

10-14-2010

The Prospector, October 14, 2010

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Safety

Walsh: ‘UTEP is a very safe campus’

BY BEATRIZ A. CASTAÑEDA
The Prospector

When Colton Tooley, 19, opened fire on the sixth-floor of the Perry-Castañeda Library at UT Austin, the incident raised concerns about what UTEP would do in a similar situation.

“To be around someone who has brought a gun on campus is a scary thought,” said Diana Sotelo, junior psychology major. “That means they are there to shoot someone else.”

Sotelo said if UTEP ever has a situation like that, the chances that people would get out alive are slim.

“I would think, ‘This is the end of my life,’ I mean what are the chances you will survive if they start shooting everywhere?,” Sotelo said.

According to UTEP Police Chief Cliff Walsh, UTEP has a system to respond to an eventual emergency like that. He said there are alert notification tests that are conducted every first Friday of every month. There are also several speakers throughout campus that can be heard if a state of emergency actually occurred.

The system test includes a tone and a message that notifies people on campus that it is only a test and not an actual emergency.

“They are strategically located at different locations throughout campus,” Walsh said.

Other forms of alerts include the text message alert system through Mobile Campus. It is a text messaging service that allows students to be

notified of any emergencies that happen at the university.

Walsh said the best way for students to be aware of an emergency is by signing up for Mobile Campus.

“I want to encourage students to sign up and submit their information so that way they have connectivity if something happened on campus,” Walsh said.

Madelein Santibanez, sophomore education major, said she tried to sign up for the alerts, but her service provider did not accept those messages.

“My phone doesn’t allow for those types of services to be sent to my phone, so I can’t get that service,” Santibanez said.

Another form of notification is through e-mail and the UTEP message board screens that are located throughout campus.

Walsh said the messages would contain basic information of the actual emergency such as procedures to follow and tips of what to do next.

Walsh said UTEP has never had a situation like the one at UT Austin and believes the campus is safe for students.

“We’ve been very fortunate and have not had a situation like that, we have a responsible student body and students do report to us,” Walsh said.



BOB CORRAL / The Prospector

Emergency telephones are strategically placed throughout campus in yellow boxes.

see SAFETY on page 4

Campus

Provost candidates make pitch for position



BOB CORRAL / The Prospector

Harold Jones, dean of the School of Health Professions at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and UTEP provost candidate.

BY DIANA ARRIETA
The Prospector

Five candidates for the position of Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs have spoken at UTEP in the past two weeks to share their vision and plans for the school.

Harold Jones, Clark Hulse, Howard Daudistel, Stuart Bell and Junius Gonzalez are the five doctoral contenders for the position.

The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs reports to the president and provides academic and administrative leadership for the university, among other functions.

“This position means an opportunity to help advance UTEP to become a national research university serving a 21st century student demographic,” said Howard Daudistel, interim provost at UTEP.

Most candidates talked about the importance of the university advancing its mission to achieve a nationally-recognized research program, by gaining tier-one status.

see PROVOST on page 4

Obituary Former UTEP basketball player passes away

BY SAL GUERRERO
The Prospector

Former UTEP basketball player Chris Sandle, 44, died Oct. 6 in his apartment in Compton, California.

According to the Long Beach Press-Telegram, Sandle suffered from a variety of health issues.

The 6-foot-6-inch standout played at UTEP for two seasons (1986-88), where he helped lead the Miners to two consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances. Sandle was the second-leading scorer in the 1986-87 season and led the team in scoring the following year, averaging 17.1 points per game.

Sandle, a McDonald’s All-American at Long Beach Poly High in 1984, played two seasons at Arizona State before transferring to UTEP.

He is survived by his parents, his sister Tammi, two sons Jordan and Chris Jr. and his daughter Kirsten.

Sal Guerrero may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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Column

Forgotten aspects of reaching tier one

BY AARON MARTINEZ
The Prospector

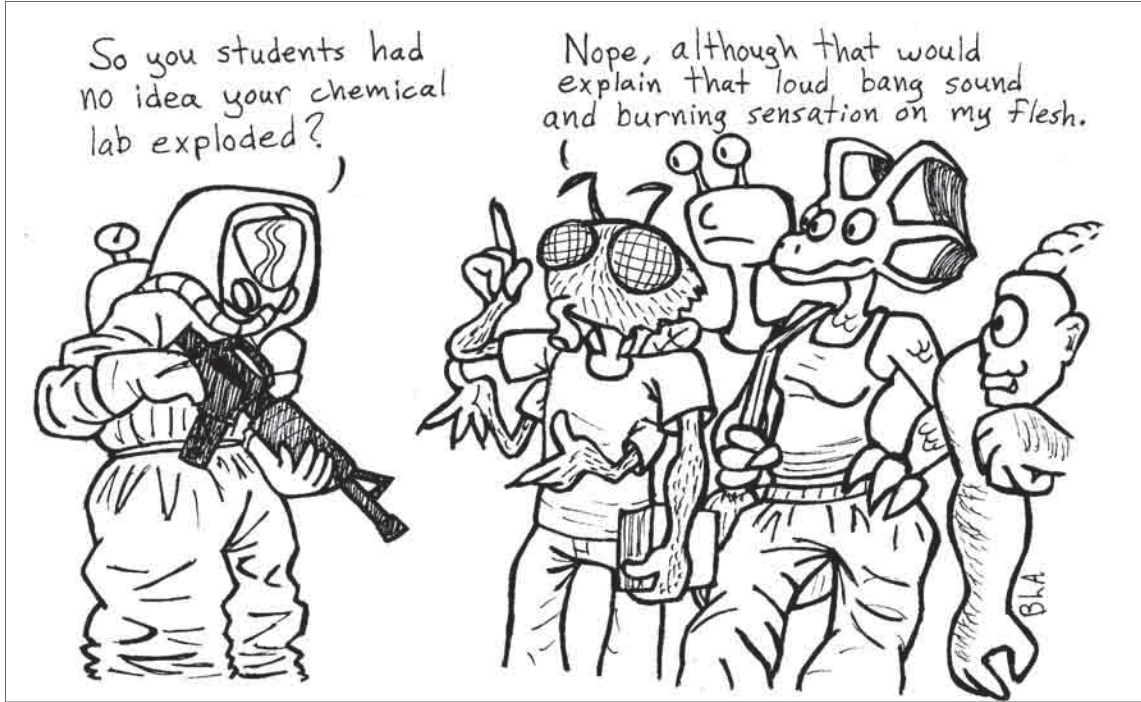


In the university's crusade to reach tier-one status, somebody seems to have forgotten one of the most important aspects to earning that eminent title. The whole point of a university reaching tier-one status is to be recognized as one of the top research colleges. What is confusing to me, as a student with a science minor, about the drive to reach tier-one is what actual research is the university striving to accomplish. They seem more interested in athletics and tech centers/stores than in actually improving the departments that are doing research. In the Sept. 30 issue of The Prospector, we published an in-depth article on the problems facing the biological sciences and chemistry departments. The main issues covered in the article "Lack of funds affects students" were the tight budgets faced by these departments—their lack of equipment or

old equipment and broken equipment that has not been replaced or fixed. Most, if not all, the individuals interviewed in the piece agree that the science departments are in desperate need of more funds. While I understand the importance of athletics, since it brings thousands or maybe even millions of dollars to the university, UTEP officials need to realize tier-one status has nothing to do with the athletic department. Tier-one is about research and the only way for UTEP to earn this status is to focus on research. One of the main departments that will play a big role in reaching tier-one status is the College of Science. This column attempts to bring attention to this important issue. If our science students, or any students in any department, do not have the proper equipment and the necessary funds, how do they think UTEP will reach this status? Since the article ran, many students have come forward about the problems they have or are facing with outdated equipment. When a student chooses to come to our university, it is not just to get student tickets to games, it is to get the best possible education and use the knowledge they gain here to be

successful. With obsolete and broken equipment, how is our university going to produce great scientists who are going to have an impact on our world. A perfect example of such a former student is UTEP alumnus and astronaut Danny Olivas. Since graduating from UTEP, he has made our university famous and proved that we can produce great students. As UTEP continues their attempts at gaining that so sought-after tier-one status, I hope they use the money they are campaigning for to help students gain the knowledge they need to be successful. This money should be used to buy state-of-the-art equipment and facilities. Just because they built a new biological sciences and health sciences buildings, does not mean that our students are set for success. Without the proper tools, these new buildings mean nothing. Students please stand up and make your voices heard and call for the university to provide us with the equipment we need, no matter what major. If all of us let the administration know what we need, it will make them take action. The power is in our hands.

Aaron Martinez may be reached prospector@utep.edu.



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prospector

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CLARIFICATION
In the Oct. 12 edition of The Prospector, photos that were taken two years ago from a UTEP tailgating party were published. It was not the intention of The Prospector to imply that the students depicted were cited for any alcohol violations.

Letter to the editor

Poor lab equipment equals health hazards

I wanted to thank your reporters for covering the issue with the science equipment here at UTEP. I am a UTEP alumnus from the College of Science and have had the opportunity to deal with both the chemistry and biology lab equipment. While I agree I've had no problems with the lab equipment in the biology labs, I have had my share of ordeals with poor equipment or a lack of equipment for chemistry. For example, while taking an organic chemistry lab I had to use my gloved finger to plug a hole in a funnel in order to properly mix a substance because the department did not have a properly fitting top for the funnel. Upon completing the mixing my glove had a hole in it caused by the chemicals (only inorganic gloves were provided for an organic lab) and my nail was damaged to the point where it would not grow properly for a full year. While this may seem like a minor safety hazard, it was a hazard that could have been prevented completely if proper equipment was in stock at the time. I hope the article you did on the lab equipment will bring much needed attention to the issue and prevent future mishaps - minor or major - from occurring.

Jessica Chavez, UTEP alumna,
Biological science, December 2009

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THE PROSPECTOR
October 14, 2010

Campus

Gameday crime changes tailgating rules

File photo

Most of the crime reported during this year's tailgates were committed by non-UTEP affiliated individuals.

BY CANDICE MARLENE DURAN
The Prospector

Saturdays in the fall have traditionally been associated with pre-game tailgates, but new guidelines and regulations have changed the ritual. "I agree with the new changes," said Jorge Vazquez, interim director for Special Events and game-day manager. "Fewer reports happen, and it's more of a family-friendly atmosphere. We get compliments all the time now on how clean the campus is and those calls mean a lot to us." The past few tailgates have left a mess for Special Events staff, who is in charge of keeping the campus clean after games. "We have tailgaters who are very courteous and keep the area clean," Vazquez said. "But on the other hand,

we have the ones who are anxious to go to the game and leave behind their containers and trash." Grounds keepers are hired by the Office of Special Events to make sure people keep the area clean and to pick up after the tailgaters who leave trash behind. Special Events rents trashcans and places them all over the campus for tailgaters' convenience and special containers to dispose of charcoal to avoid fires. Special Events, Office of Student Life and UTEP's Police Department recently came out with new tailgating regulations. These departments are in charge of making sure they have everything in place and keep order on gamedays. "Student safety is what's most important to us," said Alex Munoz, former President of the Student Govern-

ment Association and senior double major in finance and accounting. "We still want people to have a good time and enjoy the tailgates, because it's part of UTEP's tradition, but we also want the campus to be well taken care of, have a good atmosphere and promote school spirit." There were three cases of underage drinking and four Class A assaults reported Oct. 9. All offenders were non-UTEP affiliated individuals. "As a student, I feel like we had a lot of trouble from high school students and people not affiliated with UTEP," Munoz said. "Usually the students are well-behaved; they clean-up and take care of the campus, but people from outside come and they cause fights and leave the campus dirty. I think during the NMSU game things got out of hand." Many offenders during the Sept. 18 and 25 tailgates were non-UTEP affiliated individuals and breached regulations. At these tailgates, more than 40 non-UTEP affiliated individuals were cited for underage drinking, Class A and Class C assaults, auto theft and public intoxication. "I think it's a downer," said Josh Medina, freshmen engineering major. "Everything was pretty good until alcohol is involved, everybody just gets kind of really heated but I don't see why that's a reason for separating everyone like that" UTEP Police Chief Clifton Walsh said that not all people cited for underage drinking were UTEP students. "It's important to note that not everybody cited was a student," Walsh said. "They were handled like any other incident that occurs on campus, if there's a criminal action that occurs,

see TAILGATING on page 4

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PROVOST from page 1

“If UTEP does not get to tier one immediately, it’s only because we want to do it the right way and not just because we want to throw in some money,” said Harold Jones, dean of the School of Health Professions at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. “We need to push the accelerator harder than the way we’ve been doing it, get more research done, open more facilities, and expand resources for students.”

In these tough economic times, creating a strategic plan and adjusting the budget can make this possible.

“Providing grants for programs and accommodating resources can give us more options in this rough economy,” said Clark Hulse, former vice provost for graduate studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago. “We need to ask ourselves, ‘Do we want to invest or save this money?’ Living by a budget is important.”

While abiding by an established budget is important, expanding research is needed to move forward.

“Conducting more research has to be one of our main priorities, there are areas within the Department of Liberal Arts that are critical and interesting fields of study,” said Stuart Bell, dean of the School of Engineering at the University of Kansas. “The role of research in today’s colleges and universities is extremely important and we need to continue to work on expanding it to move forward.”

According to Junius Gonzales, founding dean and professor of the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences at the University of South Florida, achieving this can be done by creating partnerships with other institutions.

“Making strategic investments in talent and programs, creating new partnerships and collaborations with other academic entities, with industry, with the government and beyond and continuing to serve its student body in innovative ways will really help,” Gonzales said

According to Jones, promoting student affairs and student support services is essential for the overall success of the university.

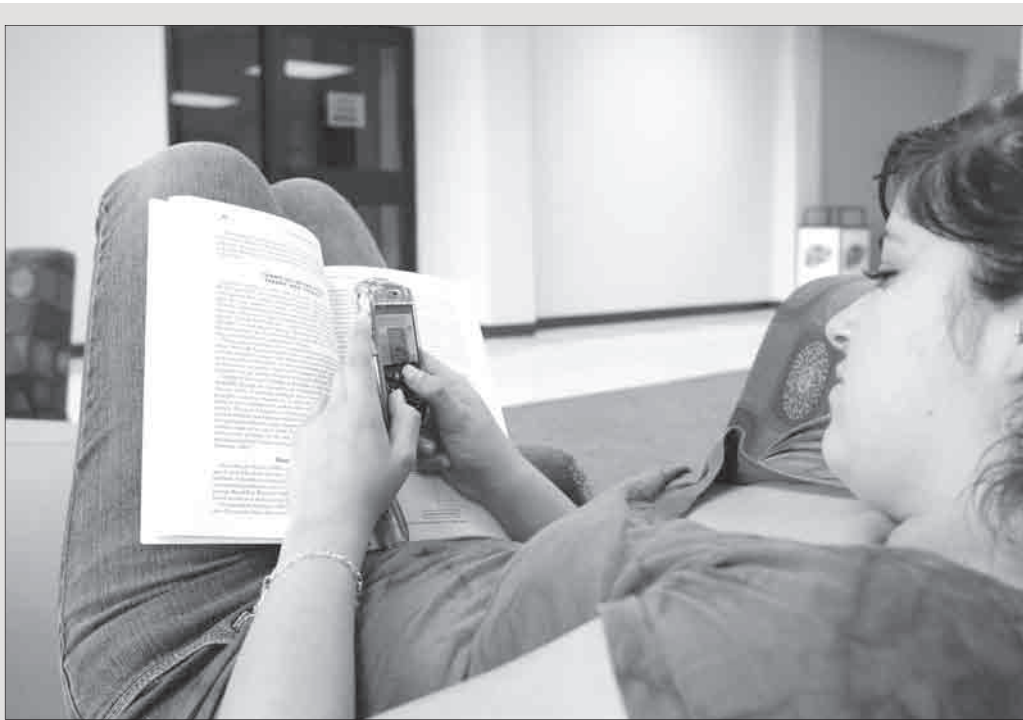
“Public research universities are the future of this country and their students need to have a whole life, it’s important for them to be exposed to outside-of-class activities and get involved,” Jones said. “It fills their lives and improves their performance at school.”

The position of provost at the university will enable one of these candidates to oversee the development of these programs.

“I feel our primary objective is to work with the college deans and their faculty to facilitate their progress and help them advance on their plans in all of the colleges of the university,” Daudistel said. “We want to work with them to provide the resources to help them and their students achieve their goals and clear the path for them to succeed.”

While the national search process is underway to evaluate candidates for the provost position, a permanent appointment is anticipated to be named by the end of the fall 2010 semester.

Diana Arrieta may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.



BOB CORRAL / The Prospect

Jackie Samaniego, sophomore social work major, says she has confidence in the emergency text messaging system to let students know when problems arise on campus.

SAFETY from page 1

UTEP police work and communicate together with other campus offices such as the office of Student Life, the Student Government Association and the Provost office, to better prepare them with procedures if there is ever a state of emergency.

“UTEP is a very safe campus, but we can be safer,” Walsh said. “I’d also say to be vigilant in keeping and making our campus safer from what it was

yesterday and that’s a big community effort.”

For more information on UTEP emergency plans go to www.utep.edu/documents/police/emergencyplan.pdf.

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

TAILGATING from page 3

According to students, the regulations have affected tailgating and game attendance.

“It’s definitely affecting the football team,” Medina said. “The more fans that are there, the better the football team is going to try to perform and there are just not that many people there anymore, so it takes away from the fun.”

Walsh had a different opinion.

“I don’t think the new regulations affect the attendance at the football games,” Walsh said. “I think the attendance is driven by the athletics department and the initiatives that we have in place to promote athletics.”

Candice Marlene Duran may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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entertainment

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Review

Shakira sacude a los paseños

POR MÓNICA R. ORTIZ

The Prospect

Con una producción de primera calidad y un escenario sencillo pero con efectos llamativos, Shakira deleitó este martes a los miles de fans que acudieron a verla y escucharla en el Don Haskins Center.

Shakira hizo una entrada sencilla pero emotiva mientras cantaba a capela “Pienso en Ti,” uno de sus primeros éxitos. Varios fueron afortunados al verla pasar junto a ellos y saludarla.

La colombiana cantó varias de las canciones que han contribuido a su enorme popularidad en el mundo, entre ellas “Ciega, Sordomuda,” “Inevitable,” “La Tortura” y “Las de la Intuición.” Como era de esperarse, los fans corearon y ovacionaron sus reconocidos éxitos.

Pero dentro de su gran repertorio, hicieron falta varias de las canciones esperadas por sus fans como “El octavo día,” “Día de Enero,” “Lo Hecho está Hecho” o “Pies Descalzos, Sueños Blancos.” Esta última canción es quizá una de las más importantes en su carrera artística ya que la lanzó a la fama en Latinoamérica e inspiró el nombre de su fundación que ayuda a niños necesitados en su natal Colombia.

Durante el concierto Shakira presentó parte de su nuevo disco “Sale el Sol,” lo que provocó cierta decepción por parte de sus seguidores que no conocían las letras y se tuvieron que limitar a escuchar. Su nuevo disco estará a la venta a partir del 2 de noviembre de este año.

Shakira presentó coreografías buenas, más no extravagantes, pero de igual manera dio gusto al público con su ya conocido movimiento de caderas.

Varias pantallas gigantes colocadas en el auditorio permitieron que todos los asistentes disfrutaran los efectos especiales y la habilidad dancística de la cantante.

Cuando Shakira entonó la canción “Mi gordita” apareció un rostro tridimensional que proyectó la imagen de Rene Pérez, vocalista de Calle Trece, con quien Shakira canta a dueto. La cara tridimensional se mantuvo durante las siguientes canciones ahora proyectando efectos especiales y deleitando a todos los espectadores.

A pesar de la ausencia de varios de sus éxitos, el concierto del tour “Sale el Sol,” fue bueno, más no excelente como muchos esperaban. Aún así, Shakira seguirá siendo una de las favoritas en el gusto de muchos paseños.

Mónica R. Ortiz puede ser contactada en prospector@utep.edu.

Shakira presentó dos conciertos consecutivos el 12 y 13 de octubre en el Don Haskins Center. El concierto de Shakira incluyó canciones de su nuevo disco “Sale el Sol” que estará a la venta el 2 de noviembre.

BOB CORRAL / The Prospect

History

Concordia residents dying to tell stories

FILE PHOTO / The Prospect

Concordia Cemetery opens its gates for El Pasoans to attend the annual ‘Walk Through History’ Oct. 16.

BY AUDREY RUSSELL

The Prospect

El Paso’s rich heritage will be showcased during the 20th annual “Walk through History” at Concordia Cemetery from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 16. All proceeds from the event will help preserve the cemetery and keep the heritage of one of the oldest parts of the city alive.

Concordia Cemetery is a Texas State Historic site, and often considered El Paso’s own boot hill, with famous residents such as gunslinger John Wesley Hardin buried there.

“It would be a good idea for all El Pasoans to go. It is interesting to learn about the people who shaped our city,” said Norma Alarcon, senior math major.

Filled with over 60,000 people from El Paso’s past, locals can get a taste of life in the early stages of the city, when railroads were being built, gunfights broke out in the streets, and historical residents walked El Paso in the early 1800s.

“Take a walk through history and experience El Paso from the 1880s and 1890s,” said Patricia Kidney, president of the Concordia Cemetery Association, which is responsible for preserving the cemetery. “The walk is a great, fun way for people to learn about the cemetery and its history.”

El Paso has a broad range of people buried at Concordia. Volunteers this year will be portraying lawmen, the shady ladies, Buffalo Soldiers, Mexican revolutionists, Texas rangers and grand dames, who lived off of Montana Street.

Stories of the past lie side by side at the cemetery and the night’s events will help visitors relive these characters’ stories and adventures. The popular dead residents will be portrayed by volunteers from around the city, who will dress up and tell the life stories of their character.

A ‘Walk Through History’ will include a look at notable characters as well as thieves and robbers. El Paso attracted some rough types when the railroads were first being built. Prostitution houses, ruthless gun fighters and robbers were common inhabitants of the city during this time.

“The walk will teach people about the good and bad of El Paso, and the people who came from all over the world to make El Paso a melting pot of America,” said Bernie Sargent, who has been involved with The Concordia Heritage Association for more than 15 years as portrayed characters at the event for 12 years.

Sargent will be portraying Dallas Stoudenmire, who was a notorious gunfighter and lawman in the 1800s, as well as some other characters now buried at Concordia. Him and his wife both take part in all the activities and help history come alive, literally.

“Dallas was a sheriff from Socorro, New Mexico, who had the job of cleaning up Downtown El Paso in 1881, though his drinking problem ended up getting him killed in a gun fight,” Sargent said.

Melissa Sargent will be portraying Alica Abbott, a madam who owned a prostitution house.

see **STORIES** on page 8

Music

Lowbrow Palace offers musical oasis

New venue to open Oct. 31

BY OMAR LOZANO

The Prospector

In a desert where parched musicians strive for places to showcase their creativity, Austin Allen is trying to build an oasis.

The local entrepreneur will open his second venue, 'The Lowbrow Palace,' to expand upon the space of the now defunct venue Zeppelins. The venue stands only a small step away from Allen's primary bar and venue, The Black Market.

"I feel like it's something that El Paso needs, local bands don't really have many places to play and it's tough for these bands to want to stay in this town and want to keep creating their art because it's hard to get exposure," Allen said. "It's going to give a lot of local bands a new venue to play at in a pretty centralized and happening area."

Lowbrow Palace, as the name implies, will be themed and decorated with the motifs of the Low Brow pop surrealist art movement of the mid 1970s.

"It's going to open up a lot of different opportunities for [bands]. I think its going to be one of the coolest, biggest venues available in town," said Mic Flo, lyricist for the local hip hop band, the Kilohertz.

Allen said that in helping create a nucleus for music in El Paso, the community will be able to offer a place for local and harder-to-reach national touring artists.

"We plan on getting a lot of musicians down here that would normally keep driving through town, bands that are awesome and shouldn't be driving through. We want to be that venue," Allen said.

Although most venues around the university area shy away from underage activity, mostly due to the hassle associated with Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission laws, the venue plans to embrace overage and underage audiences for its shows.

"If [underage kids] are not allowed to go into venues because of their age they are not going to be exposed to the scene and not going to want to be a part of it," Allen said. "We are going to try and figure out a system that allows us to bring underage audiences."

Lowbrow organizers also said they hope to appeal to a diverse blend of artists at and around the UTEP area.

see OASIS on page 8



DIANA AMARO / The Prospector

The Lowbrow Palace will be located where the defunct venue Zeppelins once operated.

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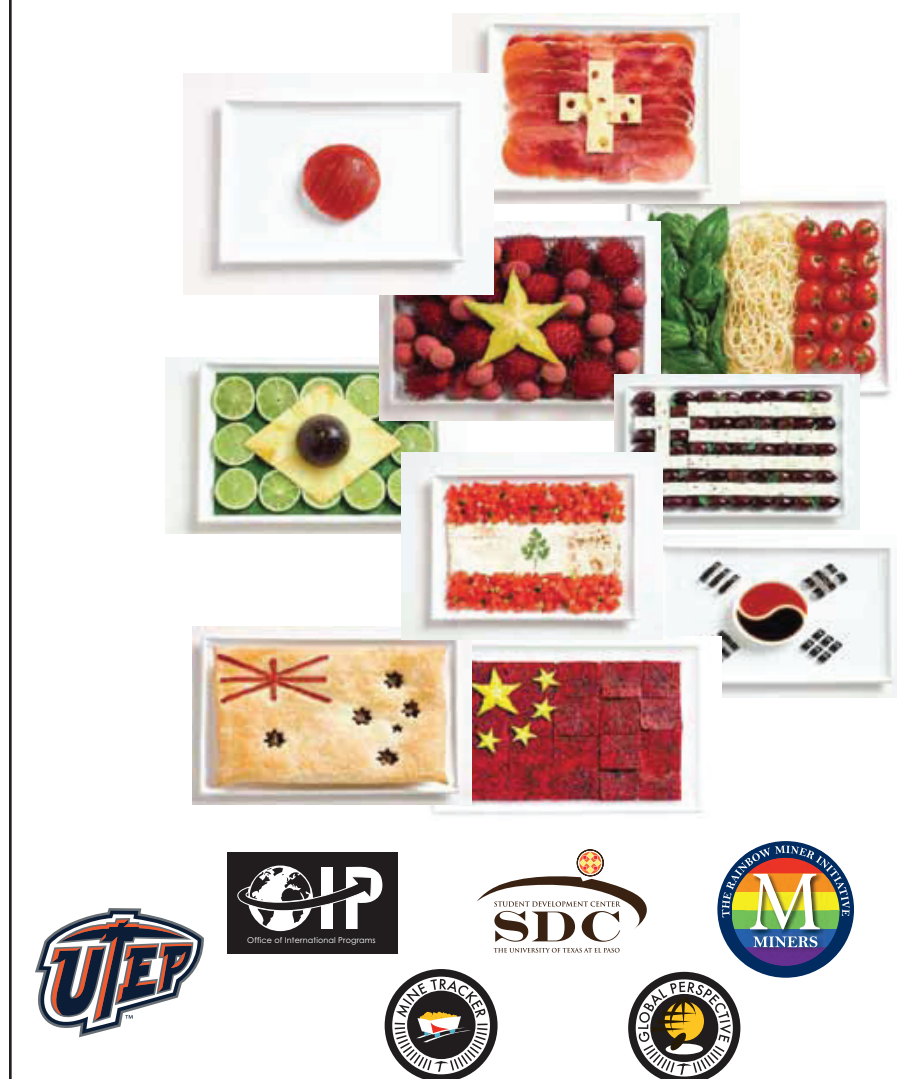
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Column

SEX INITIATIVES

Show spirit, wear purple

BY CRYSTAL ROBERT

The Prospector



Members of the popular social network Facebook have taken it upon themselves to set up an unofficial holiday to honor the lives of young adults,

who recently took their lives due to homophobic abuse.

The holiday, dubbed by its organizers as "Spirit Day," will take place Oct. 20.

The most recent victims of homophobic abuse Seth Walsh, Justin Aaberg, Raymond Chase, Asher Brown, Cody Barker, Harrison Chase Brown, Caleb Nolt, Billy Lucas, Jeanine Blanchette and Chantal Dube, are among those being honored on the site, as well as the victim, Tyler Clementi, of a recent case of cyberbullying.

Spirit Day supporters have been asked to wear purple in honor of LGBTQ youth who have recently taken their lives. The organizers have chosen the color purple because it represents spirit on the LGBTQ flag.

Arturo Guillen, senior media advertising major, was affected by the recent suicides.

"I was teased also when I was a teenager, and sometimes it would be bad, but honestly, my parents were always there for me," Guillen said. "When I heard about these kids killing themselves, I just couldn't imagine how lonely they must have felt."

The recent suicides have intensified calls to Congress to pass a pending bill, known as the Safe Schools Improvement Act. This act requires schools receiving federal funds to enforce a bullying prevention program that addresses anti-gay harassment.

A study by the UCLA School of Public Health found that members of the LGBTQ community are twice as likely as heterosexual men and women to seek help from mental health professionals. This study supports the statistics reported by the Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Study in 2007 that found LGBTQ youth to be up to four times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers.

Guillen said many times individuals can feel lonely, but it gets better.

"It Gets Better" is also the name of a project recently launched by Dan Savage, a columnist at the Seattle weekly newspaper The Stranger.

"It Gets Better" is a YouTube channel where gay, lesbian and bisexual adults share the turmoil they experienced when they were younger, demonstrating how their lives have changed for the better. This project may be visited at www.youtube.com/user/itgetsbetterproject.

The UTEP LGBTQ community has made a number of changes in the past five years. UTEP, at one time, could have been described as a difficult place for the rapidly growing LGBTQ community.

"When I started here in 2005, there was nothing available," said Isaac Perez Bolado, senior business administration major.

Jesse Salas, a former UTEP graduate student, found that his time at UTEP was a far cry from the environment he experienced at home in California.

"I think it was difficult," Salas said. "If not worse because both faculty and students would condescend your work, especially if it were queer-focused. To even bring up queer issues would create friction with certain individuals."

It wasn't until 2008 when the Rainbow Miner Initiative, an institutionally supported organization, was established at UTEP, that the LGBTQ community gained a visible presence.

There is now an organization known as the Queer Student Alliance available for all students, as well as Delta Lambda Phi, a fraternity founded by gay men, for all men.

Cristina Rivera, communication graduate student, agrees times have changed in recent years and said her experience as a lesbian student at UTEP has been excellent.

"UTEP is a very safe space and campus for the LGBTQ community," Rivera said. "Since the establishment of Rainbow Miner Initiative and the Queer Student Alliance, UTEP has been even safer."

Bolado will be supporting "Spirit Day" by wearing purple.

"I hope the message reaches its intended audience. It's the responsibility of people who have made it through the anguish to convey that we're not invisible," Bolado said. "We're lead-

ing successful lives as people that are loved and able to be happy."

Along with "It Gets Better," LGBTQ students may also seek help from the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, known as the Trevor Project.

Show your spirit and wear purple on Oct. 20. Do it for your classmates, your family, your loved ones and your friends.

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

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STORIES from page 5

“The more people that attend this event help preserve our history as well as a landmark and place for our ancestors,” Melissa said.

Games that were popular in El Paso’s early years will be available for children to play at Concordia Cemetery. Gun shows will be re-enacted, tractor hayrides will be available and ghost tours will make the event complete for the entire family.

“There is always something to learn about the arts,” Kidney said.

Audrey Russell may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

your events

The first Sunset Heights Bloc Party fundraiser featuring local hip-hop bands The Kilohertz, Secret Levels and Oakland's Tornado Rider will perform at 9 p.m. Oct. 14 at the Tequila Garage bar.

The 2010 Amigo Airsho commences Oct. 16-17 at Biggs Air Field. Gates open at 10 a.m. and performers include USAF Thunderbirds, US Army Golden Knight Parachute Team and more. The event also includes performances from local bands The D.A., The Lusitania and The Royalty.

The Union Cinema will be showing "More Than A Game" as a part of Cinema Novo at 7 p.m. Oct. 15-16. The film follows five talented young basketball players from Akron, Ohio, including NBA superstar Lebron James, in this coming of age story about friendship and loyalty.

The historic Magoffin House is hosting its annual candlelight tours. Tour times are 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Oct. 22-23. The candlelit tours will give audiences a chance to experience what it might feel like to live in El Paso in 1882.



DIANA AMARO / The Prospect

The Lowbrow Palace is tentatively set to open for a Halloween costume party Oct. 31.

OASIS from page 6

“Having another place that is centrally located next to the university community is definitely important. [It will] pull more artists and musicians that are going to UTEP and let them know that there is a location near by where they can showcase their music and artwork,” said Kristofer Johnson, senior English major and event promoter for Thin Wild Sound Productions.

The venue will make future attempts to open collaborative efforts with UTEP organizers to host campus and community events around the Black Market and Lowbrow Palace area.

“[Our venues] have a lot to offer. We plan on being friendly to Miners,” Allen said.

Lowbrow Palace is currently in the last stages of construction and plans to open its doors to prospective music freaks for an Oct. 31 Halloween costume party grand opening. There will be live bands and DJs all night. It will be an all-ages event and will be free with costume and \$2 without.

For more information e-mail lowbrowelpaso@gmail.com.

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

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Football

Miners look to extend streak at UAB



BOB CORRAL/ The Prospect

Junior wide receiver Donavon Kemp returns a kick against Rice Oct. 9 at the Sun Bowl. The Miners beat the Owls 44-24.

BY ALEX MORALES

The Prospect

The UTEP Miners are off to their best start since the 2005 season and are a win away from putting on their bowling shoes.

The Miners (5-1, 2-1 Conference USA) defeated the Owls 44-24 at the

Sun Bowl Oct. 9, their first victory against Rice in four years. They now have to play on the road against UAB.

The Blazers (1-4, 0-2 C-USA) are coming off a lopsided 42-7 loss at the hands of the UCF Oct. 6. The Blazers have dropped their last two games. Their one win of the season was a 34-33 victory against Troy Sept. 18.

Since joining C-USA during the 2005 season the Miners hold a 1-2 record against the Blazers. The road teams in all three meetings have won each matchup. UTEP's lone win came back in 2006, when the Miners went to Birmingham, Alabama, to defeat UAB 36-17.

“UAB is a really good football team. Neil Callaway is a great coach and there are guys on his staff who I know personally,” head coach Mike Price said. “We will be playing at Legion Field. It’s a big, huge stadium and it’s a little bit different playing in there.”

UAB junior quarterback Bryan Ellis has completed 54 percent of his

Volleyball

Junior college transfer shines in first season

BY DAVID ACOSTA

The Prospect

With their record currently standing at 4-2 in Conference USA and 12-7 overall, UTEP volleyball is off to its best start since head coach Ken Murphy took over the program in 2006.

Junior libero Stephanie Figueroa is no small part of Murphy’s new-look Miners, who returned only two starters from 2009. Figueroa was named C-USA Defensive Player of the Week for the second time in her short career as a Miner. In just her first season at UTEP, Figueroa has stepped in as one of the team’s statistical and moral leaders.

“We saw her play in junior college last year and on her team she was filling that role (as a leader),” Murphy said. “She has great natural instincts for leading when a team is going well, but even more importantly when things aren’t going well she has a great way of rallying a team around her and getting them focused and playing well again.”

Figueroa was born and raised in Puerto Rico where she began playing organized volleyball

at the age of six. As a teenager she went on to become her high school’s MVP in 2007 and a two-time gold medalist with the USA volleyball junior Olympic team.

“It was one of my dreams since high school to get a scholarship and play in the United States,” Figueroa said. “At first it was a little weird because it’s a different environment but I had to adapt.”

Figueroa left her family to play for Iowa Western, one of the country’s top junior college volleyball programs. The Reiver’s have appeared in four straight NJCAA tournaments, and seven in the last 10 years. As a Reiver, Figueroa helped the team to an undefeated record at home each of her three years and became the school’s career leader for digs in a single season (945) and all-time (1,691). For her efforts, she was named a junior college All-American for 2009.

In the weekend prior to her second Player of the Week award, Figueroa helped the Miners sweep a two-match series against Marshall on Oct. 9 and 10. In that series she



DIANA AMARO / The Prospect

Junior defensive specialist Stephanie Figueroa attempts a bump during a game at Memorial Gym.

see **TRANSFER** on page 10

STREAK from pages. 9

was no different. In the game he caught five balls for 134 yards with three touchdowns. His performance against the Owls did not go unnoticed as he was named the C-USA Offensive Player of the Week. He now has 23 receptions for 553 yards and eight touchdowns on the year.

"Kris Adams is a tremendous out-side receiver. He can run and out-

jump the defensive backs," Price said. "He's faster than he looks. He's good on deep routes. He's a good target. He seems to have a real knack for tracking the ball and jumping at the right time. He has a real good chance to play on Sundays."

The Miner defense is continuing to keep opponents from scoring as they held Rice to just 10 points before entering the fourth quarter. The

Owls managed to score twice in the fourth quarter, but that was against a defense that was predominately second string.

"Our defense is ranked fourth in C-USA and 50th nationally. It's fantastic, isn't it," Price said. "It gives us a chance to win. It's so great to hear our crowd 'ooh' and 'ahh' for the defensive plays and chant 'Defense.'"

UTEP heads to Birmingham, Alabama to face UAB at 2 p.m. Oct. 16 at Legion Field. The Miners are vying for their fifth straight win and a sixth win on the season, which would officially make them bowl eligible. The game will be televised in El Paso on Time Warner Cable Sports Channel 24.

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

TRANSFER from page 9

chored the defense, averaging 5.57 digs per set, tallying 24 digs in the second match, her second best single-game effort of the season.

So far in 2010, she leads the team with 263 digs, good for sixth best conference-wide. She has had 14 double-digit digs performances this season, including six straight, and posted 20-plus digs in matches against Marshall, East Carolina and UT-San Antonio.

"She's becoming one of those players that teams try to scout so they don't have to deal with her too much and yet she finds a way to make an impact," Murphy said. "She gets in a team's head and they just can't throw a ball at her, they try to go around her or avoid her, and yet they can't miss her."

Freshman defensive specialist Victoria Valencia, said not only has Stephanie been a great leader, but as dorm-mates, she has been able to see a side that opposing teams don't get to see on the court.

"She's an amazing person, fun to be around," Valencia said. "She's always there to help me as a friend and a teammate, she motivates everyone and brings our confidence up."

Figueroa says that when her collegiate career is over, she hopes to return to Puerto Rico to play professionally and possibly move on to a career in coaching. However, she isn't letting her early success in her first half-season as a Miner blind her from what she set out to accomplish when she transferred to UTEP.

"(The accolades) are amazing, it feels great ... (but) I came here wanting to work really hard for the team and do my job on passing and defense," Figueroa said. "I want to get better every day and help my team as much as I can ...that's who I am as a player."

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

Football

Lineman excels in the classroom and on the field

BY DAVID ACOSTA

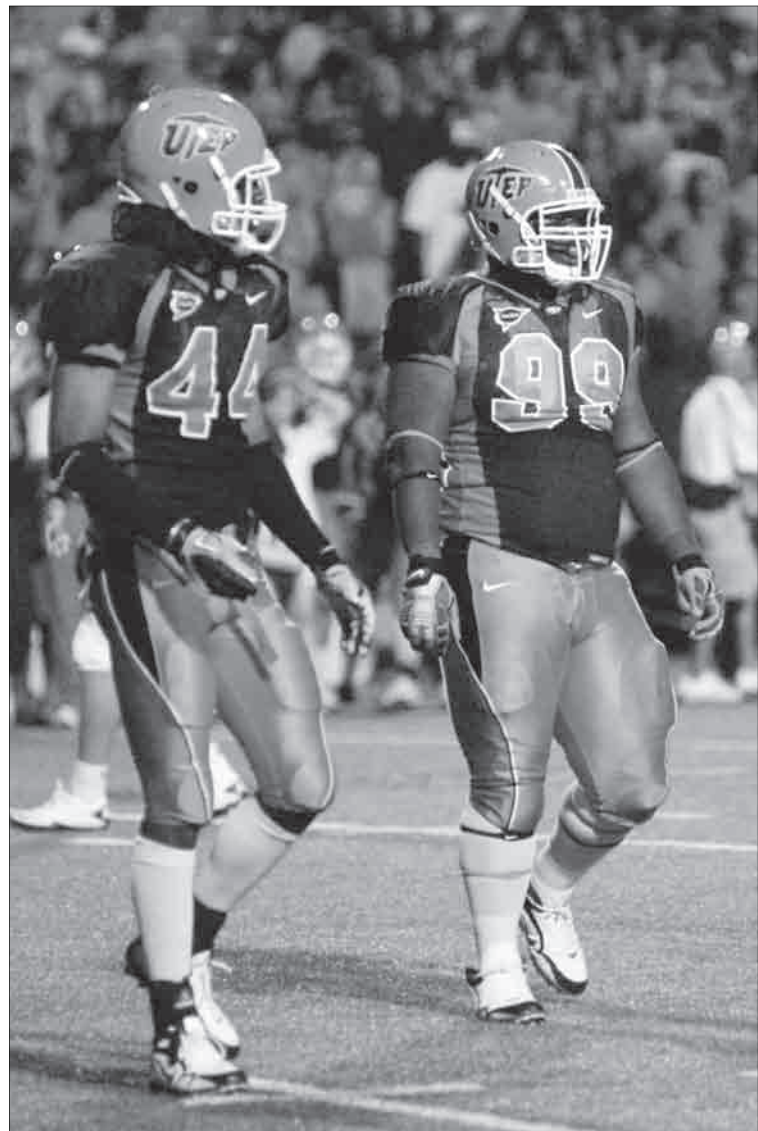
The Prospect

Growing up with six brothers and three sisters, competition just comes naturally to freshman defensive lineman Marcus Bagley.

Having an older brother who was also a high school football standout and is currently playing for Midwest-

ern State and other siblings who excelled both in sports and in the classroom, has led him to overachieve in both areas.

The transition coming out of high school straight to a Football Bowl Subdivision without sitting out a season as a redshirt is something Bagley says he was always prepared for.



BOB CORRAL/ The Prospect

Sophomore Greg Watkins (44) and freshman Marcus Bagley (99) walk off the field Oct. 9 at the Sun Bowl.

"Coach (Andre) Patterson had let me know when he recruited me that I might be able to get some playing time coming in," Bagley said. "My high school coaches prepared me, one of my coaches played for Buffalo (in the NFL) and he taught me a lot."

Bagley was selected First Team All District as a defensive lineman in both his junior and senior years at North Mesquite High School, racking up 96 tackles, five sacks and a forced fumble his senior year. In addition to his accolades on the field, Bagley said he graduated from high school with a 3.98 grade point average. Currently majoring in mechanical engineering, his goal is to graduate UTEP with a GPA of 3.5 or better.

"Marcus is a big, strong powerful young man, but the biggest characteristic that's helping him play as a freshman is he has a really good football knowledge," UTEP defensive coordinator Andre Patterson said. "He's a very smart young man and he fits in well with the guys."

While he is only seeing limited playing time, head coach Mike Price said the experience he is getting now, combined with his raw strength and talent will translate into a successful career at UTEP.

"He's an outstanding individual and very bright," Price said. "He's picking up everything quick and playing as a true freshman. He's just got a lot of potential, and he's a character."

Standing at 6 feet 2 inches, 320 pounds, Bagley is an imposing figure, who, according to his player bio benches 425 pounds and squats up to 550. However, when asked what advantage he has over his fellow freshman on the team, that aren't seeing playing time yet, he flashes a mischievous smile.

"With me being bright, it helps out a lot," Bagley said. "I think I pick up the plays a lot easier and learning the system has come a little bit easy for me."

UTEP currently has a very young defensive line, with only two seniors and three juniors. Out of eight freshman defensive linemen on the team, only two will redshirt this season, trading experience for an extra year of eligibility. However, Patterson is confident that rookie mistakes will pay dividends in UTEP's defensive future, and he expects Bagley to be a part of that.

"All of this hasn't been too big for him, a lot of times for a freshman this is too big...and the tempo is too fast, but it hasn't been that way for (Bagley)," Patterson said. "As long as he stays healthy and keeps doing the right things on and off the field, I think he has a chance to have a tremendous career here over the next four years."

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

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by Linda Thistle

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