

2-10-2011

The Prospector, February 10, 2011

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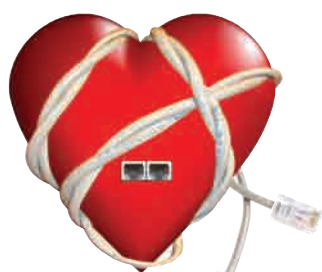
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VALENTINE'S DAY IS
AROUND THE CORNER

See love and relationship stories inside

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The University of Texas at El Paso • February 10, 2011

Look for the
Spring 2011
edition
of Minero
Magazine
inside this
issue



UTEP **LOVES** Cesar Chavez

March 31 declared a
'no classes' day

BY NICOLE CHÁVEZ

The Prospector

After several letters of protest, a rally and march to the President's Office and a Gold Nugget recipient returning his award, Cesar Chavez Day is back as a "no classes" day only for this year.

At their monthly meeting Feb. 8, the Faculty Senate voted in favor of reinstating Cesar Chavez Day and Spring Study Day as holidays for students. Last November, the same entity removed both dates from the school's calendar to meet a requirement by the state legislature that mandated them to choose 12 staff holidays per academic year.

The reinstatement of the holiday was announced through an e-mail sent by the President's Office, which included a statement from UTEP President Diana Natalicio.

"We regret the calendar confusion and the misunderstanding that resulted from it," said Natalicio in her statement. "There was absolutely no intention on the part of the Faculty Senate to dishonor Cesar Chavez or his legacy."

As a result of the vote, no classes will be conducted March 31, although the university and its staff will work that day.

Carl Lieb, president of the Faculty Senate and biological sciences professor, said there was confusion between staff and student holidays, and because of this, changes were made to the university's calendar.

"We expect that in the future we'll be able to protect the holidays that are important for our student population," Lieb said.

see CHAVEZ on page 16



File photo

Pete Duarte returned his College of Liberal Arts' Gold Nugget award to President Diana Natalicio, in protest of the Faculty Senate's decision to remove Cesar Chavez Day as a holiday.



File photo

UTEP officials continue to repair water breaks and heater problems caused by the winter storm that hit El Paso last week.

Campus

Money woes burden university as repairs continue

Part 1 of series examining financial and academic problems due to the winter storm

BY AARON MARTINEZ

The Prospector

As last week's winter storm forced the closure of campus for five academic days, the financial burden of this event to the university has continued to increase.

"We will be incurring expenses to repair various facilities around campus as a result of pipes that froze and that burst when the temperature dropped," said Cynthia Villa, vice president of business affairs. "We don't have a tally yet; we don't know what that number is going

to be at this point. We probably will not know until a couple of weeks."

Like most of the city of El Paso, UTEP was not spared from the damages that occurred due to the snow and below-freezing temperatures. Some of the issues included burst pipes and the heating systems breaking down in some buildings.

"We suffered broken water pipes, and associated with that we had heating problems to the buildings because we use a water-based thermal system," said Gregory McNicol, associate vice

president of business affairs and facilities services. "Primarily, all the problems were related to water because of the broken pipes."

Villa said the university also spent money trying to prepare the campus for classes when they believed the university was going to be open.

"We incurred costs in trying to secure the campus thinking that we would be open the next day, in terms of deicing and making sure sidewalks were ready and so on," Villa said.

see STORM on page 8

Column

Let lost love lie on V-day

BY VANESSA JUAREZ
The Prospector



The first time my little heart skipped a beat was for Chris Rosenbaum in kindergarten. He gave me a piece of bubblegum, sparking an instant connection in the reading corner of Ms. Foley's class under the watchful eye of an oversized Clifford stuffed animal. That's the first time I remember my heart going pitter-patter for a guy and since then, like most boys and girls, I've had a steady parade of crushes, infatuations and attractions. Despite all the fun dates and hookups over the years, nothing comes close to sticking with you like your first love.

For some fortunate Miners, this Valentine's Day will be spent with your first love, or, even better, your last love. For the rest of us, we try as hard as we can to ignore the very existence of the holiday. Of course, that's tough to do when huge bouquets of flowers get delivered to the girl in the next cubicle or when everyone on Facebook proudly announces their plans for a night of love. For those of us without a date on Valentine's Day, I propose a day of reflection on past loves lost and lessons learned.

Almost instantly, that sounds like a pretty depressing activity but I can't overemphasize enough the importance of taking some time to reflect on past decisions and choices. Like the well-used trope, the more we know about our history (personal, sexual, romantic), the less likely we are to repeat it, which brings me back to first loves. For me, and probably for a lot of other people, that one didn't end too fantastically and that person is almost

indelibly impressed in my mind and heart.

First loves are hard to shake. The novelty of experiencing such strong romantic feelings for another human being for the first time is enough to leave a landmark in your mind but all the events, emotions and memories made with your first love are the things that so easily creep back up into remembrance, provoking tears or giggles or quiet sighs. The first time you held hands, the first time you kissed, the first time you made out in the backseat of a car, the first time you had... well, you get the point.

Are these monuments in our mind what cause us to get a little giddy (or wince in pain) when we hear their names? Or is it harder to let go of your first love because unrealized possibilities and what ifs still linger in the back of your mind?

Because of those pesty first loves, Valentine's Day can be difficult, especially when you're not in a relationship. On the day of love I find myself musing about what could have been, what mistakes could have been avoided and so on. I'm definitely exposing some of my own hang-ups, but I take comfort in knowing that almost everyone has been there.

Relationships, whether they end positively or not, always have a lesson to be learned. If you're like me, it may take a few boyfriends (or girlfriends) to learn the lesson, but I tend to lean toward the optimistic and like to see each relationship as having a deliberate purpose. It's hard to put first loves to rest, but maybe this Valentine's Day should represent the end of dwelling on what could have been and instead learning from those mistakes. Instead of pining away with a box of chocolates or a tub of chocolate chip cookie dough ice cream, I'm going to

consciously set aside some time to reflect on the lessons I've learned from the boys in my past and try as hard as I can not to repeat the same mistakes with the men in my future.

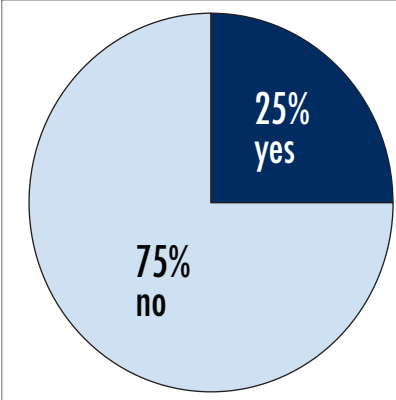
Vanessa Juarez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

you think?

WHAT DO

This week's poll question:
Should UTEP try to recover lost class days?

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POLL RESULTS
Did you participate in any of the recent protests?



the prospector

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vol. 96, no. 24

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

Relationship

College students weigh the challenges of married life

BY BEATRIZ A. CASTAÑEDA
The Prospector

Most UTEP students see marriage in the distant, hazy future, but for some, it's already time to say "I do." Marriage brings new challenges to any relationship, but when added to the school stress, homework, class schedules and part-time jobs that college students already experience can seem overwhelming.

Evelyn Ponce, junior electronic media major, got married last April and admits that she may not have married in college if it had not been for her school schedule and financial status.

"It was not challenging for me, because I don't work so it was better for me because I only go to school," Ponce said. "If I was in a difficult financial situation and my husband was still in college, I would have waited to get married."

Others students choose to wait until after graduation to get married. Laura Lugo, senior metallurgi-

cal and materials engineering major, will graduate this upcoming May and is already engaged to Ryan Schuetzler.

"My boyfriend and I are going to get married after I graduate," Lugo said. "I'm waiting until I graduate, because I can't plan our wedding now. It was always planned and he wanted both of us to graduate in order to get married."

Schuetzler currently lives out of state and both have plan to exchange vows within the next six months.

According to data from the 2010 U.S. Census, the average age of marriage for men is 28 and for women, 26. From fall 2009 to fall 2010, the percentage of men attending UTEP increased by 5.8 percent and attendance by women increased by 4.7 percent.



see MARRIAGE on page 9

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Money

Day of love is big day for profit

BY CELIA AGUILAR
The Prospector

Every Feb. 14, approximately 141 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged, according to Hallmark Cards, Inc., making the holiday the second most popular day to give out

greeting cards. Even still, there are those individuals who decide not to celebrate the day of love.

"I don't celebrate Valentine's Day because it's such a materialistic holiday," said Monica Molinar, sophomore history major.

The origins of Valentine's Day are hard to pinpoint. According to the History Channel's website, the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different martyred saints named Valentine or Valentinus. However, modern day celebrations primarily revolve around gift exchanges and romantic outings.

"We're bombarded with these messages that tell us that we need to spend a lot of money to show someone we care," Molinar said. "You can show someone you care by making something yourself; there's no need to spend money."

Gabriel Holguin, senior political science major, believes Valentine's Day has become an excuse for mass consumption and it is a holiday he chooses not to observe.



Special to The Prospector

Valentine's Day is the second most popular day to exchange greeting cards, even though many choose to opt out of the holiday because they feel it's growing increasingly materialistic.

"It's a consumerist holiday," Gabriel Holguin said. "Everything in our life is commoditized, even love. We're reinforcing the idea that consumption is necessary more than celebrating our love for one another."

Diego Holguin, criminal justice junior, feels the day is celebrated primarily as a means to maximize revenue.

"It's all an economic boost, just like every other holiday. Everything costs double on Valentine's Day," Diego Holguin said. "A dozen roses can run up to \$50."

Valentine's celebration is often equated with copious spending, and even though some shoppers may be wary of spending in an uncertain economy, research shows it is unlikely that the economy will have an effect on consumers' Valentine's Day spending. In fact, IBISWorld, a leading publisher in market and industry research, expects an increase in spending from last year, up to 5.8 percent totaling \$18.6 billion or \$125 per person.

Even for those individuals who do not consider Valentine's Day, a holiday worth celebrating, social norms

and traditions can coerce some of them into buying gifts for loved ones.

"Ever since elementary we've been pressured to celebrate by exchanging cards. We're so conditioned to celebrate Valentine's Day from early on that even those of us who don't necessarily believe in celebrating the holiday feel pressured," Gabriel Holguin said.

Diego Holguin doesn't really believe in celebrating the holiday, but often feels obligated to please others. He feels that the day focuses too much on profits, but has always dated women who enjoy Valentine's Day.

"All of the women I've dated have been really into romance," Diego Holguin said. "I'll feel bad if I don't buy them something. Sometimes I feel like I have to celebrate Valentine's Day, but it's okay, I know the ladies like it."

For some students, their refusal to accept the holiday does not only revolve around economic reasons, but the recurring theme of loving one another daily.

"Why reserve one day of the year to love when you can do it all the time?" said Adam Martinez, senior double major in Chicano studies and history.

Though some students said they reject the conventional celebrations which include gift exchanges, they also admit to partaking in Valentine's Day treats.

"People feel like they need to spend money on gifts to say I love you, but there are different ways to show love on a daily basis. It is a good excuse to get candy, though. Just give me chocolates," Martinez said.

Martinez is not the only one who feels Valentine's Day is an optimal time for giving candy. IBISWorld predicts that candy sales this Feb. 14 will generate over \$2.5 billion, a 5.1 percent increase from 2010.

Nubia Legarda, senior biological sciences major, believes making gifts is a better option than canceling the holiday completely.

"I'm going to generalize and say most people don't celebrate Valentine's Day, because they think it's stupid, overrated or a Hallmark ploy, but there's no need to buy anything on this day," Legarda said.

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

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Tom Joyce, September 11, 2001: Memorial Sculpture, iron, ash, sand, soil, 2002.

Festejos

Esperan restaurantes y florerías incremento de ventas por San Valentín

POR LUISANA DUARTE
The Prospector

Restaurantes y florerías de El Paso esperan altas ventas este 14 de febrero durante los festejos del día de San Valentín.

“Esperamos tener un lleno completo todo el día, durante las horas de ‘lunch’ y ‘dinner’”, dijo Luis Duenas, gerente general del restaurante Aroma en El Paso. “(Esperamos) un flujo constante de clientes”.

De acuerdo al National Retail Federation –una asociación de comerciantes al menudeo– una persona gastará 116.21 dólares en productos de San Valentín este año, 11 por ciento arriba del año pasado. El consumo total con motivo del festejo de San Valentín podría alcanzar 18 mil 600 millones de dólares en todo el país.

La encuesta de NRF sobre las intenciones de consumo de los Americanos durante el día de San Valentín este año indica que alrededor del 34 por ciento de las personas encuestadas festejarán el día del amor saliendo a cenar. El gasto estimado de comensales en los restaurantes del país es de 8 mil 800 millones de dólares.

Teniendo en mente esas cifras, varios restaurantes del área se preparan para ofrecer un servicio y atmósfera especial a sus clientes.

Para Duenas, el mejor servicio que un restaurante le puede dar al cliente es aquel que se ofrece bajo una reservación, por lo cual recomienda tener reservaciones para este día de San Valentín.

“Tenemos un ‘limited menu’, la carta completa no estará disponible”, dijo Duenas. “De esta manera los clientes tendrán un mejor servicio de parte del restaurante”.

El menú que tienen preparado para el festejo incluye platillos hechos a base de carne, pollo, pescado y mariscos. Incluye además dos aperitivos, dos ensaladas distintas y una variedad de postres. “También tenemos el ‘passion fruit cake’ con motivo de San Valentín”, dijo Duenas.

Otras atracciones que se han preparado para el día incluyen un dúo de música acústica.

Al igual que la industria de restaurantes, las florerías de El Paso se preparan para el día de San Valentín.

De acuerdo a la Society of American Florists, el día de San Valentín se considera el más activo del año ya que el 40 por ciento de los ingresos anuales de ese tipo de negocios se reciben ese día.

Para la celebración de San Valentín el año pasado se cosecharon 198 millones de rosas y de acuerdo a la encuesta de NRF, 56.2 por ciento de los hombres regalarán flores este año. Esto podría traducirse en un gasto de más de mil millones de dólares en flores este 14 de febrero.

Laura Carrillo, dueña de Botánica, dijo que el año pasado vendió más de 200 docenas de rosas el día del amor y la amistad, pero esa cantidad podría superarse debido a que este año San Valentín cae en lunes.

“(Siendo lunes) es más fácil entregar las flores en el trabajo o en la

oficina”, dijo Carrillo, “En cambio, si el festejo cae en fin de semana, la gente prefiere festejar de diferentes maneras”.

Mary Reyes, quien trabaja en Casablanca Flowers and Gifts dijo que es posible hacer entregas a domicilio incluso si las flores se piden el mismo día.

“El cut-off time para la entrega del mismo día es a la una de tarde, pero si vienen después, se pueden llevar las flores”, dijo Reyes.

Casablanca no solo tiene el servicio de entrega en Estados Unidos, sino también en otras partes del mundo, dijo Reyes. Sin embargo, “para garantizar que lleguen el 14 de febrero tienen que hacer el pedido a más tardar el 10 de febrero”, dijo.

La docena de rosas cuesta \$80 dólares, “pero contamos con la promoción de si hacen el pedido con dos días de anticipación, les cuesta \$65”.

Las rosas, aunque son las favoritas, no necesariamente son las elegidas para los arreglos de San Valentín, dijo

Reyes. En esa florería también han recibido pedidos de ramos con aves del paraíso y girasoles.

“La flor más rara que nos han pedido es la orquídea cattleya, una flor exótica”, dijo Carrillo. “Casi nunca llega al El Paso y el costo de la flor fue de casi \$400 dólares”, dijo.

Los pedidos de arreglos florales también pueden incluir objetos de significado especial para la pareja, dijo Carrillo.

“Nos han pedido que incorporemos anillos de compromiso, joyería y hasta unas llaves de un carro” expresó. “Últimamente también nos han pedido que pongamos perros en el arreglo, un señor nos pidió un labrador, que es un poco grande. Otras razas que hemos incorporado son los schnauzer y un bulldog inglés”.

Luisana Duarte puede ser contactada en prospector@utep.edu.

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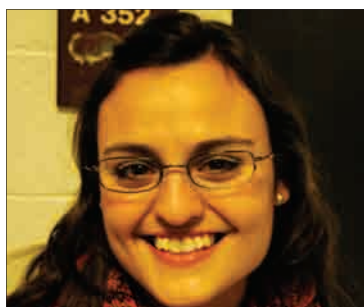
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Question of the week

How did the winter storm affect you?

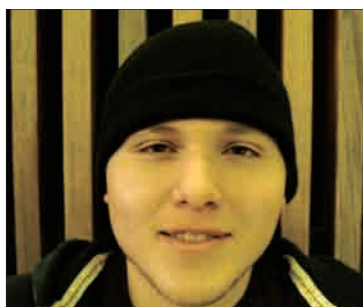
Photos by Esteban Marquez, Justin Stene and Diego Bedolla



MONTSE TREJO

sophomore graphic design major

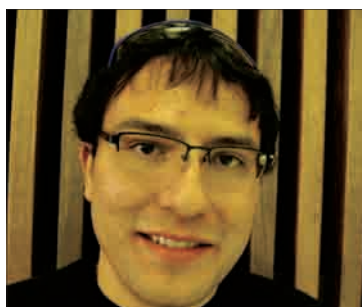
"I had no internet, so I couldn't use my computer or get on Facebook. I didn't think it was too big of a deal though."



ERICK PEREZ

freshman chemistry major

"My water got cut off for two days. Also, my electricity was getting cut off twice a day."



FELIPE SOTELO

freshman biology major

"I live on the eastside, so the weather limited my transportation. I wouldn't have been able to make it to school."



ALEJANDRA HERNANDEZ

freshman electrical engineering major

"Even though I enjoyed the time off, I feel that a lot of my teachers are increasing our workload in order to catch us up."



ERIK GUERRERO

junior business administration major

"I missed a whole week of classes and I did not have electricity in my house."

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ESMERALDA ELIAS

freshman nursing major

"It affected me in all my classes. We're behind as far as test and quizzes go."



SERGIO VALDEZ

freshman digital media production major

"It was good because I got to build a snowman, and I didn't fall behind in any of my classes because of Blackboard."



BENJAMIN CALDERA

sophomore biology major

"Roads were icy, slippery and really dangerous. Our pipes froze and now we have to replace them."



JOHNNY PRADO

freshman computer science major

"Math class was affected the most because my exam was postponed."



CARLOS GONZALES

sophomore finance major

"I had no water and electricity for two days, so I had to stay at a friend's house for those days."

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TO: Carebear
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I love you Diego Holguin

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Sports

Student athletes find time for love too

Couples make it work between gym sessions and game day

BY WILLIAM VEGA
The Prospector

The stress of a college athletic career can weigh heavy on student athletes. Between grueling work outs out-of-town meets and games, some Miner athletes find it hard to maintain a meaningful romantic relationship.

Football player Bernard Obi and volleyball athlete Marie-Therese Joyce have overcome the demands of their college athletic careers and have been able to cultivate a special bond.

Like so many couples, Obi and Joyce initially met on the popular social network, Facebook.

"She asked me on Facebook if I had voted for the athlete's initiative or not and I said, 'No, I haven't' and we started talking, and the rest is history," Obi said.

Obi first met Joyce when he moved into Miner Village in July 2008 to workout with the football team. A teammate introduced Obi to Joyce and her roommate but they didn't speak again for two years when Joyce sparked a conversation with Obi on Facebook.

Even after the challenge of finding time to get to know one another, their new-found relationship was hit with the hurdle of making time in between their athletic schedule.

"We understand and respect each other's schedules," Joyce said.

"We have typically the same schedule so we understand if I have to go to classes or if he has to go to classes. Understanding each other is a big part of it."

Besides working around game day schedules, the couple also tries to attend each other's games when possible and visit each other after contests.

"Usually after a game I tell her she does well. I've never seen her have a bad game but she always does well," Obi said. "Sometimes she is frustrated after a bad loss but I just know how to decipher how she will be after the end result."

The UTEP football team lost just one home game this season to the Tulane Green Wave. In the face of hard losses, which are inevitable for any sports athlete, the couple has learned how to work through game letdowns.

"When they lost the Tulane game, I was very scared because he's very passionate about football and he's very hard on himself," Joyce said. "I learned to give him his space. One time I pushed saying, 'are you ok?' I learned that he's fine when he wants to talk. I think our relationship has improved through that by learning how each other reacts."

Obi shares an apartment with two other football players off-campus while Joyce lives on her

see **ATHLETES** on page 12



Special to The Prospector

Football player Bernard Obi and volleyball player Marie-Therese Joyce found love despite a demanding athletic schedule.

Column

Skip the fuzzy bear – men want action on V-day



ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH BURCHETT / The Prospector

BY ALEJANDRO ALBA
The Prospector

Valentine's Day isn't really a male holiday. Guys don't usually want a heart-shaped box of chocolates, a cushy pink teddy bear or a dozen roses. As a matter of fact, guys would rather not get anything on Valentine's Day. Then again, I'm not sure how or when ties and socks became the equivalent of a box of chocolates for men.

Men seem to prefer gifts that represent respect and personal recognition. This Valentine's Day, maybe the ladies should follow what "The Great Gatsby" author F. Scott Fitzgerald said, "The greatest gift you can give anyone is to see them exactly as they wish to be seen."

On the other hand, women seem to prefer gifts that signify public displays of affection and reinforces the couple's identity. Some women like the

corny stuff, or expensive diamonds, as the saying goes, they are a girl's best friend.

Regardless of what men and women really like to get on Valentine's Day, the market and media have also enforced gift conventions. When you go to the stores, you always see a "for him" and a "for her" section.


The "for him" section includes jewelry with personalized engravings, items related to his favorite hobbies or pastimes, music, movies and computer games. In the "for her" section, you will find body lotions with arousing aromas, as well as items that can be showcased to family and friends such as new clothes, jewelry or photo frames.

I personally dislike the day. Seeing too much red, white and pink hurts my eyes. Still, I do believe that even though most guys don't like Valentine's Day as much as some women

see **MEN** on page 12

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Infidelity

Definition of cheating is hard to pin down



Special to The Prospector
Undefined relationships can often lead to confusion and infidelity.

BY ERIN COULEHAN
The Prospector

In today's culture, relationships have become much more relaxed than in years passed, and this generation has adopted a new lease on the boundaries of behavior, redefining the terms of fidelity.

While most college students admit to being involved in a "no strings attached" relationship at some point, most also agree that they have become entangled in the vagueness of the undefined relationship.

"Cheating is basically the moment that a line has been crossed, a boundary that can only be set by the very nature of your relationship," UTEP alumna Christiane Melano said.

The definition of cheating may vary from relationship to relationship, but

for Kirsten Perez, English and American literature graduate student, cheating may just be an inevitable part of all relationships.

"It's pretty incredible that some people believe cheating won't occur," Perez said. "Human emotions are so unbridled. I wouldn't want to stand in the way of someone being completely happy. I hope whomever I'm with has the decency to tell me they found someone else and just leave. That way, the term 'cheating' is eradicated."

Current shifts in social perceptions of relationships have been reflected in contemporary films. Movies such as "500 Days of Summer," "Love and Other Drugs" and "Blue Valentine" stray away from the typical plotline of boy meets girl, boy messes up and reaches an epiphany and then wins

girl back. Films have depicted female characters as being the unattached and emotionally honest characters, and men as being more emotionally involved than previously represented in our culture.

There is no simple solution to defining cheating, only that it seems to be relative, especially in a society that values individualism. Whether being in a satisfying relationship or a casual friends-with-benefits scenario, temptation will always rear its ugly head, leading to the betrayal that so easily causes individuals to lose love.

"It depends on the individual's perception of what betrayal is," said Samantha Garza, physical therapy graduate student. "The lines are fuzzy, and that's what makes it a touchy subject."

Erin Coulehan may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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STORM from page 1

According to McNicol, most of the buildings on campus were back to normal with only a few still experiencing problems.

"Every building on campus, as of today (Feb. 8), has water. We did have to close part of Memorial Gym due to water issues, but they are being worked on and will be open to students again soon," McNicol said. "In the short term, every building is online and working at nearly 100 percent. We got some other repairs we need to do, but they are not affecting operations of the building right now."

Even though university officials said most buildings were not having any problems with heating or plumbing, the El Paso Water Utility's citywide notification for residents to boil tap water for consumption as a precaution forced students to avoid water fountains around campus.

"I always bring water to school, but now it was a little scary because water was sold out everywhere," said Yol-Itzma Aguirre, senior multidisciplinary studies major. "The library



File Photo

UTEP officials are unsure of the cost of damages caused by the winter storm.

had signs posted to bring your own water because they ran out."

According to McNicol, the staff required to make the repairs may not necessarily add extra cost to the university.

"It (cost of repairs) is hard to tell right now because we are still working on it," McNicol said. "We had 2,000 man-hours that we have probably put into addressing leaks across campus, but most of this was done during what would have been normal working hours, so we are still working out the details on how that will be handled."

For the most part, McNicol believes the worst is over for the university as the predicted storm that is expected to hit the city this week will not bring below-freezing temperatures for a long period of time.

"First off, the weather is not supposed to get as cold for as many days as this last one," McNicol said. "The length of storm is what caused most of the problems, because it was well-below freezing for several days with high winds which cooled things down faster, which caused most of the problems. The weather that is supposed to hit us this week is expected to not be as cold and last for as many days."

As of yet, university officials have not announced if or when cancelled classes will be rescheduled. Be sure to read The Prospector in print and online as more information becomes available.

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

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Relationships

Online dating possess chance at love

BY ANOUSHKA VALODYA

The Prospector

Some students have probably heard their parents stories in which couples first met in person, would call-not text-each other on the phone, give each other real gifts and maintained a lot more privacy.

Obviously, things have changed significantly with the lightening speed of technological advances. For busy college students, many who work as well as attend classes, the option of online dating websites is seen as a bright beacon for those seeking serious relationships. One of the pluses is that it can be done anytime and anywhere.

Websites such as eHarmony and match.com claim more than 500 of its

members marry partners found through their services everyday in the U.S.

Even as early as 2003, a U.S. News & World Report article entitled "Love.com," written by Anna Mulrine, reported that 40 million Americans, which at that time was half the number of single adults in the U.S., visited an online dating site within a one month's time span.

Most online dating websites claim that just by answering some in-depth questions, you will be able to filter people who could be your potential mate, similar to shopping online for clothes. People can specify certain characteristics and what they want in terms of education, physical appearance, money, religious affiliation, age and occupation.

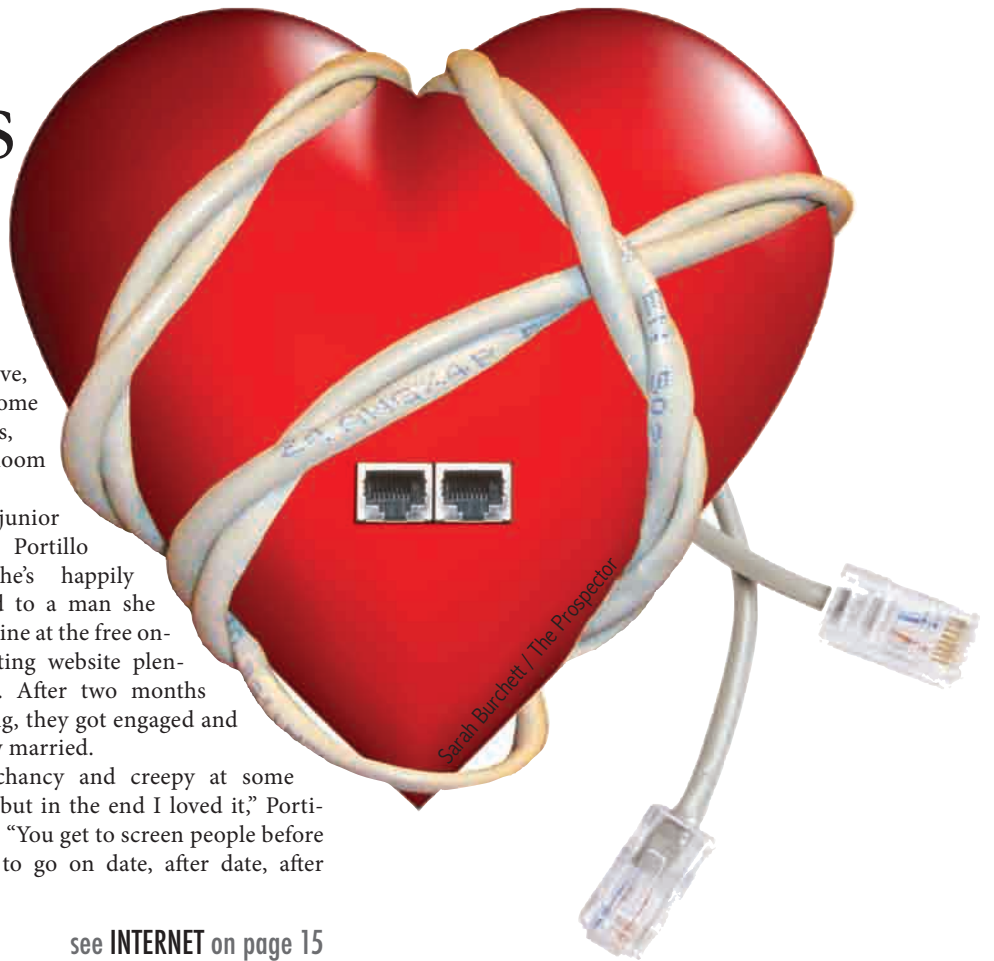
Online dating sites claim that people may have the chance to connect with several new matches per day. It seems

that love, for some students, can bloom online.

UTEP junior Jenna Portillo said she's happily married to a man she met online at the free online dating website plentyoffish. After two months of dating, they got engaged and are now married.

"It's chancy and creepy at some points, but in the end I loved it," Portillo said. "You get to screen people before having to go on date, after date, after date."

see INTERNET on page 15



MARRIAGE from page 3

No statistics are kept telling how many current undergraduate students are married at UTEP, but it doesn't take a spreadsheet to realize marriage isn't the most common route for college students.

"It seems foolish to get married before you've experienced life or even become at least somewhat financially secure," said Darius Zagara, senior anthropology major. "That's why there are engagement periods and even those are questionable."

Some students that have already exchanged wedding rings said financial difficulties is one of the biggest hurdles for a married college couple to clear.

For Matthew Loweree, senior accounting major, maturity level has a lot to do with the idea of getting married.

"It's a decision that you're going have to live with for the rest of your life, so the more mature you are the better chance you have of making the right decision," Loweree said.

When it comes to advice, married students have a little wisdom to share with their peers for those considering taking their marriage vows.

"If they are not financially stable, then they should just wait until graduation to get married," Ponce said.

"It really depends on the support of the other person, (because) you can get distracted from school, especially marrying at a young age," said Mikki Favela, senior pre-nursing major. "When you marry it's a new chapter, your life changes completely."

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

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Relationships

Students hit and miss when looking for love

BY KRISTOPHER RIVERA
The Prospector

By the time college rolls around most individuals have dipped into a

few relationships and experienced the emotional roller coaster. However, college is a place to learn new things (in places other than the classroom) and meet a diverse group of people.

For many men and women romantic liaisons begin in school, but before that special someone is found, students have to sort through what it is they are looking for exactly.

"I look for a good girl. She has to be smart, funny, easy to talk to and I can tell her anything and everything," said Bernabe Nunez, freshman music major. "If she flirts around, it show's she is not the faithful type, not my style."

Everyone has their own preferences, and finding that special someone is a matter of trial and error. Having a relationship that actually works for the college student, who usually has little money and time, is an even harder feat to manage. But when that perfect match is made, it's important to hold onto that them.

"(My girlfriend) took care of me when I hit rock bottom and helped me get up," said Ronald Rober, sophomore nursing major. "She's smart, she's beautiful, sexy, she's a social butterfly, she can cook, I love her family values and she's stubborn when she needs to be."

Maturity seems to be a popular request in the dating scene. Burdens of immaturity and stress caused by the actions of a significant other are not worth it for many.

"I'm not at all attracted to guys who try to be someone they're not, always negative, don't look at the bright side of things and don't have a sense of humor," said Krystal Rivera, senior marketing major. "I look for a guy who is



BOB CORRAL / The Prospector

Sometimes it takes students more than a few dates to find a healthy relationship.

confident, smart and knows what he wants. I don't like players. I like guys that don't have to try to be cool, awesome and hip. They are just naturally great."

According to Amanda Gonzalez, senior microbiology major, four sim-

ple words make up her checklist for the perfect relationship.

"Honesty, love, fun and trust," Gonzales said.

Dealing with relationships can get serious after a few months and things

see LOVE on page 16

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Dining

Where to take your main squeeze

BY JACKIE DEVINE

The Prospector

With Valentine's Day around the corner lovebirds all over El Paso are deciding which romantic getaway is just right for an evening of good food and romance.

Romantic hot spots around the city like Ardovino's Desert Crossing, Café Central, Susaki Lounge and more serve up great food but they all offer different atmospheres and environments.

Ardovino's Desert Crossing, located in Sunland Park, New Mexico, has built up a good reputation over the years as being one of the best when it comes to service. Their slogan is "Enchantment awaits you" and they definitely deliver. While dining at the restaurant, guests relish in the beautiful scenery and lavish their taste buds with delicious cuisine, which includes a large variety of tasty desserts. It's a great spot for couples, who can talk under the enchanting candle light or outside on the patios. Ardovino's also offers visitors a passenger train that winds its way around Mt. Cristo Rey.

"I think the peaceful ambiance and our unique setting, which is a historic property, sets us apart from other restaurants, it gives off a very romantic feeling with the desert as our landscape," said Marina Ardovino, owner of the restaurant. "Our quality of food is also great. We use organic ingredients and natural meats."

This Valentine's Day, Ardovino's will offer a dinner special that consists of a four course dinner, cham-

pagne and dessert for two for \$65 dollars a person from Feb. 11 to Feb. 14. The restaurant will also have live music for this special occasion. So if you're looking for an elegant night out, Ardovino's Desert Crossing is the place to go. After dining with your significant other, sip a few cocktails at their casual 1950's Mecca Lounge. They have an extensive wine collection where you can marvel at their open fireplace and chat the night away.

Another top romantic eatery is Cappetto's Italian Restaurant. For over 55 years, Cappetto's has been serving authentic Italian food.

"What makes Cappetto's special is our history and tradition. We have that old Italian feel and that gives us real character," said Edward Davis, proprietor of Cappetto's. "Also we make everything from scratch. It's quality that people expect and they definitely get their money's worth."

Cappetto's prices tend to be comparably reasonable, which is one of the many reasons why customers keep going back. According to Cappetto's, they won't be taking reservations on Valentine's Day because they believe they'll become completely booked and want to try and seat everyone. It's advised that visitors get to the restaurant early if they want to get a good table.

Cappetto's located on Montana Avenue boasts about its home-like atmosphere. It's small, warm and perfect for endearing conversations, something that couples look for when it comes to a romantic date



Special to The Prospector

The Dome Bar is one of the places suggested to take your date this Valentine's Day. It is located in the Camino Real Hotel.

night. The dim lighting gives it that amorous aura that people just love.

Another spot that's hard to leave out is Café Central located in Downtown El Paso. This restaurant has an essential café vibe and prides itself on their award-winning entrées and fine wines. Established in 1918, Café Central, with its charm and downtown vibe, is still a favorite restaurant for locals and visitors to El Paso.

"Our service is up to par and we focus on customers' feedback

whether they are from here or out of town," said Darlene Barajas, junior pre-business major and hostess at the restaurant. "It's very romantic because we add extra details like rose petals and things like that to surprise our customers. We've also had people propose here and couples that have been married for 10 years come back and sit at the same table where they had their first date."

Café Central's menu is very diverse. They serve anything from

burgers to exquisite international plates and also offer a large variety of wines. They have won Wine Spectator Magazine's Award of Excellence since 2003. El Paso Inside & Out Magazine declared Café Central as the most romantic restaurant in 2005 and again in 2007. In 2006, Café Central was featured in the New York Times as a premier dining location for New Yorkers travelling to El Paso. In essence, Café Central lives

see **SQUEEZE** on page 15

Gifts

Searching for that perfect Valentine gift

BY JAZMIN SALINAS

The Prospector

The month of February oozes romance and the sickening feeling that everybody is in love. It is no different on the UTEP campus as students share the weird, the bad and the extravagant 411 on Valentine's Day gifts.

Retailers are offering up their best merchandise this time of the year as lovers all over the country vie for their partner's approval of their Valentine's Day gift.

"I personally think that Valentine's Day is another commercialized holiday that was made up to make money by selling chocolates, flowers, and large stuffed animals," said Laura Herrera, junior communications major. "But if this is an excuse to show your other half how much you care about that person and how special they are to you, then so be it."

Putting the pressure on couples to make their significant other feel special on this day contradicts some of the stories that UTEP students share about the "dark" side of Valentine's Day.

"Imagine realizing that you received the exact same gift as another girl from the exact same person," Herrera said. "The same stuffed animal, same chocolates and the same damn card!"

Along with the horrible gifts that come on this romantic holiday, come the weird gifts that have people scratching their heads.

"I was excited to receive my gift from my first Valentine in middle school," said a student who asked for their name not to publish. "I had heard that this girl got me a good gift, but when



Special to The Prospector

Well-meaning but unwelcome Valentine's Day gifts can lead to frustration.

I opened it I was embarrassed and confused. She gave me a tampon and tried to make it a cute cliché thing by saying 'Your love fills me up.'"

Even worse than a weird gift is a weird gift accompanied by an embarrassing story.

"I dated a girl during my freshman year and it rained on Valentine's Day," said Jean-Phillipe

Sanchez, freshman kinesiology major. "We're walking around and of course it's wet. I tried to be slick and surprise her with her gift and I slipped and went flying! If it wasn't bad enough for everyone else to be laughing at me, my own girlfriend cracks up."

The weird and the bad gifts all leave their marks, but thankfully there are some people in

the world who know how to say, "I love you" on Valentine's Day.

"The cutest Valentine's gifts I got was from my boyfriend in high school," said Autumn Aldrich, sophomore psychology major. "He got me red roses, a box of captain crunch and a ring from James Avery. To anyone else all of this seems really random, but...he took the time to find out my favorite flower, cereal and jewelry!"

The good stories do not end with just one account of someone getting it right. UTEP students were more open about sharing the extravagant side of Valentine's Day.

"My boyfriend is also known as Mr. Romance when it comes to spoiling me with gifts during the holidays," Herrera said. "The most romantic Valentine's gift I received was a decorated room with candles, rose petals and a candlelit homemade dinner. He was formally dressed... and an edible arrangement was sent to my work along with fresh roses that day. It was the best Valentine's Day ever."

It is always a challenge to find the right gift for that special someone on Valentine's Day, but Aldrich said the best gifts can't be bought.

"I think the best gifts are the ones that come from the heart," Aldrich said. "The type that you put a lot of thought and consideration into."

ATHLETES from page 7

own in a westside apartment complex. But the two are constantly with each other and enjoy simply relaxing together.

“In the dorms, everybody is always doing things on Friday and Saturday. When you’re off campus more people want to just mellow out, relax and just stay at home,” Obi said. “One good thing about her was that she didn’t always want

to go out. She was more mellow and laidback.”

Junior soccer player Jessie Pettit and Cooper Brock, a UTEP football red-shirted freshman, were also brought together through Facebook. Pettit remembers meeting Brock for the first time while playing soccer at the Sun Bowl. While playing in the stadium, Pettit injured herself just as Brock and his parents were visiting the Sun Bowl. Brock offered Pettit help but she was

too embarrassed to even make eye contact with him. Pettit and Brock became friends on Facebook but she initially thought Brock was rude. The two continued talking, started hanging out and haven’t stopped for the last 10 months.

According to the couple, their schedules haven’t affected their relationship as student athletes. Spending time with each other during and after the season has been easier than expected as well.

“Playing other sports doesn’t affect anything because we work out about the same time everyday so then we hang out at night,” Pettit said. “Our games were different times (in 2010). Mine were on Friday and Sunday and his were on

Saturday. He actually red shirted this year so he didn’t have to travel and it was easier.”

The couple lives on campus and is able to balance social pressures and commitments with other friends.

According to Obi, short-term relationships are more common than long term relationships among college students, and the same is true about athletes.

“Maybe it will (change) as we get older because right now our teams are very young and enjoying college, being single and being athletes.”

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

MEN from page 7

do, there still has to be some acknowledgement of what we would like. The only way to really know what the majority of males want on this day is to ask.


It comes down to one common answer – sex. Most of the guys I asked wanted to get some action on Valentine’s Day. The next most common answer was a watch, something that has been imposed by the market and media. The third and last most common answer was an object that dealt with electronics, whether it was movies, a video game console or a cell phone – all of it came up.

It may be hard to figure out what the perfect gift for your man will be, but it’s not hard to identify what it shouldn’t be. Unless you’re dating a man suffering from frost bitten toes, avoid buying him a pair of socks. You should also refrain from buying him a tie, a pack of boxer shorts, or giving him a Valentine’s Day card, regardless of how many lipstick smears and “I Love You’s” you put in it.


So, no matter what you end up getting for you boyfriend, lover or husband, remember, in the end it is indeed the thought that counts.

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

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Column



Blame
love on
brain
chemistry

BY CRYSTAL ROBERT
The Propsector



I want my Ph.D. I have stated this desire in many columns. As I prepare for this venture (re-taking my GRE, applying for grants,

scholarships and various programs), I've done my best to avoid arrest, illness, pregnancy, but most of all, falling in love.

Recently I have found myself giving up my dancing shoes and late night social butterfly tendencies. I have exchanged Jameson and endless parties for intimate dinners for two at home. Even when the object of my affection is not near, I have opted for mud masks and (almost) meeting deadlines while wearing comfy clothes and fuzzy socks.

Although I have an inkling of what may have caused such an unexpected change in my behavior, my need to find an answer persists. When my sleepless nights are not dedicated to a hypochondriac's obsessive study of sexually transmitted diseases on the web, I took some time to look in to what icauses two people to fall in love. What happens when the brain is overtaken by what Gabriel Garcia Marquez once described in "Of Love and Other Demons," as the greatest demon of all?

It turns out, it's all in my head. A cocktail of chemicals had become

my new poison. This time these chemicals and hormones were occurring naturally in my body, rather than one prescribed to me by my favorite mixologist.

One of the foremost scholars in romantic interpersonal attraction, anthropologist, Helen Fischer, proposes three different categories for love involving brain systems.

The first category is lust. Lust is described as the craving for sexual gratification. During this time the brain is driven by sex hormones that occur in both men and women known as androgens and estrogens.

The second is attraction, also known as romantic or passionate love. During this time euphoria may ensue when things between two paramours are going well, but may also lead to mood swings, obsessive thinking and craving for the individual when they are not as pleasant. Scientists believe that at this time the brain is being affected by high levels of adrenaline, dopamine and norepinephrine.

Adrenaline is the activation of a stress response that may occur when

you encounter your new love unexpectedly. Your mouth goes dry, heart begins to race, stomach flutters and possibly breaks out in a sweat (embarrassingly profusely, as was my case).

Some scholars and scientists have found that levels of dopamine present during lust have effects similar to those of cocaine on the brain. The surge of dopamine in some couples is shown through less need for sleep or food, increased energy, focused attention and overwhelming pleasure over the smallest incidents and details in the relationship.

Finally, the third category in Fischer's findings is attachment. For those who may believe themselves truly in love, attachment is the desired sense of calm, peace and stability that occurs when one is with a long-term partner. Attachment is also described by Fischer as the bond that may keep couples together long enough to have and raise children. There are two major hormones oxytocin and vasopressin present in the brain at this time.

Oxytocin is the hormone that is released by both men and women during orgasm. Oxytocin may deepen feelings of attachment between a couple after they have had sex. This prompts the theory that the more sex a couple has, the deeper their bond grows.

Vasopressin is the other hormone found in the attachment stage. When suppressed, Vasopressin deteriorated the bond with some mammals and their mates, causing them to lose their devotion and failing to protect their partner from possible new suitors.

While my inquisitive mind has been satiated, my romantic side insists in a notion I have borrowed from a close friend. There are times when the universe conspires to bring two people together. Now all I can do is wait for the oxytocin and hope to be accepted in a program close to home. Happy Valentine's Day and I hope this weekend finds you all under the influence (of adrenaline and dopamine, of course).

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

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BRAIN ZONE

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Curved line

4 Sheltered

8 Use as an example

12 "Phooey!"

13 Folder's locale

14 Hebrew month

15 Workers' jargon

17 "West Side Story" gang

18 Loading site

19 Friars Club event

20 Shocking weapon

22 False god

24 Responsibility

25 Accelerator

29 Inseparable

30 Suggest as a theory

31 Bat stat

32 Company's promotional souvenir, often

34 Versifier

35 Smacks

36 Profundity

37 Wild

40 High point

41 Racetrack shape

42 Curbside octagon

46 Krupa or Simmons

47 Woody's son

48 One of the brass (Abbr.)

49 Fit of peevishness

50 Beer ingredient

51 Trivia whiz

DOWN

1 Tummy muscles

2 "Go team!"

3 Chinese entree

4 Following

5 Storyteller

6 Building

7 "A mouse!"

8 Wheedle

9 Thought

10 Body art works, for short

11 Once, old-style

16 Slapstick arsenal

19 Engrossed

20 Snatched

21 Actress

22 Foundation

23 A — apple

25 Capricorn

26 Gridiron play

27 Help a hood

28 Rock (Suff.)

30 Dr. McGraw

33 Home in the Alps

34 Carrots' mates

36 Station

37 Clouds (up)

38 Squared

39 Hindu princess

40 Survey

42 Muppet eagle

43 La-la lead-in

44 "Gosh!"

45 — compos mentis

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Answer

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

Answers to 2-7-11

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Cappetto's Italian Restaurant
2716 Montana Ave.
566-9357

Susaki Lounge
1506 N Lee Trevino
Dr # B1
591-9266

SQUEEZE from page 11
up to its hype and satisfies their most recurrent guests, people in love.

A more exotic but still romantic getaway, the Susaki Lounge offers delicious sushi and other Asian cuisine. This stylish restaurant is a trendy and stylish hot spot on the east side of El Paso. Its modern and sophisticated look, along with its service is popular with younger couples. Many people rave that it is soon becoming one of the best sushi places in El Paso.

Cattleman's Steakhouse, located just outside of El Paso in Fabens, is known for its fresh cuts of meat and real, working ranch. They have antique wagons and stage coaches to

immerse people in the Wild West décor and includes a petting zoo, lakes, an amazing view and a maze. It has been hailed by many critics as the best steak in Texas. This is a great restaurant for couples that are active and looking for something to do other than passively eating dinner.

Another more urban-centered steakhouse is Dane's Steakhouse, located in the center of the Cincinnati Entertainment District. Their contemporary setting, customer service and excellent wine list makes Dane's a favorite on Cincinnati. If you want to enjoy a small private setting with your loved one, then Dane's is the place to go.

The Dome Bar, located inside the historic Camino Real Hotel, is boast-

ed as being one of the top dozen bars in the world, according to GQ Magazine.

The bar is actually crowned with a dome, a Tiffany Glass dome that is. The Dome Bar is a highly sophisticated, elegant and ideal place for any couple to have a drink and good conversation.

Whether you're looking for a quiet dinner in the Sunland Park desert, an exciting night at the ranch or drinks at a historic bar, El Paso offers a variety of romantic getaways for any couples looking for an amorous Valentine's Day.

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

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INTERNET from page 9
Although some may worry that online dating sites may invade your privacy, Portillo said that in actuality it's easier to be in control of your personal life.


"Online dating gives you the chance not to tell everything about yourself right away," she said. "You can talk as much or as little as you want in e-mail, phone or in person."

Portillo highly recommends online dating and said it's not much different from the old ways of meeting people.

"There are so many sites. That means there are so many chances to meet different kinds of people," Portillo said. "It has the same chance as a friend or family member setting you up on a blind date or meeting someone at a bar."

Anoushka Valadya may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO



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LOVE from page 10

get critical once emotions deepen. There are few major issues that can destroy a fledgling relationship.

“Lack of communication, that’s what hurts the relationship. Everything goes like trust, which is the most important,” said Korina Rivera, client specialist at the Center Against Family Violence. “Actions, like not caring and flirting with other people may not seem like a big deal, but it ac-

cumulates and can climax to physical disrespect.”

This Valentine’s Day, some students will find themselves with a special date while others are still waiting for that romantic connection to be made. But when the time is right, an unexpected surprise may spring up, beginning a new chapter for that lonely heart.

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



FILE PHOTO

Members of the UTEP community protested various issues during Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano’s visit Jan. 31

CHAVEZ from page 1

He added that the changes just apply for the current academic year and they still have to study what’s going to happen next year.

Dennis Bixler-Marquez, director of Chicano Studies, said the reinstatement was a “quick bandage” for the problem.

“When the holiday was removed, some faculty, including myself, sent letters to the Faculty Senate and asked them to reconsider their decision,” Bixler-Marquez said. “Now that they have taken back the holiday for the year, they need some time to see how it is going to be in the future.”

Student organizations such as Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MeCh), Miners without Borders and Cultural Artists United for Social Action worked together to make their voices heard.

A group of students and alumni organized a rally where Pete Duarte, former CEO of University Medical Center and 2004 Liberal Arts Gold Nugget recipient, gave back his award to Natalicio.

“The president was not expecting that kind of outcome from students,” said Jorge Gomez, president of Miner Without Borders. “Besides all the confusion, I’m happy that we took action. If UTEP wants to reach tier one, we need to acknowledge our cultural background.”

Students obtained over 1,500 signatures for a petition supporting the reinstatement of Cesar Chavez Day.

“We feel that we have been very successful in getting the day back, however more work needs to be done,” said Gabriel Holguin, member of MeCh and senior political science major. “We collectively have the ability to produce change when we join hands. This power was well demonstrated by Cesar and the United Farm Workers movement, and it was exactly this principle that helped us reinstate Cesar Chavez Day.”

Avina Gutierrez, president of the Mexican-American Student Society and a transfer student in multidisciplinary studies, has never attended a university with a Cesar Chavez celebration. After she learned about the removal of the holiday, she began working with other student organizations to join together against the decision.

“I still think that the removal was inexcusable, but it provided a platform for students to see the mentality of U.S. society on Mexican-American issues,” Gutierrez said. “When we come together, we can make changes on campus.”

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

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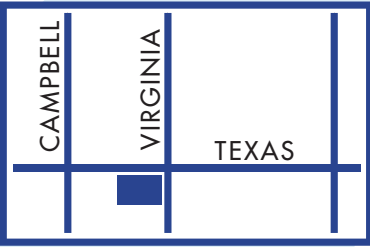
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