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The Prospector, February 24, 2011

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Carry on

Proposed Senate bill would allow guns on campus

BY AARON MARTINEZ

The Prospector

A proposed bill in the Texas Legislature could allow individuals to carry concealed handguns on university property. The Texas Senate has proposed a bill (SB 354) that will allow concealed weapons on Texas college campuses. SB 354 is now before the Criminal Justice committee of the Senate, where it will be up for a hearing.

"It would allow people, who are licensed to carry concealed weapons in Texas, to go into classroom buildings at Texas public universities," said Texas State Senator Jeff Wentworth, R-San Antonio, who is the sponsor of the bill. "To be licensed to carry a concealed gun you have to be at least 21 years, so we are not talking about freshmen or sophomores, we are talking about staff, faculty, graduate students and some seniors. So it gives them the right to defend themselves, and either their students or class-

mates in class, against a deranged person with the intent of committing suicide and taking as many people with him."

Recent incidents involving gunmen on college campuses prompted Wentworth to try and get the law passed in 2009. Wentworth said the bill would allow students to be able to defend themselves if another incident occurred like in 2007 at Virginia Tech, where gunman Seung-Hui Cho killed 32 people.

"At Virginia Tech, the man that went into that classroom shot several dozen kids. He shot several innocent students who had no way of protecting themselves," Wentworth said. "He just picked them off like sitting ducks. He murdered 35 or 36 and I just never want that to happen in Texas."

Texas Senator José Rodríguez, D-El Paso, is strongly opposed to the bill arguing that allowing any individuals to carry weapons onto university property will cause more violence on campuses.

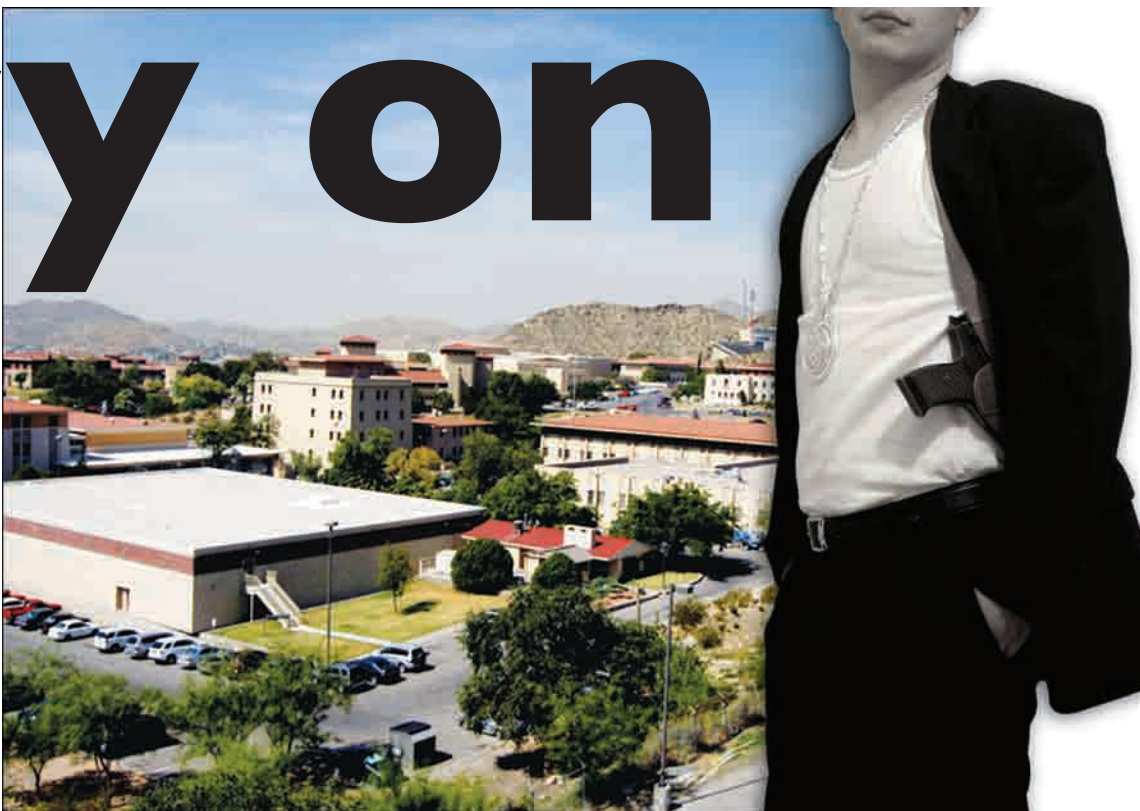


Illustration by Sarah Burchett / The Prospector

Politicians in the Texas Senate will soon decide on whether or not handguns will be allowed on college campus.

"I think it is a bad policy to allow handguns to be carried in schools and other public places," Rodríguez said. "There is too much of a danger and there are high consequences to allow proliferations of guns on campus. I know the intended purpose behind it is to give students more protection, but the unintended consequences is that it is going to give them less protection."

He also said it could lead to more confusion in a situation with a gunman on campus, where faculty and students would already be scrambling to avoid the perpetrator.

"There are about 22,000 students at UTEP, if half of them or even a third of them go around carrying handguns that will not make for a safe environment in my view," Rodríguez said. "If a gunman is attacking and another student pulls out his gun, how will

students and even the police officers know which one is which? This is just another example of the problems with having handguns on campus."

Rodríguez used the Jan. 8 shooting at a rally in Arizona for State Representative Gabrielle Giffords, D-Arizona, as an example of the confusion that is caused when an individual opens fire in a crowded location.

see GUNS on page 4



DIANA AMARO / The Prospector

Faculty Senate decided UTEP will not make up days due to inclement weather in early February.

Campus

Faculty Senate rules no make-up days

Part 2 of series examining financial and academic problems due to the winter storm

BY NICOLE CHÁVEZ

The Prospector

The UTEP Faculty Senate recently confirmed that no further changes would be made to the academic calendar due to the weather-related closures the university experienced earlier this month. The decision means that students will not have to attend additional days of classes to make up for the classes missed during the four days the university was closed.

"Some people were talking about having classes on Good Friday, Dead Day or spring break. Now I know for a fact that's not going to happen," said Charles Leinberger, associate professor of music and member of the Faculty Senate.

The Faculty Senate decided in their last meeting to not make any more changes to the academic calendar

"In our second meeting (of the year), we decided to take back the

days (Cesar Chavez Day and Spring Study Day) and to not make any more changes," said Carl Lieb, president of the Faculty Senate. "It was easier and more practical for everyone."

Lieb also said that faculty members should communicate with their students about any further changes to their particular course schedule.

"The senate is not requiring colleges to change the calendar," Lieb said. "We are asking them to make adjustments to maintain the quality of the courses."

Students in particular fields of study such as education have expressed concern about how the university was planning to make up the lost days since some of their courses have specific time requirements.

"We are supposed to complete 30 observation hours (in public schools) in order to pass and get into the internship class," said Liliana Acosta, junior mathematics major

and secondary education minor. "They haven't said anything, but at this time, if we do not complete the hours we are going to fail the class."

Some education students were also worried about not completing a 60-day internship, which is required to receive their teaching education certification. According to Arturo Olivarez, chair of the Department of Teaching Education, UTEP requires students to complete a total of 72 days per semester, 12 days more than the state requirement.

Olivarez also said the Provost's Office asked every college dean to present a plan of suggested adjustments to help students regarding the cancelled classes.

Although Gary Edens, dean of students and adviser to the Student Government Association, confirmed to members of the SGA that the university would not modify the academic calendar, Alejandra Valles,

SGA Senator and senior Spanish major, said that she thought that state law required the university to recover the missed days.

"There was, to my knowledge, talk that administrators would add five minutes to every class period or add an extra week of classes," Valles said. "There is a state rule that says students need to spend a certain amount of time in the classroom to get credit."

Lieb said the Faculty Senate was dealing with a difficult situation, whereby a decision had to be made.

"There are no official rules or a law about what has to be done," Lieb said. "Public schools (K-12) are obligated to make up the days--in higher education, we have more flexibility."

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

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Column

Proposed gun law could bring more danger to our campus

BY AARON MARTINEZ
The Prospector



The list of issues being discussed in Austin that could have a drastic impact on UTEP students just grew a little bit longer. The Texas Senate in the 82nd Texas Legislative Session summited a proposal (SB 354) that would allow licensed faculty, staff and students to carry concealed handguns on campus.

The main argument that gun supporters, lobbyists and politicians have used to defend the purposed law is that it will give students a way to defend themselves if a gunman were to open fire on campus.

After the incidents at Virginia Tech in 2007, Northern Illinois University in 2008 and the University of Texas at Austin in 2010, the issue of gun control has become a heated debate. What seems to be the main point on both sides of the argument is what the outcome of these events would have been if faculty and students had been allowed to carry concealed handguns on campus.

Last semester at UTEP, two situations arose in less than a week of a reported gunman allegedly on campus. Both incidents occurred at the parking lot next to the Liberal Arts Building. Luckily, both situations ended without any danger to students or faculty.

After these incidents, the question still remains as to whether these situations would have been affected in either a positive or negative way if faculty and students had concealed handguns on campus.

What could have happened if a student, who was carrying a weapon, saw this situation develop? What would

his/her response have been? If a student were to pull out a gun to defend against another gunman, it would obviously leave the police department in the situation of not knowing which person was actually intent on harming someone and which one was defending themselves.

Will UTEP police have to ask a student in a possibly threatening situation whether he/she has a license to carry before they take him/her down?

The UTEP Police Department responded to both of these situations in an exceptional manner, declaring the campus safe within 10 minutes of the reported incidents.

While students are quick to criticize UTEP PD, the way they handled these two incidents was reassuring. The police department's response proves that they are more than capable of keeping our campus safe from any situation that could possibly leave the UTEP community vulnerable.

If this purposed bill is passed, it would only make our police department's efforts to protect students against an attack on our campus a lot more difficult.

As I wrote the story for this issue, I had an incredibly hard time finding any university administrator, faculty, staff or student who thought this purposed bill was a good idea. I tried to make the story balanced by getting both sides of this issue and it was almost impossible.

The city of El Paso is unlike any other in the state of Texas. While most of the state is made up of mainly Republicans, El Paso County is always the one of the few blue spots on the map of election results. While most of our state—including gun-toting Governor Perry—is gun happy, most university officials across Texas have come out against the purposed bill.

UTEP President Diana Natalicio has voiced strong opposition to this

bill. While efforts to reach UTEP Police Chief Cliff Walsh went unanswered, one can only imagine what has been running through his mind as he ponders whether this bill will get passed.

The role and challenges Chief Walsh and his department will face will no doubt be difficult and numerous. I am optimistic that they will make the necessary adjustments to keep our campus safe.

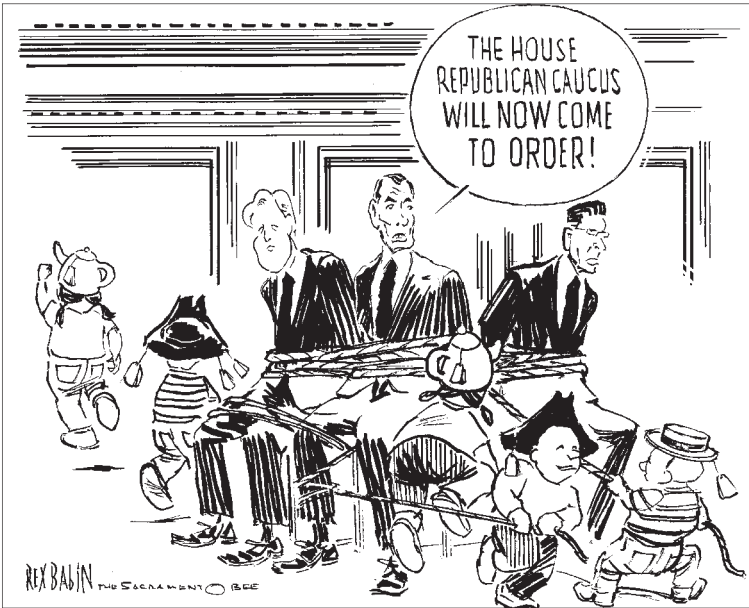
Either way, as a student, the fear that the person sitting next to me in class could be carrying a handgun is a very scary thought. I know, without a doubt, that I will not be the only student with that thought running through their head.

Texas Senator José Rodríguez, D-El Paso, who is strongly opposed to the purposed bill, offered some advice to students who are against the bill and want to make their voices heard. Rodríguez suggested students call his office (512-463-0129), call Texas Governor Rick Perry (800-252-9600) and call Texas Senator Jeff Wentworth, R-San Antonio, (512-463-0125), who is the sponsor of the bill.

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



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Educación Superior

Recibe UTEP recursos para apoyar a estudiantes mexicanos



DIEGO BEDOLLA / The Prospector

Diana Natalicio, presidenta de UTEP, recibió junto a los cuatro estudiantes becados el cheque por \$20 mil dólares.

POR LUISANA DUARTE

The Prospector

El Instituto de Mexicanos en el Exterior (IME) otorgó a UTEP 20 mil dólares para apoyar a estudiantes mexicanos que eligieron a esta institución para continuar sus estudios superiores.

Cuatro estudiantes de distintas facultades de la universidad fueron beneficiados por esta beca.

“Estoy muy contenta y sorprendida. Después de todo el esfuerzo realizado es como un pago, un apoyo”, dijo Abril Lechuga-Avalos, estudiante de comunicación y organización corporativa, quien fue una de los alumnos beneficiados por la beca.

Los recursos otorgados a UTEP provienen del programa IME-Becas que fue establecido en 2005 en conjunto con la Universidad de California (UC) con el propósito de apoyar a migrantes mexicanos mayores de 15 años que deseaban aprender inglés o continuar sus estudios.

De acuerdo con la Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores, este es el primer año que el IME donará recursos destinados a apoyar la educación superior. El programa apoyará distintas universidades que cumplieron con los requisitos de la convocatoria que se llevó a cabo el año pasado.

“Estamos muy contentos por la generosidad del instituto”, dijo Diana Natalicio, presidenta de UTEP. “Estos \$20 mil dólares nos han permitido

becar a cuatro estudiantes mexicanos muy talentosos y motivados”.

Los estudiantes becados fueron Lechuga-Avalos, Raúl Medellín Prieto, estudiante de ingeniería civil, Jorge Baños, estudiante de negocios y Alexandra López, estudiante de kinesiología.

“Lo importante no es el contexto, lo importante son sus metas y a dónde pueden llegar”, dijo Guillermo Reyes, cónsul adscrito de México en El Paso, durante la ceremonia en que se hizo entrega de los fondos, el 22 de febrero.

Desde la creación del programa de becas, el IME ha beneficiado a más de 22,000 personas, en más de 380 instituciones. Durante el ciclo 2009-2010 se destinaron un total de 22 mil dólares a la región de El Paso, repartidos entre El Paso Community College, Sacred Heart Church y Literacy Volunteers del condado de Dona Ana.

“Apliqué cuando entramos a UTEP, pero en la oficina me dijeron que no

había becas para mexicanos, que si después había alguna, ellos nos llamaban”, dijo Alexandra López.

Un total de 34 universidades serán beneficiadas durante el ciclo 2010-2011. Dentro de estas instituciones figuran la Universidad de San Diego, St. Augustine College en Illinois y cuatro universidades en Texas, entre ellas UTEP, indicó el IME en un comunicado de prensa.

“Fue un largo proceso por el cual tuvimos que pasar, pero nos acaban de avisar que nos habían aprobado para la beca”, dijo Evelyn López, subdirectora del Departamento de Becas en UTEP.

Evelyn López especificó que las becas para cada estudiante consisten en 5,000 dólares por año académico. Esta cantidad servirá para pagar el costo de asistencia, los derechos de matrícula y los libros de los estudiantes beneficiados.

“La beca puede ser destinada a cualquier estudiante mexicano, sin importar la carrera que curse”, dijo Evelyn López.

El proceso para recibir la beca es igual a cualquier otro, ya que el estudiante debe llenar una solicitud de beca y cumplir con los requisitos.

Además de los requisitos impuestos por el Departamento de Becas de UTEP, los estudiantes deberán acatar ciertas reglas según la convocatoria del IME-Becas. Algunas de estas reglas son: que el estudiante sea de escasos recursos y que mantenga un promedio GPA mínimo de 3.0 puntos. En caso de que el promedio del estudiante baje, se le retirará la beca. La convocatoria del IME también requiere que los becados retribuyan el apoyo con algún tipo de servicio social en beneficio de la población migrante.

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



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GUNS from page 1

“In the recent shooting of Congresswomen Gifford, there was reporting in the media that there was a person on the scene with a gun, but he couldn’t really tell who the shooter was and who were the ones around there trying to escape,” Rodríguez said. “His statement to the press was that he was glad he didn’t draw his gun because if he had he could have shot an innocent person. When there is a shooting like that there is just too much confusion and it lends itself to mistakenly shooting an innocent person.”

Irene Castañeda, senior art history major, said just the thought of individuals carrying guns on campus is a scary idea.

“If that were to happen how would you know which is which? And if a

student starts shooting what about the innocent students that are in the way?” Castañeda said. “So you would have two people now with guns shooting. Also, how would the police know who is the gunman, would they ask in the middle of everything for an ID or (concealed gun) license?”

UTEP President Diana Natalicio said she believes if individuals are allowed to carry concealed handguns on campus, the dangers that could be brought upon the UTEP community could bring more problems to the situation.

“I am deeply concerned about this proposed bill,” Natalicio said. “In analyses I’ve seen, the risks appear to greatly outweigh the potential benefits.”

Natalicio said the university’s response to the proposed bill will wait until the final version of the bill is up for vote. She also said that university officials have talked to other colleges in Texas to discuss what action will be taken to deal with the proposed legislation.

“We will be joining other universities across the state in expressing our concerns about the impact of this proposed measure on our campuses,” Natalicio said. “Our response will depend on the exact nature of the legislation. Since similar legislation was considered (but didn’t pass) during the last legislative session, I’ve had numerous opportunities to talk with the chief of the UTEP Police Department

over the past couple of years about this issue.”

Robert Moss, assistant vice president of the Department of Environmental Health and Safety, said that over the course of his career in dealing with police officers, he knows how difficult it is for them to identify who are the suspects and who are bystanders. If the proposed gun law is passed, he believes it will make their jobs even tougher.

“I have worked with police officers over the years and it is complicated enough for them to identify who are the perpetrators, and when you start to introduce extra guns into the picture it makes it even harder for them,” Moss said. “When you have students using their weapons when there al-

ready is a dangerous situation on campus, it is going to make things more complicated. You don’t want to introduce more guns to an already hostile environment.”

Catherine McCorry, assistant vice president of student affairs, said that it is still too early to tell what the impact of the proposed bill will have on UTEP.

“I can’t really speculate right now since it is still in the early processes. There are still many, many editions it (bill) is going to go through, so it is still too early to know what will come out of it and how it will look when it is all done,” McCorry said. “In passing, I have heard students talking about their concerns about this proposed gun law. They are concerned about what this could mean for them, but since it is still early in the legislative session, they really don’t know much about what it will mean for UTEP”

Texas Governor Rick Perry has been vocal throughout his career about limiting gun control in the state of Texas. Perry has been a strong supporter of the proposed bill, and he believes that the current laws for getting a license for a concealed handgun will help eliminate any increase in violence at Texas universities due to the proposed bill.

“The governor believes that a person ought to be able to carry their weapon with them anywhere in the state if they are licensed and have gone through the proper training. He would be open to looking at any proposals lawmakers bring to the table regarding this issue,” said Deputy Press Secretary Lucy Nashed on behalf of the governor.

Castañeda said that if the bill were to pass and if any student in one of her classes had a gun with him/her, she would more than likely ask to be moved to another class.

“I don’t like guns. They scare me and you don’t know the type of people who would be carrying them around campus,” Castañeda said. “If I saw someone carry a gun to class every day, I would probably ask to be switched to a different class. I don’t want to be around any guns and I don’t know what a person with a gun at school is planning to do with it.”

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

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Social networks

Facebook murdered Myspace

BY JAZMIN SALINAS

The Prospector

The rise of social networking has been evident for years. The popularity of MySpace is quickly dwindling and Facebook is at its peak.

“I took a poll in one of my classes of who had a Myspace account and about 80-90 percent of my students raised their hand,” said Zita Arocha, director of Borderzine.com and senior lecturer in the department of communications. “This was about four years ago.”

According to the Facebook website, there are over 500 million active Facebook accounts with over 50 percent accessing their accounts on any given day.

Myspace on the other hand does not list its active users. According to mrdefinite.com, Myspace has about 125 million active users, but states that that number is declining.

UTEP students confirmed the staggering statistics by admitting that their Myspace accounts are neglected.

“I have both (Myspace and Facebook), but I prefer Facebook,” said Angie Betancourt, sophomore microbiology major. “I haven’t gotten on Myspace for months.”

Many may be wondering how this phenomenon began in the first place. Where did Myspace go wrong?

“Myspace had a horrible interface,” said Sebastian Estrada, junior history major. “It was hard to navigate and the features for the standard accounts were unimpressive.”

For Arocha, Myspace seems to attract a younger crowd that is more into connecting only with friends, whereas, Facebook has expanded its applications to include good business adver-

tising and networking outside of the social aspect.

“These types of sites, whether it’s Facebook, Myspace, Twitter, or YouTube, have become the new advertising hubs of the Internet,” Estrada said.

Betancourt, on the other hand, doesn’t use her Myspace very often because it seems to be less secure and more permissive.

“I think Facebook is simple, more adult-oriented,” Betancourt said. “On Myspace, you always see girls in very revealing garments, which is very distasteful. Random people don’t request you as much on Facebook.”

The extra time that students gained back from abandoning Myspace, goes into their Facebook time.

“I spend maybe an hour and a half on Facebook each day,” Betancourt said. “Just to see what people comment and express my mind when I’m not with someone.”

Other students take Facebook with them anywhere they can.

“Technically I’m always on Facebook,” Estrada said. “I get updates to my phone and have a chat client synced with my Facebook account... Realistically, I check my Facebook once or twice a day, but I do send out a lot of links if I’m StumbleUpon-ing.”

Even though Myspace continues to lose many of its account holders, Estrada said that it still brings valuable social networking features to the table.

“MySpace has become a marketing site for musicians, film-makers and the like,” Estrada said. “I have an inactive musician’s Myspace that I used to share musical ideas with my fellow musicians. Conversely, I did see how beneficial Myspace was for musicians, such as the success of Panic at the Disco.”

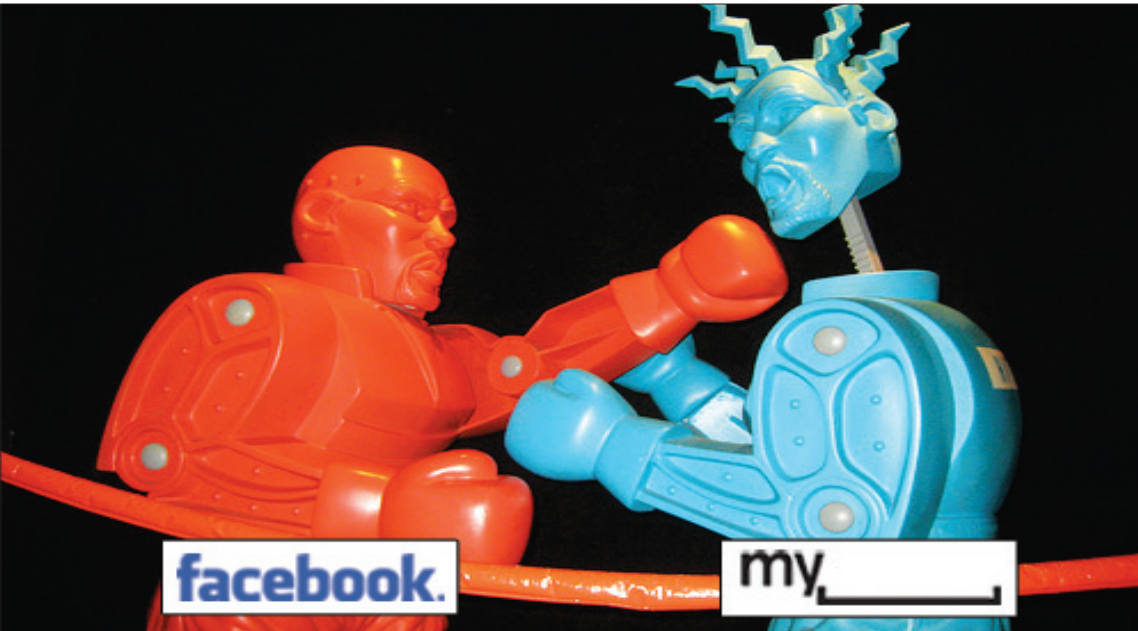


Illustration by Sarah Burchett / The Prospector

Facebook is quickly overtaking Myspace, which struggles to keep users.

Arocha stated that Facebook is in a natural progression right now, but there is a possibility that in a few years’ time another networking-site will come around and take over.

Estrada’s varied social networking interests may prove Arocha’s prediction.

“Although I do use a Facebook, I prefer to use other networking sites; image macro sites like Memebase or FAIL Blog,” Estrada said. “Above all, I spend more time on StumbleUpon sharing different links with my close friends or on sites with older formats like blogs.”

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

Facebook murdered Myspace: Vocabulary list

By Matthew Munden

| | |
|-----------|--|
| facebook | The site that people go to talk and spy on people they know and do not know. You can also poke people... |
| su | From StumbleUpon.com, “StumbleUpon helps you discover and share great websites. It delivers high-quality pages matched to your personal preferences. |
| MEMEBASE | Where all the annoying short videos and pictures that are meant to be funny live. They aren’t really funny...so I live there. |
| my | The site where you could be as emo as you wanted to be. Currently on life support. |
| twitter | Random factoids in 140 characters or less. Like this factoid. |
| You Tube | Internet videos. Some are interesting, most are not. |
| FAIL Blog | Honors people failing at life in embarrassing ways. My life livestreams there. |

Column

Keeping up with the tech comes at a price

BY JESUS C. MARTINEZ

The Prospector



It seems that every few months, the latest tech device you spent months saving for is enhanced with a newer model at the same price, and it always bring a sharp pain to one’s wallet.

Technology is moving faster than consumer markets can keep up with, and it is virtually impossible to keep up with it all. Cell phones, Apple products, televisions and video game consoles have their cycles of new products, but as the years progress, those cycles seem to be getting shorter.

Some consumers, who eagerly dropped \$600 on an iPad only to use it for a few months, might want to stay away from March 2. Apple plans to announce the iPad 2, which is rumored to have a front-facing camera. That’s an addition that may only be acquired through a new purchase. Hundreds of dollars and a year later, consumers should expect to be in the same boat.

Nintendo is gearing up to hit their customers with a new product. The newest model of the DS, the Nintendo 3DS, which releases March



Special to The Prospector

The Nintendo 3DS will be released March 27 at the MSRP of \$249.99.

27, promises to provide a 3-D effect without the need to wear those silly glasses all the time.

Although it may seem like a step in the right direction for the handheld, a smart consumer ought to know better than to buy the first iteration of a new product. Aside from potential bugs and glitches, a hardware revision with new features, colors and other perks may be available relatively soon from the original product launch.

When the original Nintendo DS was released in 2004, two years later, the DS Lite released with a slick design, a brighter screen and a longer battery life. In 2009, the DSi added front and rear facing cameras to the mix, and about a year later, the DSi XL just made everything bigger. If one was to purchase every updated model from the Nintendo DS family, they would spend about \$1,000 in a 7 year span. That’s almost as

much as buying an iPad and iPod Touch in one year.

It’s quite a lot of money to be spending on an entertainment device, but it has grown to be a status symbol in this country. People appear hip and wealthy when they sport a new tech toy leaving the people with older models in shame. That is to say until their new toy gets replaced several months later.

To ease the pain of frequently spending so much money on the same product, companies implemented buyback programs to replace that outdated technology with a fresh coat of paint. Best Buy will give consumers up to 50 percent back on a mobile phone, laptop, netbook, tablet and TV, if purchased within a six-month period. The percentage drops as low as 20 percent for a period of two years. All customers have to do is save up that other half.

Technological advances make life simpler, but that simplicity comes at the price of an annual commitment of hundreds of dollars. Sure they are cool toys, and if you can afford it, by all means purchase every revision. For the rest of us broke impoverished students, we’ll look over your shoulder with envy.

Jesus C. Martinez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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9 In olden
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13 See 8-Down
14 High-arc
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15 Postpone
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18 Entice
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23 Smack
24 Cubic meter
25 “— It
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27 Athletes
29 Buffet-table
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31 Out of reach,
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35 Prevention
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37 Leak slowly
38 Offspring
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10 Lost cause
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tool
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30 Sister
32 Phone to the
president
33 Submachine
gun type
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36 Pickled buds
used as a
garnish
38 Disrobe
39 Fragment
40 Rattle-
snake's
cousin
42 Follow
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3 Without a
computer
4 Gratis
5 Ex-governor
Palin
6 Completely
7 Zen paradox

Basketball

Floyd used to winning the big game

BY WILLIAM VEGA
 The Prospector

With such a lengthy and successful track-record like Tim Floyd's, playing important games like the one against Memphis Feb. 26 has become an annual routine for the 57-year old head coach.

Even from his earlier years as an assistant with the Miners, Floyd helped former UTEP head coach Don Haskins prepare their players for important games. El Paso's Chapin High School head coach Thomas Shukitt was a member of two NCAA tournament teams from 1985-87 and was well acquainted with Floyd's impact.

"He's one of my bigger influences because he's so organized. Everything would be on a work-out sheet and he had the whole practice perfectly orchestrated on what we were going to work on," Shukitt said. "I remember his intensity. It was almost as if even at that time he had the head-coaching ability to run the whole practice."

When game time rolled around, Floyd was ready to take the wheel from Haskins, no matter the implications. Even though Haskins did not always take his advice, Shukitt remembered Floyd being a resilient force on the bench.

"During games he was in coach (Haskin's) ear giving him information. (Floyd) was so much into the game that no matter what, he was going to give out information," Shukitt said. "In a timeout, information was given to coach Haskins from Floyd. Even in some of the timeouts, coach (Haskins) would let him talk and give us instructions on what needs to be adjusted on that particular part of the game. He used him as his right-hand man and he used him a lot."

During the 1985-86 season, Floyd's last season and Shukitt's first at UTEP, the Miners faced a flurry of top-notch teams in El Paso. That year, with Tim Hardaway, Dave Feitl, Jeep Jackson and Wayne Campbell at the leads, the Miners beat No. 5 Georgetown, Ohio State, Alabama, BYU and Utah at home.

"Everyone that played for coach Haskins and his assistants thought the games were so easy because the practices were so hard," Shukitt said. "The mentality was if you came into El Paso, no matter what your rank was, you didn't have a chance. We worked hard enough to do this and it is a reflection of our coach. You're as good a head coach as your assistants are and at that time, (Floyd) was the number one assistant."

Joining Floyd for the tenth of his 21-years as a head coach is assistant coach Phil Johnson who brings in the unusual experience of another head coach to the UTEP bench. Johnson, with 27-years of coaching experience to his name, coached San Jose State from 1998-99 and 2002-05. Johnson

see FLOYD on page 8

Basketball

Gut check time for Miners

BY WILLIAM VEGA
 The Prospector

Culpepper will suit up with fellow Memphis natives Jeremy Williams and Gabriel McCulley as the Miners (21-7, 9-4 Conference-USA) take on the Tigers (21-7, 9-4 C-USA) Feb. 26, hoping to beat Memphis for the first time in El Paso.

"With that being my hometown team and knowing a couple of guys that play for Memphis, we're just ready for them to come out here," Culpepper said. "Hopefully we'll beat them and get them out of the way."

Senior guard Randy Culpepper remembers the last time he played Memphis and so do his hometown fans.

"I've got a couple of threats on Facebook from Memphis fans saying 'why is UTEP so overrated and to be afraid when Memphis comes (to El Paso),' " Culpepper said. "But I'm not paying them any attention because I know when they come here we'll just have to lace it up and show how we do it on the court."

The game will be a rematch from Jan. 20, 2010 when UTEP stopped the Tigers 'NCAA record-tying, conference-winning streak at 64.

Culpepper was a key factor in last year's game, finishing with 13 points and one steal, but it was that one take

see GUT on page 8



BOB CORRAL / The Prospector

Senior point guard Julian Stone dribbles the ball down the court against Houston Feb. 19 at the Don Haskins Center.

Track

Miners head to C-USA Indoor Championship

BY KRISTOPHER RIVERA
 The Prospector

The UTEP track and field team is anxiously training and preparing for the Conference USA Indoor Champions Feb. 25-26 at the Yeoman Fieldhouse in Houston.

At last year's C-USA Indoor Championships, the women clinched first place and the men made their way to third place. Top performers included men's thrower Dimitrios Fylladitakis, men's sprinter Anderson Mutegi and women's sprinter Endurance Abinuwa, all of whom will be returning to help the Miners make their mark at this season's C-USA Indoor Championships.

Preparing for the championship includes conditioning, weight training and getting ready to run on a different track at the Yeoman Fieldhouse.

"The facility doesn't set up very well for running races around the curve, it's a 200-meter, flat track, very difficult to run on, very difficult to compete on, or run fast on," head coach Mika Laaksonen said. "The main qualifying time is hard.

But straight away events and field events are okay."

Veteran and two time All-American Dimitrios Fylladitakis keeps calm and humble. He claimed the top spot at both the Lobo Open and UNM Invitational.

"I want to improve my PR, and I hope I will help the team as much as I can," Fylladitakis said. "I like to have competition, but I'm doing my thing, I don't care about others."

Deliberate to the tension of his competitors Fylladitakis keeps a steady balance between himself and his competitor.

"But I want to have good competition, I think it helps, and you compete better. I hope that every competition has better competitors."

Fylladitakis understands the pressure and strain on the team, but he waits patiently until the day of competition.

Junior sprinter Endurance Abinuwa has been performing well at previous meets this season, taking first place in the 60-meter dash at the Lobo open and the UNM Invitational and second place in

see C-USA on page 8

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C-USA from page 7

the 200-meter dash at the UNM invitational.

"I'm doing the 60-meters and the 200-meters...my coach already told me there are two people ahead of me in the 60-meters," Abinuwa said. "If I have any chance to get them, I'm going to get them."

Up and coming sprinter Leon Dillihunt made his way to third

place in the 600-meter dash at the UNM invitational.

"I just started but I feel like I'm ahead of where I should be right now. I'll be ready to compete," Dillihunt said. "I just try to worry about me, and worry about what I'm doing."

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FLOYD from page 7

has taken each contest moderately, however, treating everyone one of them with the same respect as a big game.

"We treat every game as forty minutes and every game is really, really important," Johnson said. "In every league across the country, the seventh-place team is trying to become the sixth-place team and the second-place team is trying to become the first-place team. They're all big games in college basketball and that's the beauty of it."

Conference USA is one of those conferences where every team has a decent shot at the title. From first-place Memphis to ninth-place Houston, only a four-game difference separates the teams with a week of league play to go.

"We happen to be fighting for a conference championship and the games are huge for us," Johnson said. "But at the same time you could ask Memphis and Rice and they'll tell you how big those games are too. There's only so few games in college basketball every game is



BOB CORRAL / The Prospector

Head coach Tim Floyd and the men's basketball team will face Memphis at 1 p.m. Feb. 26 at the Don Haskins Center.

bigger because there are so few of them."

For Floyd the C-USA lead is on the line when Memphis comes to town.

"We'll take these last games with importance but I can tell you that Tulsa is doing the same thing and Southern Miss is doing the same

thing, and Memphis is doing the same thing," Floyd said. "We have a veteran group that has to understand the importance of game preparation, listening, game planning and if they can do that we'll be alright."

William Vega may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

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GUT from page 7

away that sealed the game for the Miners. UTEP used a 13-3 second-half run to gain a seven-point lead with only six-minutes remaining. But Memphis fought back and just when it seemed they had a run of their own, the 6-foot guard stepped up. Culpepper stole the ball from eventual-NBA draft pick Elliot Williams and laid it in on the other end to give the Miners a six-point lead en route to a 72-67 victory in the FedEx Forum.

But if the Miners hope to replicate that win, they will have to do it with different looking squads on both sides.

UTEP has first-year head coach Tim Floyd with a new-look frontcourt in freshman center John Bohannon and senior center Claude Britten to replace former UTEP forwards Derrick Caracter and Arnett Moultrie. Britten was a part of last season's game but only saw five minutes of action. UTEP has seen a difference in rebounding differential, moving from last season's +0.7 margin to this season's -2.0.

Memphis also has a new line-up from the last time they met UTEP. The Tigers are well known for bringing in talented freshmen and this season is no different. Memphis has Will and Antonio Barton, Tarik Black and Joe Jackson who compliments returning junior forwards Wesley Witherspoon and Will Coleman.

Those freshmen have paid dividends for Memphis this season as all four are top five scorers for the Tigers. Will Barton leads the way for Memphis, averaging 12.7 points per game but was held scoreless for the first time in his career against Houston Feb. 22.

The Miners have not done well this season against C-USA opponent's leading scorers. Kendall Timmons scored above his average when UTEP gave up 18 points and 10 rebounds to him Jan. 26. Tulsa Golden Hurricane Justin Hurtt ended one-point over his average with 21 Jan. 29. Papa Dia of SMU finished with 18 points and 10 rebounds Feb. 12 equaling his scoring average.

The duo of Culpepper and senior guard Julian Stone will hope to counter the Tigers balanced attack and stop the above trend. The two have combined for 28.4 points in the backcourt this season including 41 total points against UCF Feb. 21.

UTEP will host Memphis at 1 p.m. Feb. 26 at the Don Haskins Center.

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