

1-27-2011

The Prospector, January 27, 2011

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Food services

UTEP lacks veggie options



GREG CASTILLO / The Prospector

Vegetarian and vegan students are becoming increasingly frustrated with the lack of healthier options on campus.

BY NICOLE CHÁVEZ

The Prospector

For vegetarian or vegan students, the lack of menu options has created a problem that has not been addressed for years. Andrea Benitez, senior health promotion major, feels that it's even more complicated for vegan students to find a place to eat at UTEP.

"There are not many options on campus, I always have to leave and go to get some food somewhere else," Benitez said.

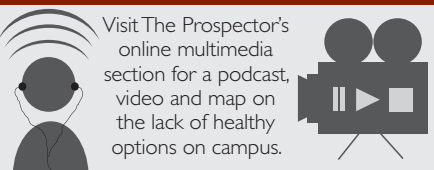
While vegetarian students are craving healthy options at UTEP, other universities operated by Sodexho have been named as the "Most Vegan-Friendly College in America."

Every year PETA2, a youth-based arm of the animal rights group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, takes a look at universities' food services to find the "Most Vegan-Friendly College in America." Through an online voting process, college students help PETA2 choose which institutions offer better quality and a variety of vegetarian or vegan options.

In 2010, the winner was Northwestern University, whose dining services are managed and operated by Sodexho, the company that also operates UTEP's food services.

Most universities in the UT system have contracts with Aramark, the counterpart of

MULTIMEDIA



Visit The Prospector's online multimedia section for a podcast, video and map on the lack of healthy options on campus.

Sodexho. UTEP and the University of Texas Pan American are the only universities in Texas whose dining or food services are not operated by this company.

From a group of 44 universities, which have food services contracts with Sodexho, UTEP is one of the three that does not offer or have many vegetarian items.

Having a reduced amount of food options is discouraging for vegetarian students.

"It's frustrating, you have to eat the same (food) over and over," said Miranda Smith, creative writing graduate student. "When there are so little options and none of them very good, I stopped looking forward to eating. Eating is part of the college experience, and sometimes I feel that the university does not care about students like me."

Humberto Cruz, senior political science major and vegan, found there are some eating options that retailers do not promote. At

Chopsticks, for instance, all dishes can be made with fried or steamed tofu, he said.

"We have these options, but those are not in the menu or advertised, people need to request them," Cruz said.

Adriana Ruiz, Food Services unit marketing specialist, said there is a misconception on campus that vegetarian options are just salads when the reality is that venues like Simply to Go offer items like hummus wraps and the hummus and pita plate.

"I know there is a big push on campus for an increase in vegetarian and vegan options, we are trying to satisfy all the students' needs," Ruiz said.

Sodexho's future plans include offering vegetarian catering items like vegetable lasagna once a week at the retail location on the second floor of the Union Building East.

When comparing UTEP with other universities around the country, Ruiz said even though there is a long way to go, UTEP is working on improving the student eating experience.

"We are taking baby steps, we can definitely get there and provide a wider variety of options, but for that we really need the vegan and vegetarian community to send us their comments, call or send us an email," Ruiz said.

Nicole Chávez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

Local

City sued over vendor ban



DIANA AMARO / The Prospector

Matt Miller, executive director and attorney at law for the Institute for Justice Texas Chapter, speaks at a press conference Jan. 26 outside the United States District Courthouse regarding a lawsuit recently brought against the city.

BY MATTHEW MUNDEN

The Prospector

Outside the United States District Court Jan. 26, Attorney Matt Miller, from the Institute for Justice Texas Chapter, announced that the city of El Paso was being sued.

"I'm here this morning to vindicate these (vendors)," Miller said. "We're challenging two restrictions that El Paso recently put in place that essentially turned the city of El Paso into a no vending zone."

The two restrictions that El Paso put into effect banned food trucks from vending within 1,000 feet of restaurants, grocers and convenience stores. It also outlawed food trucks from remaining stopped in one location, meaning that the trucks have to remain mobile and customers must flag the trucks down.

"We're asking a federal judge for nothing more than to declare these laws unconstitutional," Miller said.

The Institute for Justice, a pro-bono law firm ran by donations, represents people whose rights have come under attack. This includes areas having to do with school choices, property rights, free speech and economic liberties.

"I guess if to work is a crime, I am a criminal."

- Maria Robledo, El Paso resident

"We are defending these people because their right for living has come under attack," said Bob Ewing, assistant director of communications at the Institute for Justice. "(We) are representing these vendors free of charge and are looking for no monetary damages from the city of El Paso. We just want to give the plaintiffs a chance to make a living."

According to Miller, these regulations negatively affect people who have done nothing wrong.

"These laws hurt these people of El Paso that have lived here for a collected 55 years," Miller said. "They abide by traffic safety regulations. They abide by food and health regulations. Up until 2009, they did not have any issue with the city, but since then the city has ran an aggressive campaign to try to run these people out of town."

see **SUED** on page 5

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Editorial

Obama: ‘Win the future’

For the first time since inaugura-
tion day, President Barack Obama
united our county and gave hope and
inspiration to millions of Americans.

According to Reuters, almost 43
million Americans watched the his-
toric address Tuesday night and al-
though the country remains politi-
cally divided, for more than an hour it
seemed that American people finally
came together.

During his message, President
Obama was not only speaking to
members of the Congress, but to the
American people.

One of the most exciting points of
the entire speech was Obama’s plans
for the nation concerning renewable
and clean energy. True to form, the
president set some high goals for the
nation when he said that he wants to
see 80 percent of America’s electric-
ity powered by clean and renewable
energy sources (solar, wind, nuclear)
by 2035. Winning the global race and
competing with an international com-
munity was one theme of Obama’s
speech throughout, even saying that
this is our generation’s “Sputnik mo-
ment.” He was, of course, referring
to the space race between the United
States and the Soviet Union back in
the 60s, which ended with our astro-
nauts setting foot on the Moon first.

In the same way, Obama challenged
the people and Congress to be the first
nation to have 1 million electric cars
on the roadways by 2015, by funding
more clean energy research and cut-

ting billions of taxpayer dollars that
go to big oil companies.

Obama’s plan for a cleaner, more ef-
ficient and environmentally responsi-
ble nation is not only timely, but also
desperately needed. At the rate our
nation uses non-renewable resources,
we won’t be able to support our chil-
dren and their children in genera-
tions to come if something isn’t done
about our oil addiction.

At another point in the speech, it
was clear that Obama was disappoint-
ed with the outcome of the DREAM
act, which would have allowed many
UTEP students who were Mexican-
born but American-educated to stay
in the states after achieving a de-
gree. Just as he said in the speech, it’s
senseless to educate Mexican-born
students here and then send them
away to a country they don’t know as
home. He used this to transition into
addressing the illegal immigration
debate. He didn’t make any detailed
commitments to fixing the problem,
only asking everyone in the audience
to agree to make an effort to untangle
the knot that is immigration.

Showing his support for the civil
rights of our soldiers and in respect of
the sacrifices they make, Obama also
declared that gay soldiers in the mili-
tary will no longer be required to hide
whom they love – starting this year.
Doing away with “Don’t Ask, Don’t
Tell” is simply long overdue.

Although, as ideal as Obama’s
speech was, there were moments dur-
ing the address that left doubts as to

where the country was headed. For
instance, the President alluded to
spending money on the education
system and the expansion of mass
transportation in the country, but
then dropped a bombshell by intro-
ducing a \$400 billion freeze on an-
nual domestic spending. He admitted
that annual domestic spending only
comprises about 12 percent of the na-
tional budget, but that cut will be felt
still. Cutting any program that helps
individuals in this nation sounds like
a bad idea, but bringing spending un-
der control has to begin somewhere.

The lack of promises fulfilled dur-
ing Obama’s first years in office and
the Republican’s (backed by the Tea
Party) ability to bully Obama so far
in this term, has left most, if not all,
his supporters doubting his ability
to lead our country. Obama’s great
oratory skills once again lifted the
nation’s spirits, but with the Republi-
cans maintaining a majority in Con-
gress, major doubts loom as to what
the President can do with the time
that remains in his term in office.
The big question now is whether or
not Obama will remain in office long
enough to make his plans for the na-
tion materialize.

The most important aspect of the
2011 State of the Union address was
unifying the country after the rocky
and hate-filled elections last Novem-
ber. After listening to the President’s
speech, all Americans should be in-
spired to work for change and a better
nation.



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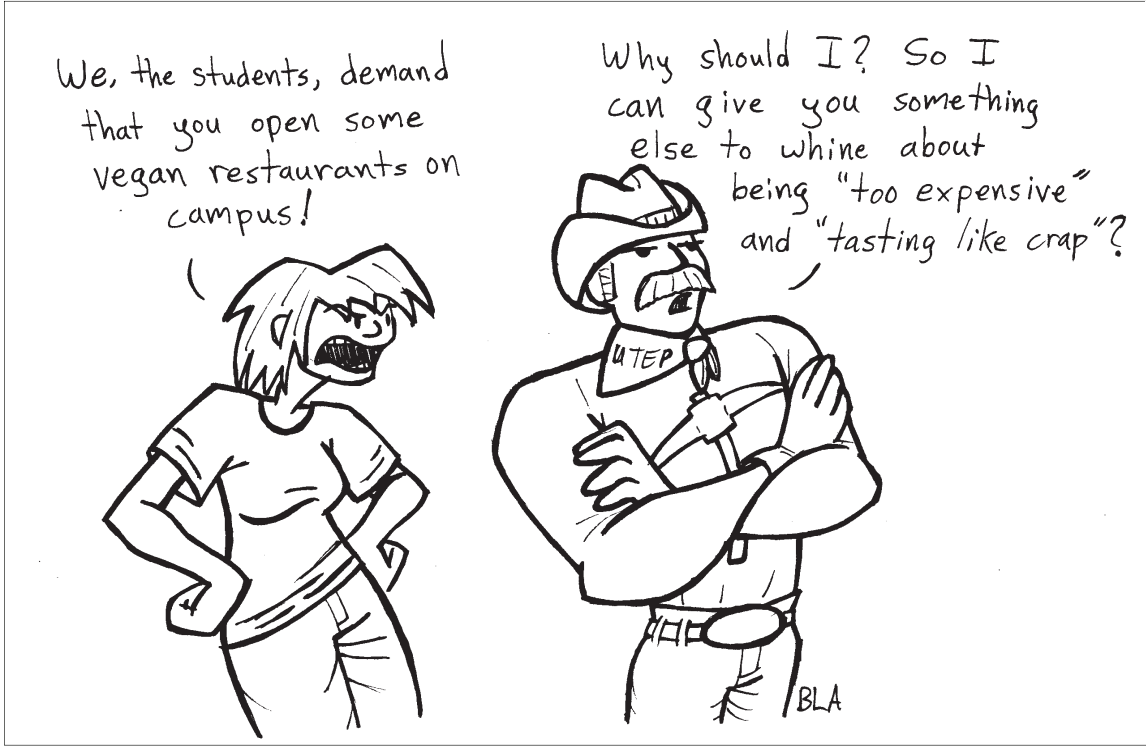
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Student activism

Organization focuses on erasing borders, ending apathy

BY CELIA AGUILAR

The Prospector

Feeling powerless and fed up with the extreme situation in Ciudad Juárez, Jorge Gómez, English and American literature graduate student, created an organization to address the issues no other UTEP student group seemed to be actively pursuing.

"I started looking at UTEP organizations and trying to see if there was one that was reaching out to Juárez in some way but there wasn't," said Gómez, president of Miners Without Borders. "I thought, if no one is going to do it, then I'm going to have to."

Before being officially established as a student organization last fall, Miners Without Borders started as an informal group of friends.

"I just posted something on Facebook saying we should empower ourselves, be creative and not let the media's negative stories overpower us," Gómez said.

Their original goal was to help the victims of the violence in Juárez who were suffering with mental health problems, such as post-traumatic stress disorder.

However, when they realized they didn't have enough funding, the group switched gears. They began using art as a means of both uniting people around a common cause and creating a catalyst for creative self expression.

"Art is just about what it means to be human," Gómez said. "It's original, it comes from your talents and it expresses an idea that cannot be expressed in any other kind of medium. Art transcends any kind of attempt at control because it's coming from you."

The artistic aspect of the group's work is not limited to visual arts. MWB plans to hold open mics events throughout the semester, encompassing poetry, performance and music. They also plan on holding a competition where students can submit their art, from poetry to songs and even films.

"It's a way of countering the negative energy," Gómez said. "We all have our own talents."

A current project of MWB couples art and environmental justice in the exhibit, "Specimens from North America's Most Polluted River" by Amanda Keller-Konya, which is featured at the Centennial Museum this month.

With the help of the Center for Environmental Resource Management, the organization was able to bring Konya's exhibit, which consists of images in specimen bottles that hold collected river water samples. The exhibit opened with a reception Jan. 25 and runs through April 28.

Besides bringing the exhibit to UTEP, MWB also helped design the exhibition poster, invitational postcards and the entrance for the exhibit.

Lorena Mondragón, one of the graphic designers who helped with the exhibit and vice president of MWB, was naturally drawn to the organization's cause. Being born and raised in Juárez, the issue was something that hit close to home.

"I believe we all should be concerned about the problems in our border region," said Mondragón, senior organize and corporate communication major. "We should look for ways to reduce the social borders that we continue to build by looking away from problems."

A major goal of the organization is to alter the way students feel about Juárez. A major problem Gómez sees at UTEP is student apathy and social disconnect.

"There are a lot of students who are apathetic because they think the issue in Juárez doesn't affect them," Gómez said. "We want to show that it does affect them in some way even if they don't think it does."

Gómez feels it is time UTEP stepped up and encouraged more student activism.

MWB is doing this by forming an alliance with the community organization Peace and Justice Without Borders.

The coalition, consisting of various students, professors and community members, has organized "A Day of Action/Un Día de Acción," which is a rally in solidarity with the Juárez community. The event will take place at noon, Jan. 29 at the Sunland Park Anapra border fence.

"The Jan. 29 bi-national event is the first of many future events consisting of solidarity and unification to promote awareness and express the reality and truth of Juarenses and border people," said Ana Morales, one of the co-organizers of Peace and Justice

see **BORDERS** on page 5



ESTEBAN MARQUEZ / The Prospector

Members of Miners Without Borders tell students about the peace rally set to take place at noon Jan. 29.

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International

Photojournalist's experience of covering Iran hostage crisis



PETER BREGG / Special to The Prospector

Peter Bregg (center), along with the Iranian army regulars and volunteers on the western front of the war with Iraq Nov. 1980. In the middle of the Iranian Revolution, Bregg was abducted at gunpoint by a group of revolutionary guards from the house they were renting in Tehran.

BY HAMDHOON RASHAD

Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

WASHINGTON - Every photographer has a compelling story to tell. Former Canadian Press photographer Peter Bregg is one of them.

When the world was in a state of shock as a group of Iranian university students besieged the American embassy in Tehran and took 66 U.S. citizens and diplomats hostages 30 years ago, Bregg was in the middle of the unfolding drama of the Iranian Revolution.

In what Bregg deemed "the biggest assignment of my career," he arrived in Iran in January 1980, roughly 2½ months after the Americans were taken hostage. Fifty-two of the hostages spent 444 days in captivity.

Bregg spoke about his time in Iran at National Press Club to mark the 30th anniversary of the 1979 Iran hostage crisis. An exhibit of 36 of his photos from that time is on view at the club until Feb. 4. During his career, Bregg covered eight Olympic games, Stanley Cup finals, World Series, presidential trips and the Vietnam war.

"The Iranian people were still euphoric following the revolution because in their minds things were going to be better," Bregg said. "But gradually the clerics and the revolutionary guards took charge, and nobody really felt safe anymore."

That included Bregg, who along with colleague Doug Long, was abducted at gunpoint by a group of

revolutionary guards from the house they rented in Tehran. Recalling the terrifying incident in an interview, Bregg said it was one of the most vivid images stuck in his mind, even today.

"Four revolutionary guards showed up with pistols and took us away blindfolded. That was a bit scary at first. I wasn't worried so much for my physical safety. I was worried for the inconvenience of being in jail for six months waiting to be released because I assumed that's what might happen," Bregg said.

That, however, wasn't what happened. Following a few interrogations, Bregg, then in his early 30s, and Long were released the next day and asked to leave the country.

Three weeks after the war broke out with Iraq in September 1980, Bregg received a phone call from the Iranian embassy. He and Long could return to Iran if they wanted to. Bregg went to Tehran for a second time in the same year.

Bregg, 62, said that since the Americans were shut out, he and Long shared their coverage with other media outlets. He said it wasn't easy being the only Westerners in Iran during the volatile period.

"It was very oppressive and very stressful because any day you could feel that something might happen," Bregg said.

Added to the stress was being away from his wife and family.

see **CRISIS** on page 5

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SUED from page 1

According to Miller, this absence of food vendors could allow restaurants to build a monopoly, not worrying about vendors as competition and having to lower their prices.

"These restrictions turn most of the city into a no vending zone," Miller said. "These laws do not exist to serve the public. The only things they protect are brick-and-mortar businesses that don't like vendors competing with them."

One of the four plaintiffs, Maria Robledo, El Paso resident for 30 years, expressed her feelings on these restrictions.

"I guess if to work is a crime, I am a criminal," Robledo said.

Students around campus do not understand why the restrictions were even created in the first place.

"Well, I honestly don't see that many vendors near enough of these places of business to be seen as a threat," said Andreana Gamboa, senior art major. "It's not like people are going to stop buying groceries or eating out at restaurants just because of them."

In the end, these restrictions have left these vendors dreaming of the days that did not restrict them.

"All we want is to have things be like they were in 2008," Miller said.

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

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Without Borders and sociology graduate student.

For both Morales and Gómez, the media plays a major role in the public perception of the violence in Juárez.

"What a lot of Americans don't know is that since the militarization of Mexico, violation of human rights, murder and rape went drastically up," Morales said. "However, popular media continues to insist how many of the deaths and crises occurring are organized crime-related."

The event will include live testimonies, guest speakers, poetry and music from both sides of the fence. Players in the day of action hope to not only open the community's eyes to the devastation in Juárez, but to encourage them to unite and act.

"It's so important to reach out to the Juárez side, because activists have been getting killed in Juárez," Gómez said. "If they're being targeted then it's clearly not just about drugs; it becomes a form of mass control. They're trying to scare the people into submitting."

For Mondragón, being a part of the organization is one way to learn and become active on the issue, but she feels more could be done.

"I think UTEP should stand as a supporting institution of the solutions these problems require," Mondragón said. "Miners Without Borders is only one of the many creative ways that students can begin to acquire knowledge and activism skills to address these problems. I encourage students to search for volunteering opportunities and community involvement in anything that can support our border community."

Other events include food donation drives and a campus screening of the documentary "La Barda," a film that focuses on the problems of the border wall.

Miners Without Borders meets weekly from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays at Union Building East, Lantana Room 102E. For more information, email Jorge Gómez at jagomez6@miners.utep.edu.

Celia Aguilar may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.



PETER BREGG / Special to The Prospector

William F. Keough (left) and 51 hostages arrive from Tehran at Algiers airport Nov. 20, 1981 after 444 days in captivity. Keough was principal of The American School in Tehran, a private institution that closed after the fall of the Shah. He returned to Iran Nov. 1, 1979 to collect school records and was staying at the embassy when it was seized.

CRISIS from page 4

"My wife was a hero during that time. When I was away for six months, she was busy taking care of the kids till I came home with my stories," Bregg said.

"It was difficult. We have two daughters, then aged 10 and 11. I was lucky to be surrounded by family members," Bregg's wife, Diane, said in an interview. "Once in a while, I talked to Peter on the phone. I followed the news constantly, and Peter's boss kept in touch with me."

It was a major moment for Diane when Peter returned home. "I was relieved that it was over and he was safe," she said.

The hostages were released Jan. 20, 1981, as Ronald Reagan was inaugurated president. No one was more elated than Bregg, who watched as the hostages disembarked from the plane in Algiers. Bregg described it as "the most exhilarating moment" during the stressful time. He had flown to Algiers in advance of the hostages' flight.

The hostages were flown to Germany, where they spent a few days before returning to the U.S.

"When those Americans came off the plane, I had goosebumps. I was stressed out because I had been in Iran for three months, and the freedom they felt for themselves I was feeling for myself," he said. "I felt free at last."

Hamdhoon Rashad is an undergraduate journalism honors student at Limkokwing University of Creative Technology in Cyberjaya, Malaysia. He is currently an intern at the Scripps Howard Foundation's Semester in Washington Program.

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Review



Special to The Prospector

Annette Bening, Julianne Moore, Josh Hutcherson, Mia Wasikowska, and Mark Ruffalo all star in “The Kids Are All Right.”

“The Kids Are All Right,” but the adults are not

BY MATTHEW MUNDEN

The Prospector

“The Kids Are All Right” may be bookended with scenes involving the titular kids, but this movie belongs to the adults and how they are not all right.

The movie opens with the children, 18-year-old Joni (“Alice in Wonderland’s” Mia Wasikowska) and 15 year-old Laser (Josh Hutcherson), of a family with two moms, Nic (Annette Bening) and Jules (Julianne Moore). Laser wants a father figure in his life, so he asks his sister to contact the sperm bank that his mothers used to get the number of the donor, Paul (Mark Ruffalo). What follows is a sort of sex-comedy-meets-marriage-analysis about the drama that happens in a modern family.

For the most part of this movie, the scenes in this movie feel true and honest. However, I had a problem around

the one hour mark when the movie takes these decent people and villifies one of them. I could not fathom why these people cast so much blame on one character, while another character, who was also part of the deed that was done, avoids a great deal of hate. I’m speaking in generalities because much of this occurs in the third act of the film.

From director and screenwriter, Lisa Cholodenko, the film brings an interesting stance on same sex couples. The film seems to indicate that Cholodenko, who is openly lesbian and has a family quite like the family in the film, believes that some sort of father figure is needed in every family.

While I do not exactly agree with this belief, I, as the child of a divorced mother, share some of Laser’s desire for a father. The way he looks longingly while watching a friend and his father wrestle during the opening credits of the film is rather poignant. The way

Joni, who never seems to have had a close relationship with a man before, expresses her feelings of being impressed after first meeting Paul, gave me hope that these kids might be able to find that life live up to their high expectations.

I find that I have reached the final third of my review and have not mentioned the performances. Moore and Bening portray two women as believable partners. They help this movie transcend what baseless critics of same sex marriage said it was. These two women are just two women that are married. At no point, do they break into speeches about what they feel to be two women married together.

Ruffalo plays sort of a womanizer at the beginning, but his character grows into someone that you honestly believe cares about Joni and Laser. Wasikowska and Hutcherson play two teens well. Hutcherson does not have much to do after the 30 minute mark,

but seems to play his character naturally. Wasikowska turns out to be a much better actress than I was led to believe she was after the boring “Alice in Wonderland.”

So I’m faced with the problem of giving this movie an actual score. How can I give a movie a negative score when I loved most of it? How can I give a movie a good score when I hated the third act?

I guess I’ll settle for giving it a good score, just lower your expectations for the finale.

“The Kids are All Right” plays at 7 p.m. on Jan. 28 and Jan. 29 at the Union Cinema.

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

Awards

Surprises from 2011 Oscar Nods

BY ALEJANDRO ALBA

The Prospector

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced its nominations for the 2011 Oscars on Jan. 25. It came as no surprise that most of the films up for the coveted Best Picture award were “The Social Network,” “Black Swan,” “True Grit,” and “Inception.” Those films were pretty much shoe-ins for the honor. It also came as no surprise that the nominees for Best Picture repeat themselves within the other categories.

What was surprising was that movies like “The King’s Speech” and “True Grit,” with 12 and 10 nominations, respectively, surpassed the crowd favorite, “The Social Network,” which had eight nominations. I guess that makes total sense though, since Mark Zuckerberg doesn’t have an unbearable speech impediment, and wasn’t born 150 years ago.

No Nolan? That is the biggest surprise people seem to be raging about all over the web. Honestly, it does seem like some shenanigans. The film made a world wide impression and yet the director received no Oscar attention.

One of the things I don’t agree with is that “The Town” deserved more nominations than the one Jeremy Renner received for Best Supporting Actor nomination. Although Ben Affleck has previously won an Oscar for Best Original Screenplay, I don’t believe “The Town” was all that good. I was really hoping for a cliché ending.

see NOMINATIONS on page 8

Column

Junk Food TV may be good for us

BY JAZMIN SALINAS

The Prospector

Our brains are constantly concerned with the hectic lives we lead, but like our bodies, our brains need some good junk food TV.

Junk food TV is the type of program that makes you ask yourself, “Why in the world am I watching this?” Well ladies and gentlemen, MTV is kind enough to its viewers to air shows that bring fist-pumping, baby-mama-drama and casual teen sex programs to the world.

“Jersey Shore,” “Teen Mom” and the newest show “Skins,” are all what I consider junk food TV because they do not educate, they do not inform and they definitely do not help us on our final exams. All the while our brains need to escape reality and see what other stupidities are going on in other peoples’ lives.

New Jersey was just another state in the U.S. that was somewhere near New York, but in 2009 MTV premiered their reality TV show “Jersey Shore,” and the rest is history.

Often times I ask myself why I am so intrigued with these strangers’ lives

and why America has gone into a Jersey frenzy, but again we need our fix of “juiceheads” and “guidettes” to escape reality.

The “Jersey Shore” phenomenon demonstrates that all of us have some inner demons that we may not be willing to give free reign to. Let’s face it, as college students we cannot afford to go out Thursday through Sunday downing shots of Patron but we definitely watch Snooki do it.

Teenage pregnancy is an unfortunate reality that society faces and one of the most televised and talked about themes for reality TV.

“Teen Mom” and “16 and Pregnant” are quite depressing shows, but the unknown outcome attracts viewers like me. At the same time my curiosity rises, the moral side of me wishes that a lesson would come out of this show for young girls.

The new wave of teen pregnancy reality has struck a chord in my heart that makes me feel as though these girls need me to set them straight. But once again I question, why am I watching this?

Staying on the subject of teenage reality shows, MTV’s anticipated yet con-

troversial series “Skins” takes the WTF junk food TV award. This show is in no way, shape or form for teenagers or your mom.

The flood gates of teenage indecency opened on Jan. 17 and showered America with everything but cheer-leading. Despite the uncomfortable feeling of watching teenage immorality, I had to fulfill my curiosity.

All I had to say after watching that first show was, “Wow.” My mind quivered at the producer’s portrayal of the American teenager. Could this be a show for the sake of demented entertainment or a cry for help from the average teenager?

Nevertheless, the show is receiving the attention its producers sought out and is satisfying someone’s junk food fix. On the other hand, I am sure the average TV viewer would prefer their fix to be “Skin” less.

Junk food television appeals to us on so many levels of our psyche: it takes us away from our own realities; it allows us to live vicariously through the characters and it creates a personal attachment between viewer and show.



Special to The Prospector

The cast of Jersey Shore pose for yet another picture.

I do not plan to spend my entire summer drinking my life away, I am past the teen pregnancy years and I may be a little old to be entertained by these questionable teenage shenanigans, but every now and then I need my junk food TV.

We understand the dangers and realities of junk food TV but as main stream society we watch the antics of these characters from the sidelines no matter how crass and embarrassing they get.

Jazmin Salinas may be reached at prospector@edu.com.

NOMINATIONS from page 7

I mean, who doesn't like a happy ending?

Another issue causing discussions online, is the fact that no African Americans were nominated for any of the categories. Many are saying that "For Colored Girls" was worthy of several nominations. Most of the comments site racism as the reason, but I feel otherwise.

If racism was actually the case, then last year "Precious", wouldn't have been awarded in several categories, including Mo'Nique's Best Supporting Actress Award. I do think that the movie "For Colored Girls" should have received at least one nomination, but I don't see the lack of nominations as an act of racism.

"The Fighter" took its hits too, with the absence of Mark Wahlberg within the nominees for Best Actor in a Leading Role. It is is upsetting that all of his co-stars (Amy Adams, Christian Bale and Melissa Leo) were nominated, while he was ignored by the Academy. Then again, Christian Bale did shadow Wahlberg in the film. Wahlberg does not go empty handed though, as he was

nominated as one of the producers for the film.

The Best Actress in a Leading Role is something many, including me, will be anxious about. All the nominees but one have previously been nominated before. Jennifer Lawrence, who played 17-year-old Ree in "Winter's Bone," is the only newcomer to the category.

My bets are on Natalie Portman, who portrayed an intense dancer in "Black Swan." Nicole Kidman would be my second favorite, but she has proved she is a high-quality actress, and therefore does not need a second Oscar.

Oppositions are being found everywhere about who should or shouldn't have been nominated, ultimately there isn't anything we can do but go with what the Academy Awards says, and rant about it on a blog or a column.

Many surprises were handed out with the nominations on Jan. 25, but even more will be received by the crowd on Feb. 27, on the actual Oscar's night.

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

Predictions
Oscar winners should surprise none



DANIEL ROSAS / The Prospector

Most Academy Award nominees can be seen in local theatres.

BY MATTHEW MUNDEN
The Prospector

Actor in a Leading Role
Probable Winner: Colin Firth, "The King's Speech."

Last year, Firth was a lock for this award until Jeff Bridges started to gain awards buzz. But this year with his only real competition being Jesse Eisenberg, expect the award to go to Firth. The only reason Eisenberg will not get the award is because the Academy will figure that he is too young and will probably be nominated again.



Actor in a Supporting Role
Probable Winner: Christian Bale, "The Fighter."

This is the only category that could surprise anyone, since any of the nominees could get the award. That being said, I think this is finally Bale's year to get the award. Not only because of his performance in "The Fighter," but this award will be what is called 'Peter Jackson award.' This award is not just for this one performance, but all of the performances he has given to this point.



Directing
Probable Winner: David Fincher, "The Social Network."

While this award could go to Aronofsky, I predict Fincher will get the award. His visual stamp is on "The Social Network" from start to finish, meaning that no other director could make a film like it.



Writing (Adapted Screenplay)
Probable Winner: Aaron Sorkin, "The Social Network."

Sorkin is the best screenwriter currently working and his script for "The Social Network" mixes comedy and drama with rapid fire dialogue. Without Sorkin, that movie would not have been nearly as good as it was.



Writing (Original Screenplay)
Probable Winner: David Seidler, "The King's Speech."

Again, expect "The King's Speech" to get any award that it can.



Actress in a Leading Role
Probable Winner: Natalie Portman, "The Black Swan."

No brainer. Portman's performance was like nothing she ever did before. Everyone seems to like her, so she should win. Also, it will make a nice story to tell her kid when it is born.



Actress in a Supporting Role
Probable Winner: Helena Bonham Carter, "The King's Speech."

Expect "The King's Speech" to sweep the awards show, winning everything except best director, film, and supporting actor (although "The King's Speech" Geoffrey Rush has a chance to beat Bale).



Animated Feature
Probable Winner: Toy Story 3

It is a Pixar movie. It is Toy Story 3. 'Nuff said.



Best Picture
Probable Winner: "The Social Network"

If Fincher wins the directing Oscar, expect "The Social Network" to get this award. However, if he does not, expect "The King's Speech." This award sort of represents Old Hollywood versus New Hollywood. It can go either way and, to be honest, both films deserve the award.



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Basketball

Miners comeback against Green Wave

BY SAL GUERRERO
The Prospector

It was a tale of two halves for the UTEP Miners Jan. 26 when they came back from a nine-point deficit to beat the Tulane Green Wave 69-65 in the Don Haskins Center.

"We played a really solid Tulane team...I thought they outplayed us again tonight," head coach Tim Floyd said. "We played an outstanding second half. Give Julian (Stone) great credit, we made a switch and put (Stone) on (Kendall) Timmons in the second half, he had one point—he had 16 in first. That was the big difference"

The Miners (17-4, 5-1 Conference USA) struggled shooting in the first half of the game, but managed to climb their way back to win in the end.

"(Tulane) shot for percentage in the first half, 54 percent. In the second half, they shot 33 percent," Floyd said. "We're a team that will take the win anyway we can get it. I think it was a result of half court defense in the second half"

Coming out of the locker room after the half, UTEP was down 38-35 as a result of poor shooting from the floor and giving up big 3-pointers from Tulane's Timmons.

But the Miners were resilient, making a switch on defense that held the Green Wave to just 9-of-27 shooting from the floor in the second as opposed to their 13-of-24 in the first.

"Tim Floyd got into us a little bit during the half and told us we needed to come back out here and guard a little better or we were going to let this game slip away," junior forward Gabe McCulley said. "We tried to come out to respond a little to what coach was saying."

With 10:34 left in the game, McCulley hit a jump shot that gave the Miners a 52-50 lead. Moments later though, Tulane's freshman forward Kevin Thomas made a layup to tie it at 50, keeping the Green Wave in the game.

Freshman forward John Bohannon then made a jump shot and was fouled by Tulane's Thomas, setting up a three-point play. The Miners never looked back from there, keeping the Green Wave at bay.

"We're a real athletic team and everyone shares the ball. When we get out and run we make it happen," freshman forward John Bohannon said. "We came out in the second half with more intensity and had to grind it out."

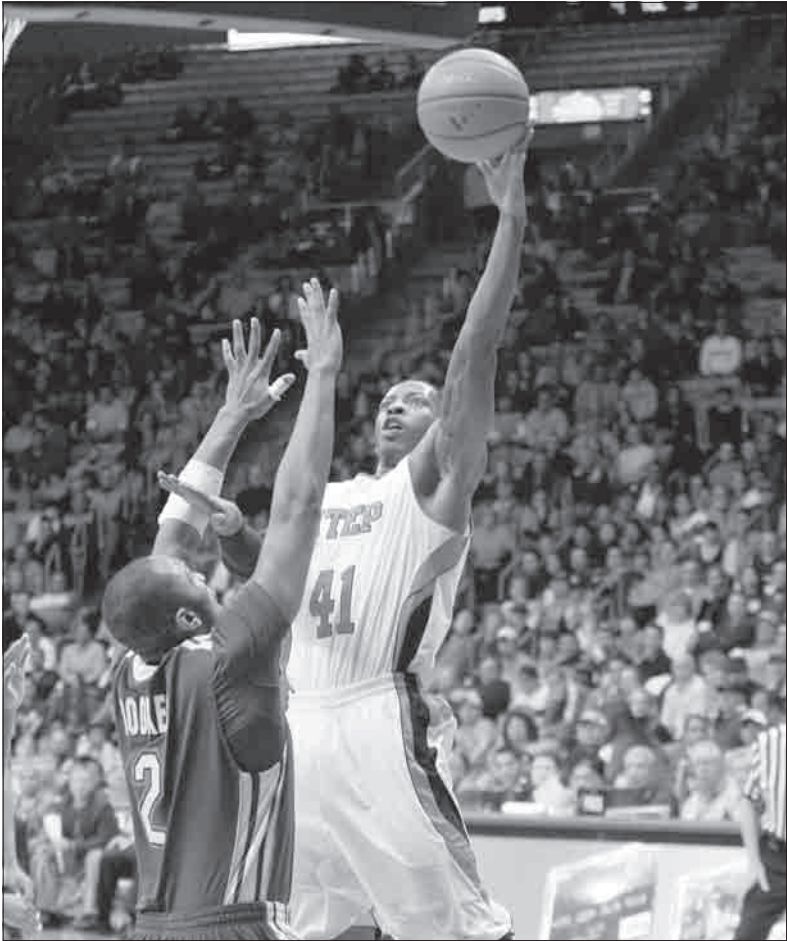
Leading scorer for the Miners was senior forward Christian Polk with 16 points, shooting 6-of-10 from the field and recording six assists. Stone managed to have yet another game with double-digit rebounds (10), while tallying up seven assists in 36 minutes of play.

"Guys were just making shots. I just was looking for guys open," Polk said. "The coaches have been on me about trying to make guys better instead of looking for my own shot and guys have been stepping up and finishing."

The Miners have two days of rest before they take on the Tulsa Golden Hurricane, who lost Jan. 26 to SMU 59-58. In their last meeting UTEP beat Tulsa 69-50 Jan. 5 in the Don Haskins Center. But this time around the Miners will travel to Tulsa Jan. 29 to keep their four-game-C-USA streak alive.

"I understand they (Tulsa) got beat by one point by an SMU team that is playing as good as anyone right now," Floyd said. "They are a team that had us down 10 at (home). They are a team that can beat anybody in our league."

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



BOB CORRAL / The Prospector
Senior guard Christian Polk attempts a lay up against Tulane Jan. 26 at the Don Haskins Center.

Basketball

Golden Hurricane next step in C-USA



BOB CORRAL / The Prospector
Freshman point guard Kelli Willingham currently leads the Miners in assists per game (4.1), while averaging 9.1 points per contest.

BY WILLIAM VEGA
The Prospector

Heading into the mid-way point of Conference USA play, the UTEP women's basketball team and Tulsa Golden Hurricane have begun league play, moving in two separate directions.

The two opposing forces and most recent C-USA Tournament hosts (Tulsa in 2010, UTEP in 2011) will meet Jan. 27 at the Don Haskins Center, with both teams hoping to begin new winning streaks.

UTEP (11-6, 3-3 C-USA) lost a heartbreaker at SMU, 81-79, Jan. 23 and Tulsa (5-8, 1-4 C-USA) lost at home to Tulane the same day, 80-66.

The Miners have experienced good team balance when playing C-USA teams this season. Four players are averaging double figures in scoring over the past six games.

Head coach Keitha Adams has taken note of Tulsa's strong post play.

"We're going to have to be ready to play. They (Tulsa) is athletic," Adams said. "They always have good post play. They rebound very well"

Junior forward Gloria Brown will be a key asset in

combating the Hurricane's post players. She has made notable impacts during UTEP's conference play, averaging the second-highest scoring total on the team with 11.5 points per game and a team-high of 6.7 rebounds in the past six games.

"I'm ready to work hard," Brown said. "I'm just working hard at practice and keep going. As long as I keep my head up I keep working."

Tulsa has taken a different approach over their last four games. Sophomore guard Taleya Mayberry is the lone double-figure performer leading the team in points with 16.2 per game, 9.2 assists and 8.8 steals.

Adams knows what is at stake when facing a player like Mayberry as she hopes to shut down the 2010 C-USA All-Freshman First-Teamer.

"Their point guard (Mayberry) is extremely quick and loves to push the ball up the floor and attack the rim," Adams said. "We have to guard the ball and we should be able to get that done. We'll have to play hard and have to play smart. Communication is going to be a big thing."

see C-USA on page 11

Tennis

Diversity drives a team to succeed



UTEP Athletics
Senior Ximena Fuentes, a three-year letter winner, is one of two players on the team that hails from Mexico.

BY WILLIAM VEGA

The Prospector

UTEP tennis head coach Victor Aguilar understands the importance of family and the eight players on the team are no different.

The tennis team's unity doesn't end after a long day of practice at the El Paso Tennis Club, Aguilar finishes every practice with one simple offer to his team, "Who needs a ride?"

As is customary with all UTEP head coaches, Aguilar was issued a vehicle when he took the job in 2010. Upon learning the circumstances that most of his players arrived without means of transportation from their respective countries, he asked to exchange his compact car for a large mini-van to help accommodate his team.

"I treat these girls like my daughters," Aguilar said. "I respect them

and they respect me. I think we have good chemistry."

UTEP's team chemistry is driven by a diversity of five different nationalities, with not a single player hailing from the United States. Aguilar's team consists of two players from Russia, two from Brazil, two from Mexico, one from Puerto Rico and one from Canada.

"Tennis is one of very few international sports," Aguilar said. "(UTEP Tennis) has a melting pot like the U.S."

Sophomore and number one player Martina Trierweiler has had to overcome much more than just language and cultural barriers coming from Brazil. She was red shirted during the 2009-2010 season due to injury and showed improvement posting a 3-3 record during the fall.

"The coaches were all around me, helping me all the time, supporting me a lot," Trierweiler said. "So they gave me the time, told me to take my time, I had that time so now I feel 100 percent ready to go."

Trierweiler ended the first half of the season impressively, winning in straight sets (6-4, 6-0) in singles play and scoring 9-8 (10-8) in her doubles match with Gabi Vasquez during the New Mexico Invite Nov. 7, 2010. Trierweiler will be paired with junior Carolina DeLuca to form the number one doubles spot for UTEP to commence dual-match season.

Vasquez is one of three freshmen on the team but has earned her spot as the number three player with high expectations entering the dual-match season. She was the top-rated junior player in Puerto Rico and won four of her 11 matches in the first half of the season.

"In Puerto Rico, I only got to play good players in the semi(finals) and finals," Vasquez said. "Here you are playing top players in the first round... It's difficult but I'm used to it."

Vasquez was grateful to be paired up with one of two seniors on the team, Ximena Fuentes, as the number two doubles.

"She's like my mother here," Vasquez said. "I really like it because we speak the same language (Spanish) so it's easier to communicate... we're really united not only on the court but outside so that really helps us a lot."

The tennis team begins dual-match season with a pair of tough games in Tucson, Arizona.

Aguilar was thrilled to see the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's 49th ranked team in the country, Arizona, on their schedule.

"UTEP tennis has done well but we need to take it up another notch to get more community support. We need our players to get those big wins which will attract more people," Aguilar said. "We'd like to beat a top 60 school in the NCAA Division-1."

The Miners fell to Northern Arizona University Jan. 22 4-3 and were swept by the University of Arizona 7-0.

UTEP faces the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, New Mexico at 2 p.m. Jan. 29 with a team to be determined the following day. The Lobos went 1-21 in the spring of 2010 including a close 4-3 loss to UTEP March 12 in El Paso.

William Vega may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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DIANA AMARO / The Prospector

Junior forward Gloria Brown scores two points against New Mexico State at the Don Haskins Center.

C-USA from page 9

Freshman guard Kelli Willingham, may prove to be the key defender as she is tied for a team-high of 1.4 steals per game.

“However the coach tells me to guard, whether it’s to keep her in front or not, it’s something I’m going to have to do,” Willingham said. “C-USA has a lot of good guards so it’s not going to be anything I haven’t seen before.”

UTEP has put up consistent numbers since beginning league play. The Miners are averaging 71.2 points each game while giving up 67.5 points. The team has also performed well shooting 46.8 percent from the field and 38.8 percent from 3-point range.

Tulsa’s totals have taken tough hits through five games of conference play, the Hurricane have given up 73 points per game but are only scoring 59.4 each outing. Tulsa is shooting the ball at 36.2 percent from the floor and 28 percent from beyond the arc.

But the team’s three-point percentage and defensive statistics are something coach Adams is not overlooking.

“They have a couple of really good three-point shooters and they mix up their defenses,” Adams said. “We’re going to have to take really good care of the ball and we’re going to have to play two halves.”

The two teams have faced three similar opponents through conference play thus far. Tulsa dropped their games against Houston, Rice

and SMU by a combined 57 points while UTEP has gone 1-2 against the three. The Miners lost to Houston and SMU by a total of 10 points and beat Rice by 22 points on Jan. 20.

The game will be the fifth edition of “Pack the House” and admission is free for all fans. Tip off is at 7:05 p.m. Jan. 27 at the Don Haskins Center.

William Vega may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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Miner fans help spur comeback



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Career Connections

UTEP

Business & Liberal Arts Career Fair
Thursday, February 3, 2011

Engineering & Science EXPO
Friday, February 4, 2011

Tomas Rivera Conference Center
3rd Floor, Union East Building
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

First job participation available at www.utep.edu/careers.
Professional business attire recommended. Bring copies of your resume.

University Career Center - THOMAS RIVERA BUILDING, SUITE 101 - EL PASO, TEXAS 79968

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The Miners came back from a nine-point deficit to beat Tulane 69-65 at the Don Haskins Center.

With the win, UTEP is now 5-1 in Conference USA and remains tied for first with the Memphis Tigers.