We made it - Keep on - Sergio Jimenez BBA c/o 2010

Gracias papas por todo su apoyo! Llegue a la meta por ustedes y con ustedes! los Amos 2010 Mariel A.

Gracias tambien a mi abuelito Carlos que me ayudo a cumplir mi sueño de irme de intercambio y espero que este sea el principio para una gran carrera llena de exitos.

Thank you Professors Grambling, Laird Smith and Gilden! Thank you friends that I've met along the way Love you all! Ari Vega

Thank you to all my friends, family and amazing professors. Dad thank you! Your guidance and love has helped me graduate and succeed. A special thanks to all the ladies and gentle men at the SLWRCAB. You made my four years the best. Love, Denise Amaraz

Thank you Gerson and Erika without your support I would never be able to reach this. Chika

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Profile

Theater student looking for Broadway

BY JACKIE DEVINE
The Prospector

Many people admit to stage fright when simply speaking in front of people, let alone singing and acting. That’s not the case for Veronica Torres, who is working on her master’s degree in pre-speech/language pathology.

She graduated last year with a bachelor’s degree in music theater and has performed in several UTEP Dinner Theatre productions and concerts.

It all started when she graduated from Burges High School in 2005, and went on a trip to New York with her classmates.

“I saw my first Broadway show there, which was “Hairspray,” and I was so inspired, from that day I knew what I wanted to do,” Torres said.

At UTEP she filled her curriculum with music and theater classes to sharpen her skills. Her first taste of the stage was the holiday production “A Christmas Carol.”

“It was a great experience, I loved it,” said Torres, who performed in the play for three years.

“What I admire about her talent is that she is humble about her singing she never goes around bragging that she is better than anyone,” said Andre San-Chez, who is one of Torres’ former cast mates and a senior music theater major. “She can get things that take others a while to grasp.”

In between her performances of “A Christmas Carol,” she landed a role as the narrator in UTEP Dinner Theatre’s production of “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.”

“Veronica is a very talented and funny actress, she can always be counted on to do a professional job,” said Greg Taylor, associate professor of musical theater and UTEP Dinner Theatre director, who is on leave in London. “Her willingness to try anything to make her part better is a joy.”

Other notable shows Torres have been in are the 25th Anniversary Dinner Theatre with Sir Tim Rice. The UTEP music and theatre department put on a concert in his honor.

“I got to meet him and other Broadway veterans like Nikki Renee Daniels, Hugh Panaro, who was the original Phantom of the Opera, and Andrea McArdle, who was the original little orphan Annie,” Torres said.

Torres has been in countless other musicals and plays such as “Hair,” in which she played Margaret Mead, a lead role. She has also been in “Rent” and “La Cage Aux Folles,” in which she played Madam Dindon. Torres was also in “Cats.”

“I have to say Vero’s work ethic is just right. She knows how to have fun but she knows when to buckle down and get her work together,” San-Chez said. “While working with her she never lets her work

become something daunting, it’s always something fun.”

Torres’ passion for acting and singing doesn’t stop there. She worked on a television commercial for Anamarc College where she portrayed a nursing student.

One day she dreams of playing Elphaba, the bad witch in the Broadway musical “Wicked.”

“I just get inspired by everyone on stage,” Torres said. “I aspire to be like all of them because only the stage fills my heart with happiness. It’s a euphoric feeling after you complete a show and hear the audience clapping.”

Torres wants to continue acting and singing, but in the meantime she is very content with her work. She has advice for people that want to pursue singing and acting.

“No matter what, if you enjoy it, do it. If you love it and have a passion for it don’t listen to negativity,” Torres said.

This February she hopes to perform with the El Paso Symphonic Band singing as the narrator for the show “Green Eggs and Ham.” Torres said music will always be a part of her life, and she hopes people will see more of her in the future.

“She is always a bright and funny person and just a pleasure to work with,” Taylor said.

Jackie Devine may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.



Special to The Prospector

Multi-talented Veronica Torres, speech/language pathology graduate student, has performed in multiple productions.

SEX from page B5

gether and have not incorporated the same limitations.

Omegle remains innocent enough while Rude Roulette advertises itself as Chatroulette for adults, encouraging strangers to “get naked.”

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please be aware that your image may be recorded.

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anyone holding a cell phone or device with photo capabilities may be taking your picture and you don’t want to do anything in range of a camera that you don’t want the world to see. Finally, you may want to frequently Google your name and screen name to ensure your image isn’t being shared.

Crystal Robert may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

CLASSIC from page B2

The production will be a unique experience because actors will come up to the mic like they did in the old days of radio programming and read their lines while making their own sound effects.

“The rehearsal process is the same as other plays,” said Fred Keyser, the actor who plays Bailey. “It’s all about understanding the characters and what actions they would do.”

The El Paso Playhouse welcomes community members to join them for the Christmas classic. There will be six performances at 8 p.m. starting Dec. 10-12 and 17-19.

To make reservations, contact the El Paso Playhouse located at 2501 Montana Ave.

“It’s a heartwarming story that teaches a good lesson and entertaining for all ages,” Szatkowski said.

Jackie Devine may be reached prospector@utep.edu.


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Lu Heintz, Cloud, forged mild steel, 2006.

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Basketball

Miners down NMSU, again



BOB CORRAL / The Prospector

Senior center Claude Britten dunks over an Aggie defender Nov. 30 in the Pan American Center.

BY SAL GUERRERO

The Prospector

Senior guard Randy Culpepper lit the Pan American Center on fire with 3-pointers to help guide his team past the New Mexico State Aggies 74-72 Nov. 30.

The Miners (5-2) shot 50 percent from the field en route to sweeping the Aggies (2-5) this season, following a 73-56 victory seven days earlier at the Don Haskins Center.

“We’re just real pleased to get the win,” head coach Tim Floyd said. “It is a good thing there weren’t a couple minutes left on the clock because I don’t think (the win) would have happened.”

With 2:30 left in the second half and the Miners leading 69-62, the Aggies shot their way back into the game. NMSU senior guard Gordo Castillo hit a 3-pointer to cut the lead down to four. A minute later, after Culpepper made one of his two free throws, Aggie junior guard Hernst Laroche made a layup putting NMSU down 70-67. The Miners then missed an opportunity to go up by five when junior guard Julyan Stone missed a jumper. The Aggies rebounded, drove down the court and missed a layup with 14 seconds left in the game.

The Aggies cut the lead down to one with a 3-pointer by Laroche with under two seconds remaining, but the Miners fended off the attack, drawing a foul to send Culpepper to the line, eliminating any chance for NMSU to complete the comeback.

see NMSU on page B10

Column

It was fun while it lasted

BY ALEX MORALES

The Prospector



The end of the year is already approaching, and I was just getting started with my column. My time has come and gone, but it hasn’t been without raising eyebrows because of what I have said.

I gained a lot of fans, but there has also been a lot of readers who do not like me, but as a journalist, that comes with the territory. I said the Miners would finish 6-6 and they did, they would need help to make a bowl game, which they got. I was wrong about head coach Mike Price not coming back. I made a mistake, but who doesn’t?

The way I see it, previous writers were scared to say how bad some of our teams actually were, but I wasn’t. I didn’t care that I said our football team was a huge disappointment this year, despite coming off a huge win against SMU. In all reality, we should have only lost to Houston this year, but that did not happen.

But maybe this season is different for our beloved Miners. Usually, when we do not take care of business at the end of the season we do not get any help from anyone else. This year, thanks to Houston losing to Texas Tech and not becoming bowl eligible, we are assured a bowl berth.

Maybe, this team will do something that no other team has done since the 1960’s, which is win a bowl game.

Even if they do not win, being a Miner fan should be really fun and exciting with Tim Floyd at the helm of the basketball team and having Mike Price around for another year.

Floyd has the ability to recruit some really nice recruits, which can keep us in the mix for a conference title every year that we have him on the bench. The resemblance between of legendary coach Don Haskins and Tim Floyd will have fans coming back to watch the Miners.

As for the football team, we are going to need to recruit a quarterback with Trevor Vittatoe leaving after this season. Vittatoe has been the heart and soul of the offense the last four years and without him we would not have won as many games.

I do not know if the backup quarterbacks that we have on the team are going to be the answer for the future. If we can get a legitimate QB, I think we will be able to improve, but if we don’t, it may be a long year for the Miners.

As I write my last few sentences I just want to thank the people who read my column. Whether you like me, hate me, or just appreciate what I have to say, you are the reason why I get asked to write columns.

Lastly, to all the athletes that are on the team, you have to be able to take criticism. If a journalist like me is able to get under your skin, just imagine how it would be to take criticism at the national level. You would get eaten alive. So man up and be able to take the criticism because you only get it when you deserve it.

Alex Morales may not be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

Volleyball

El Paso natives play out their dreams one last time

BY ALEX MORALES

The Prospector

At the end of the season, every sports team has a senior night, and it was no different for the Miners’ volleyball team, even though only two El Paso natives are graduating.

As the final whistle blew on their last home game, a lot of emotions were running through the minds of Jennifer Nolasco and Kyla Muela. They could not believe that their collegiate career had just come to an end.

“I don’t have words to describe how I felt,” Nolasco said. “I was very excited to play, I was happy my family was here and I just wanted to thank the fans and everybody that supported me.”

As for Muela, her eyes were filled with tears as emotions and memories of her career got the best of her.

“There were a lot of emotions, I was excited, I was sad, I was nervous,” Muela said. “I felt like we didn’t really talk about what we were doing, so I just kind of ran out there. I was mostly nervous, but it’s bittersweet.”

Both Nolasco and Muela have had the privilege of being able to have their families watch them play throughout their entire volleyball careers. Muela did not have that privilege for two years playing her first two collegiate years at Dowling College, but she came back home to play in front of her family.

“It’s awesome. When I played out of state my family didn’t get to watch me, so having them here meant a lot, which was the best thing I could have had,” Muela said. “They have supported me throughout my entire life and having them watch me makes them really proud.”

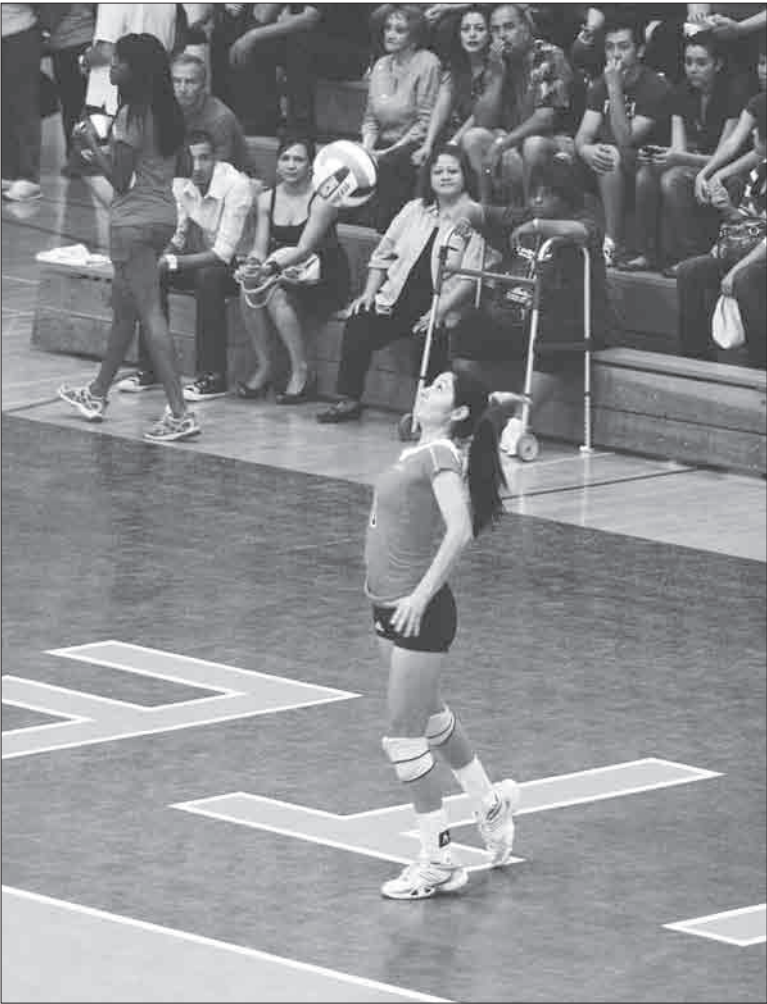
Nolasco never thought that playing volleyball at a Division I level was possible when she was playing for Horizon High School. It soon became a reality and after four years playing with the Miners as defensive specialist, she is grateful for the opportunity she was given.

“I am honored to have played for UTEP,” Nolasco said. “I never thought that I’d be playing Division I, especially coming from a small school. It was a great experience and I thank Ken (head coach Ken Murphy) and the girls for being great teammates.”

Coach Murphy has had both players for at least two years, and throughout that time period he has seen the hard work pay off as they have both worked their way into the lineup.

“I think they are both really good kids,” Murphy said. “I think Kyla has given a lot to us. When she goes in she always does a solid job. Jenny is a starter for us right now who is playing well.”

see DREAMS on page B11



DIANA AMARO / The Prospector

Senior defensive specialist Jennifer Nolasco attempts to serve the ball at Memorial Gym.

Record breaking Vittatoe shines bright



Senior quarterback Trevor Vittatoe set almost every passing record at UTEP in his four years with the Miners. He also finishes his career in the top 15 in career passing yards in Football Bowl Subdivision history and top 18 in career passing touchdowns.

Alex Morales may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

NMSU from page B9

“Unfortunately the great equalizer of the 3-point ball sank us again,” head coach Marvin Menzies said. “(Culpepper) made deep shots. Everywhere I’ve been if you are doing that, it is a neutralizer. It takes the wind out of your sail and quiets the crowd.”

Culpepper shot 50 percent from the floor, draining 5-of-10 from the 3-point line and finishing with 32

points on the night in 37 minutes of play. He scored 25 of those 32 points in the first half, surpassing his season-high in just 20 minutes of play.

Along with Culpepper, senior center Claude Britten scored double-digit points with 13, going 6-of-10 from the field while pulling down seven rebounds.

“I came out more aggressive. Coach told me I needed to start rebounding so I tried to go to the glass

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Football

Miners bowl-bound after Houston loss

BY ALEX MORALES
The Prospector

The UTEP Miners are going bowl-ing after getting help from in-state rival Texas Tech when they defeated the University of Houston 35-20 on Nov. 27.

The Miners controlled their own destiny at the end of the season, but faltering down the stretch losing five of their last six games hurt their chances. If Houston beat Texas Tech, the Miners likely would have been the odd man out and not playing in a bowl game.

UTEP will now play the waiting game until they find out which bowl calls. The Miners have a chance to play in four bowl games.

The first bowl they could be invited to is the New Mexico Bowl in Albuquerque. Dec. 18. This would be a very appealing bowl for the Miners as the proximity will be able to attract a lot of Miners fans. Plus, bowls are looking for teams to fill this game.

This game could be against Fresno State, which is a Western Athletic Conference opponent that the Miners are very familiar with. The last time these two teams faced each other was in 2004 when the Miners went into Fresno and won 24-21.

The next possible choice for the Miners is the R&L Carriers Bowl in New Orleans. This game also takes place on Dec. 18. If invited to play, the Miners opponent would be Florida International University. The Golden Panthers (6-5, 6-1 Sun Belt) won the Sun Belt Conference. UTEP and FIU have never played against each other in football.

The next possibility for the Miners could be a trip to the Aloha State and an invitation to the Sheraton Hawaii Bowl on Dec. 24. The Miners opponent in this game is none other than the host team, the University of Hawaii. The Warriors and Miners have a long history since they had a heated rivalry when they were both a part of the WAC.

Hawaii (9-3, 7-1 WAC) has lost three games this year. Those losses came against the University of



DIANA AMARO / The Prospector

Junior running back Joe Banyard jukes an Arkansas-Pine Bluff defender Sept. 4 at the Sun Bowl. The Miners beat the Golden Lions 31-10 in the season opener.

Southern California, University of Colorado, and Boise State University. The Warriors played the Trojans tight, losing 49-36, but lost the other two by more than 15 points.

The last time Hawaii and UTEP met was in 2004 when the Miners handed the Warriors a 51-20 loss at the Sun Bowl.

The last bowl game the Miners could get an invite to is the Bell Helicopters Armed Forces Bowl Dec. 30 in Hurst, Texas. The game would

put the Miners against a team from the Mountain West Conference. The opponent coming out of the Mountain West could be BYU.

This matchup is possibly the best matchup for the Miners, which will refuel the old rivalry from the Borderland Conference in the 1980s. A lot of alumni from UTEP also live in the Fort Worth/Dallas area which will draw fans for the game.

The Cougars (6-6, 5-3 MWC) have the same identical record over-

all, but possess a better conference record than the Miners. This could be a back and forth affair that could draw a lot of attention to this bowl game.

The Miners will be assured of a spot no matter what, and with bowl games being rare in this football program, UTEP will be happy to be invited to any four of these bowl games.

Alex Morales may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

simplystated

UTEP Cross Country sweeps C-USA Athlete of the Year awards

UTEP's Risper Kimaiyo and El-kana Rotich have been selected as the 2010 Conference USA Cross Country Athletes of the Year, the league announced Dec. 1.

The sweep marks the third time in conference history that one school is awarded both the female and male athlete of the year awards as voted by the league's head coaches. The honor is Kimaiyo's second consecutive of her career and Rotich's first.

Kimaiyo wrapped up the 2010 campaign earning her second-straight cross country All-America honor after finishing fourth at the 2010 NCAA Championships. Prior to nationals, the sophomore won the 2010 Mountain Regional and repeated as the C-USA Championship medalist. She became the first Miner to capture a Mountain Region individual title and earn USTFCCCA Regional Athlete of the Year honors. The Kenya native was named C-USA Athlete of the Week three times this season and owns seven career weekly honors. Kimaiyo is the only female runner from UTEP to win C-USA's top cross-country award.

Rotich concluded the 2010 season earning the second USTFCCCA All-Mountain Region honor of his career. The sophomore also won his first Conference USA individual title with a personal-best time of 23:30, earning All-C-USA first team. He was the top finisher for the Miners in four of seven races ran this season. The Kenya native has earned a pair of C-USA Athlete of the Week awards. Rotich is the second UTEP runner to win C-USA's top cross-country award. The Miners have won four of the six yearly honors since joining the league in 2005.

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DREAMS from page B9

To coach Murphy, the loss of these two girls is more than just losing pieces to next year's team. To him, it's a loss that will hurt the team because of how close they are.

"To us it's more about a loss of teammates to be honest," Murphy said. "We are not thinking too much about personnel and all that kind of stuff. It's more we are close with them. They are good kids, they work hard and we are going to miss having them in our practice."

Before both girls leave the team and their teammates for good, they are going to try and leave this young team with pointers for next year. Nolasco left her teammates with this piece of advice.

"I am just going to tell them to have fun," Nolasco said. "They should have fun, play their heart out every single game because it goes by quick. You never know when it's going to be over."

Alex Morales may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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You might have heard about a new bar on Mesa Street called Shotgun Ladies. Several ideas about what this bar is like have probably crossed your mind. On the contrary, Shotgun Ladies Rock N' Roll Saloon is a fun, Texas-style cantina that recently opened near the UTEP campus at 4130 N. Mesa.

The concept for this bar comes from its counterpart in Scottsdale, Arizona, called Shotgun Betty's Rock & Roll Saloon. El Paso's Shotgun Ladies is a place where customers have the liberty of getting up to dance at the bar with their friends or with the staff to the beat of rock and roll or their choice of music from their popular jukebox. You can also enjoy delicious food from their kitchen, which opens from 11 a.m. and closes at 2 a.m. Delicious appetizers and juicy hamburgers are the menu, but their specialty is their wings. With six different styles of wings to choose from, including sweet and sour and lemon pepper, you will surely find something tasty to satisfy your hunger. Nothing goes better with wings than a nice cold brew.

Shotgun Ladies offers you daily, all-day specials like a five-beer bucket of 12 oz. domestics for only \$10 or a five-beer bucket of 16 oz. Bud Light or Budweiser for the same price. If you feel like having

a specific drink, you can take advantage of their \$3.75 you-call-it specials that include your favorite vodkas, rums, tequilas or whiskeys. If you are feeling adventurous, then try the "White Mexican, which is the house shot made with Rumplemintz (peppermint schnapps) and white tequila. It comes highly recommended by the staff.

What distinguishes Shotgun Ladies from all the other bars in El Paso is their pick-up service. This service is offered in the area from downtown to Mesa and I-10. If you have a group of four or more people, a van can pick you up and take you back home. This service is offered from 7 p.m. until closing time and is available every hour. If you call in advance, you can even get this service during lunchtime.

Shotgun Ladies also serves as hosts for any events or fundraisers – especially for UTEP clubs or organizations. Their manager is available from Monday through Saturday from 4:30 p.m. until closing time. Major credit cards are accepted and an ATM is available inside.

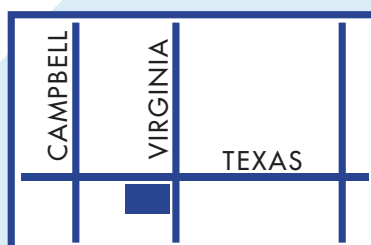
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