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The Prospector, March 24, 2011

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The easy route

Students rely heavily on unreliable resources

BY ANOUSHKA VALODYA

The Prospector

With technology leading the future, it's no surprise that students rely on the Internet for research. At any coffee shop or library, it is very common to find students burying their noses more in laptops than books. But using the Internet for university assignments can easily lead to plagiarism and even wrong information, and that worries instructors.

"There's no question that more and more students rely on online resources to write their papers," said Gregory Rocha, associate professor in political science. "But it is our responsibility to show them if they're going to use that, there are places they can go for good information and good data sources."

A site that Rocha discourages is Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia "that anyone can edit" as stated on its website.

"There are still big concerns on the accuracy (of Wikipedia). I know they've tried to make it better, but they're still not fully there," Rocha said.

"Students don't realize what research was like in the past – going through those little cards and physically searching for articles. Now it all appears magically in front of you."

- Juan Sandoval, librarian at UTEP

Rocha said he specifically indicates on his syllabus that upper-level students should not Wikipedia.

However, another instructor allows his students to use this website for research.

"A goal for my courses is to get a better perspective of the topics discussed in class," said Hector Noriega-Mendoza, physics lecturer.

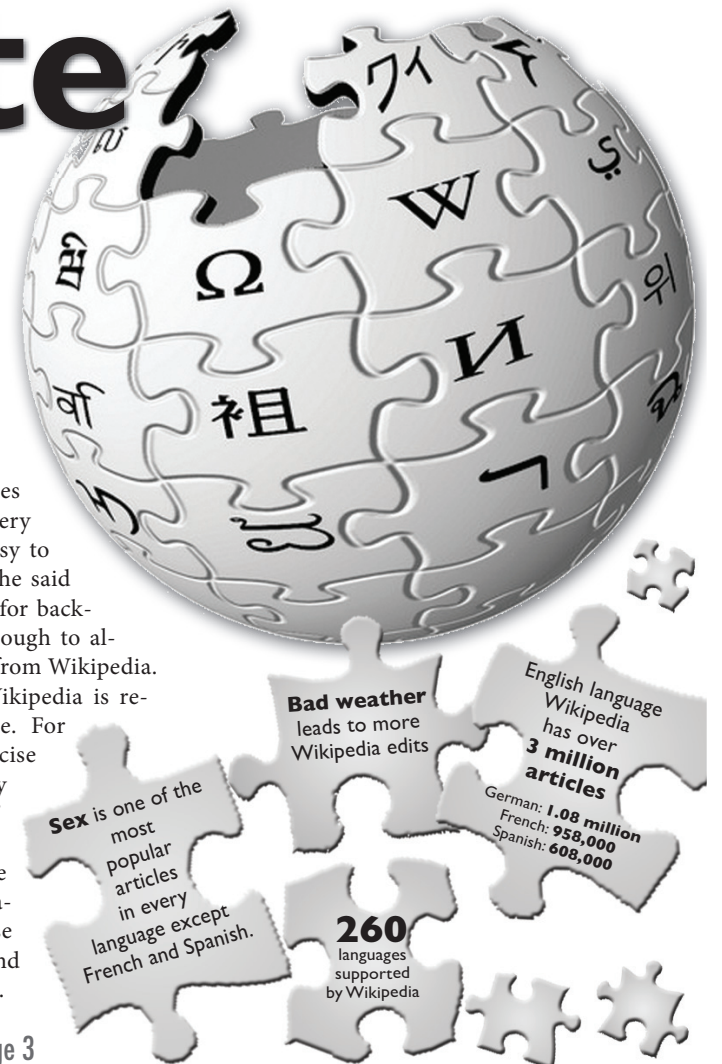
"I'm most interested in the conceptual part of the topic, and for that purpose I think Wikipedia is a reliable source."

Noriega said he realizes that Wikipedia isn't very dependable since it's easy to change its content, yet he said he finds the site useful for background information, enough to allow his students to cite from Wikipedia.

"Let's just say that Wikipedia is reliable, but not accurate. For numbers and other precise information, I direct my students to other sites," Noriega said.

Sean Sahs, sophomore geological sciences major, said he prefers to use books for research and tries to avoid Wikipedia.

see ROUTE on page 3



Campus

2011 Women's History Month Conference



DANIEL ROSAS / The Prospector

Above: Students and faculty attending the academic conference had the opportunity to learn about various groups and organizations.

Right: Lee Ann Westman, co-chair of the conference, speaks before a screening of "The Heretics."



Engineering

SAE "Mini-Baja" competition

BY CANDICE MARLENE DURAN

The Prospector

The Society of Automotive Engineers will take their best team and have them compete in an intercollegiate design competition May 24 at Pittsburg, Kansas.

The contest is called the "Mini Baja" Competition and it originates from a race in Mexico called the Baja 1000. In the Baja 1000, competitors build large version of the "Baja" vehicles and race for 1,000 miles. For this competition smaller versions of the "Baja" vehicles are required and the race is only four hours long.

The challenge is building and designing a "Mini Baja" vehicle, which should be capable of handling rough terrain, withstanding a four-hour endurance event and must be aesthetically pleasing. The team is responsible for all the designing aspects of the go-cart.

Sergio Maldonado, SAE president and senior mechanical engineering major, works with the Mini-Baja

team and is helping with the design of the vehicle. He is eager to put the team's skills and talent up for demonstration.

"I think we're heading for top 40, and that will be in the nation," Maldonado said. "We set the bar right there. Taking the fact, that there are about 120 universities competing, not only nationally, but internationally, it's still pretty good."

SAE competes against an array of teams from various parts of Latin America and Canada.

"Last year, we had a university from Bolivia," Maldonado said. "I don't know how they traveled all the way to Washington State, but that's just an example of the variety of students and universities that participate."

UTEP has had funding to compete just once and won the competition in 1985. SAE members feel that this pressure will only help them work harder.

"I think the pressure we have is a good thing," Maldonado said. "Be-

cause we're representing something, we're not just going for ourselves. We're representing the school's name. That's our pressure to do a good job."

Arturo Quijano, captain of the team and senior mechanical engineering major, is responsible for the project and the overall design of the vehicle.

Quijano said the pressure on the team comes from trying to make up for the times that UTEP had not competed.

"It was such a long time ago that UTEP won," Quijano said. "They were a very successful team, but then they stopped participating for a very long time and didn't start up again until the early 2000s and by then UTEP was way out of the loop."

Javier Motta, mechanical engineering graduate student and team advisor, feels the team has been improving over the years as support

see BAJA on page 4

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Column

Fear and loathing in a nuclear world

BY AARON MARTINEZ

The Prospector



After the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan March 11 left several nuclear power plants critically damaged, the debate over the safety of nuclear energy has intensified.

Misconceptions and fear-induced propaganda have filled the airwaves as Japanese officials work around the clock to fix the damaged power plants. Public reaction to this tragic situation in Japan could result in the end of a “nuclear renaissance” and one of the best solutions to our energy crisis.

Early this year, President Barack Obama announced that more than \$8 billion in federal loan guarantees would be used to build the first nuclear power plant in more than 30 years in the United States. But now after the possible meltdown in Japan, support for Obama’s plan to expand our country’s use of nuclear energy is in serious jeopardy.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, nuclear energy currently “produces approximately 20 percent of our total electricity and 70 percent of our low-carbon electricity.” The Department also reported “more than 100 U.S. commercial nuclear power reactors provide reliable, affordable electricity in 31 states.”

The main arguments against nuclear energy include safety concerns of a meltdown and the problem of nuclear waste disposal.

The haunting memories of the nuclear meltdowns at Chernobyl and Three Mile Island are used as examples of the dangers caused by a meltdown. But according to the World Nuclear Association, “the risks from western nuclear power plants, in terms of the consequences of an accident or terrorist attack, are minimal compared with other commonly accepted risks.” The incident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in 1979 was a result of damage to the reactor, but officials at the plant contained the radiation and there were no adverse health or environmental consequences.

According to the WNA, 56 deaths have been accredited to the Chernobyl disaster. The death toll due to the meltdown at Chernobyl continues to grow as cancer cases credited to the radiation from the disaster continues to plague residents. According to the WNA, “the effects of the Chernobyl accident are many and varied. Early deterministic effects can be attributed to radiation with a high degree of certainty, while for other medical conditions, radiation

almost certainly was not the cause. In between, there was a wide spectrum of conditions.”

Unlike Chernobyl, the Three Mile Island was less severe due to the strict rules and safety features the U.S. has put into place for all nuclear plants across the country. After the incident the government made overhauls to the training process of employees at plants due to, according to WNA, “investigations following the accident (that) led to a new focus on the human factors in nuclear safety.”

Like with any dangerous equipment, proper safety procedures and strict training should and will play a major role in eliminating any chances of nuclear meltdown.

The argument that power plants produce large amounts of nuclear waste is not true, the actually waste produced at plants is smaller than any of the other main energy sources the U.S. uses. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, “waste from a nuclear plant is primarily solid waste, spent fuel, and some process chemicals, steam, and heated cooling water. Such waste differs from a fossil fuel plant’s waste in that its volume and mass are small relative to the electricity produced.”

They also state that unlike fossil fuels, “nuclear power provides an environmental benefit by almost entirely eliminating airborne wastes and particulates generated during power generation.”

As for the actual disposal of nuclear waste, the main argument people make is that they do not want nuclear waste disposal sites in their backyards. So the biggest issue for the government is to find good spots to put disposal sites. Currently, the U.S. is working on a disposal site in licensed deep, stable geologic structures in the Yucca Mountain.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, there are many strict government regulations, guidelines and policies regarding nuclear waste management imposed by the national and state governments.

The EPA said that some of the “federal government agencies involved in radioactive waste management include: the Environmental Protection Agency, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Transportation. In addition, the states and affected Indian Tribes play a prominent role in protecting the public against the hazards of radioactive waste.”

While the use of nuclear energy can never be guaranteed to be 100 percent safe, it remains one of the best options we have available. We can only hope that the crisis in Japan will not put an end to all the benefits and possibilities nuclear energy can give to our country.

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

Send your questions, comments and complaints to the editor at prospector@utep.edu



If you students are going to copy and paste wikipedia, the least you could do is fix that site's spelling mistakes!

Letter to the editor

Disappointment with parking... again

I wonder where is the respect for the students. Today, Friday of spring break, I went to drop off my boyfriend inside UTEP campus and I almost got a ticket. The Department of Parking and Transportation of UTEP is the worst service I’ve had to pay for. Whenever there are no classes at UTEP, the shuttles are canceled, but nobody worries about those students that want to study or work on their research during those days. They cannot park or go inside campus anyway. Like as if the weather in El Paso was the most pleasant to be parking very far and walking around with no shades or humidity.

Another day, almost a month ago, I was trying to park at S3, a parking lot that is half closed

because of construction but to which they sold all the permits like as if they would have all the spots available, and an officer that was issuing tickets told me I could park at S4. I believed him, as he was an authority, and did as he told me to do. Guess what? I got a ticket! In the Department of Parking and Transportation, they asked me if I knew the name of the officer that gave me the information. So now, if I ask for information from an authority on campus, I also need to ask his name, ID number, so I can go back and blame him if his information was wrong? They said they couldn’t do anything for me, and I had to appeal the ticket. They told me that the officer could be from the police de-

partment, so he wouldn’t know where I should park. And where is the communication between the departments? I am not supposed to know if the officer is from one department or the other! They told me that they didn’t know about the construction when they sold the permits! Nobody starts a construction from one day to the other. It is always planned. So where is the communication between the parking and transportation and the construction departments? I am really disappointed with the services from the Parking and Transportation Department.

Fernanda de Souza Leite
Graduate, electrical engineering



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ROUTE from page 1

“It’s said that it’s not very accurate because anyone can edit it. But I think with the way technology is becoming nowadays, (Wikipedia) has a dedicated team to make sure it’s accurate. I wouldn’t discredit the Internet because it can be a reliable source of information, just depending on the site you go to,” Sah said.

However, Meagan Montoya, freshman education major, researches differently.

“I like the Internet. I think it’s easier and faster to find stuff instead of looking through a book,” Montoya said. “I google a lot of stuff and click on different articles.”

Montoya said she doesn’t rely on Wikipedia because of what people have told her.

“Most say you shouldn’t trust that website, so I try not to use it too much. Although my professors allow us to use it for background information, they don’t let us cite from Wikipedia,” Montoya said.

Many professors encourage their students to research using scholarly journals. The University Library offers online databases to find these journals.

Juan Sandoval, librarian at UTEP, said that plenty of students fail to take advantage of this research method.

“We provide all these expensive databases but a lot of students tend to go to Google, and don’t pay attention to these professional scholarly journals we buy for them,” he said.

Sandoval added that the library has more than 300 databases and thousands of e-books. He described an experience he had in helping a student find information online.

Sandoval said searching through online scholarly journals is actually much easier now compared to the last century.

“Students don’t realize what research was like in the past – going through those little cards and physically searching for articles,” Sandoval said. “Now it all appears magically in front of you.”

Sandoval said that the library’s Reference Desk is available to help students individually, and that professors have brought their classes to the library for orientation, which teaches students how to research online. But Sandoval said that these services have not changed students’ work ethics significantly.

“It’s not that they don’t have research skills. Students are conversant with technology, but they are, for a lack of better words, a little bit lazy. I think technology tends to make us very lazy and we don’t think as we should,” Sandoval said. “But the promise is there.”

Regarding Wikipedia, Sandoval said that it’s a useful site, but that students should be cautious since there have been inaccuracies.

Whether students relying on accurate scholarly journals or sites like Wikipedia for their papers, the probability or temptation of plagiarism can arise. This is a problem universities all over the country have been wrestling with, and it’s also hitting home with UTEP’s partnered college El Paso Community College.

“Ten years ago, we had to help faculty become like detectives on catching plagiarism in their students’ work,” said Monica Wong, head librarian at EPCC’s Northwest library. “We also help faculty by teaching

their students how to cite and we tell them the ramifications if they’re caught. We’ve had students expelled for plagiarism.”

Joe Old, mass communication instructor at EPCC, said that he has had to deal with plagiarism in his classes.

“I have a wonderful way of catching people cheating. I announce to the class that someone has cheated, and I tell them that I will go light on the persons who cheated if they confess,” Old said.

He has everyone give him a piece of paper, stating if they cheated or not.

“The guilty party almost always confesses, and occasionally I catch a couple of students I wasn’t suspecting,” Old said.

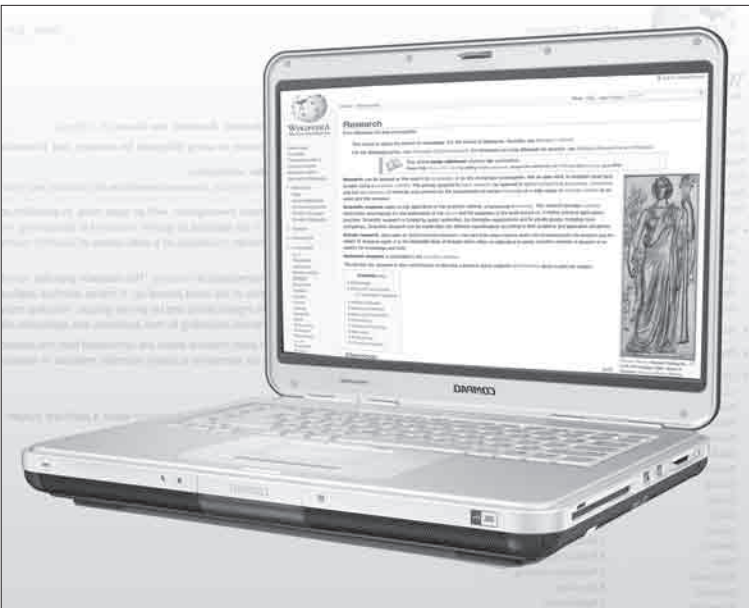
Old said he gives a grade of zero and has the student write another paper.

“Plagiarism is a problem, but only if the instructor isn’t careful,” Old said. “I find it helps to limit the topics students can do research on. I also require students to turn in photocopies of each of the articles or passages of books they quote from, with the quoted material highlighted.”

Sandoval said that the goal of properly using legitimate sources goes both ways.

“It’s in my opinion that students have to assume a little bit more responsibility,” Sandoval said. “We try to make it easier for them but they fail to take advantage of this magnificent technology, and it’s there 24-hours-a-day, on-campus and off-campus.”

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



Special to The Prospector

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BAJA from page 1

from the engineering department continues to grow.

"We definitely have a better chance because this time around we have more support from the department," Motta said. "The first time we competed we didn't have our vehicle finished. Then the second year we did better, and little by little we've been so much better."

Quijano feels that regardless of the team not winning previous competi-

tions, there has been major improvement. He said the team's chances are better this year because they now have an advisor and more support.

"It's been progressively succeeding. Three years ago we finally had a car able to compete, and again the next year," Quijano said. "We're motivated through pressure."

Maldonado and Quijano said that SAE is always open to new members. The team consists of 12 students clas-

sified as juniors, seniors and a few sophomores.

"Right now, UTEP has open access to the team," Quijano said. "If you show up and join the Society of Automotive Engineers and you express an interest in wanting to participate in the team in your spare time, then you're on the team. Basically we're looking for people who will commit to the team."

Maldonado said the competition is a great opportunity for the team members to network with companies looking to employ engineering majors.

"Many companies are being represented there. You see Ford, Hyundai, a lot of GM representatives, a lot of companies looking for new students with new ideas for designs," Maldonado said. "So not only is the competition good for the school, it's also a nice gateway for job opportunities for the teams and their members."

The judges in the competition look for a unique design, an economically efficient car. Every vehicle has to pass various inspections.

"Sometimes only 80 universities out of 120 are able to participate," Maldonado said. "Only because the other 40 did not pass the inspections."

The competition is held every year all over the United States. This year, the Mini Baja competition will be in Kansas, and the winning team will get scholarships and funding for their university.

"The most challenging part is that the rules are really constricting," Quijano said. "It's hard to make a vehicle that can excel in all areas. So you have to make a vehicle that will compromise to all the rules and at the same time pushing the limits on the rules to be innovative, new and interesting."

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

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UTEP graphic design and printmaking students Alejandra Guerrero and Yasmin Marquez will present their Bachelor of Fine Arts Show from 5 to 8 p.m. March 24 at the Glass Gallery in the Fox Fine Arts building.

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‘CRYSIS 2’ (X360, PS3 AND PC): 5 PICKS OUT OF 5

EA and Crytek’s latest, “Crysis 2,” is a wonderous playground of aliens, guns and violence. Compared to last week’s awful release, “Homefront,” this is the first great first-person shooter of the year.

Technology

Nintendo 3DS scheduled to launch March 27

BY JAZMIN SALINAS AND
MATTHEW MUNDEN

The Prospector

Nintendo is due to launch their latest handheld on March 27.

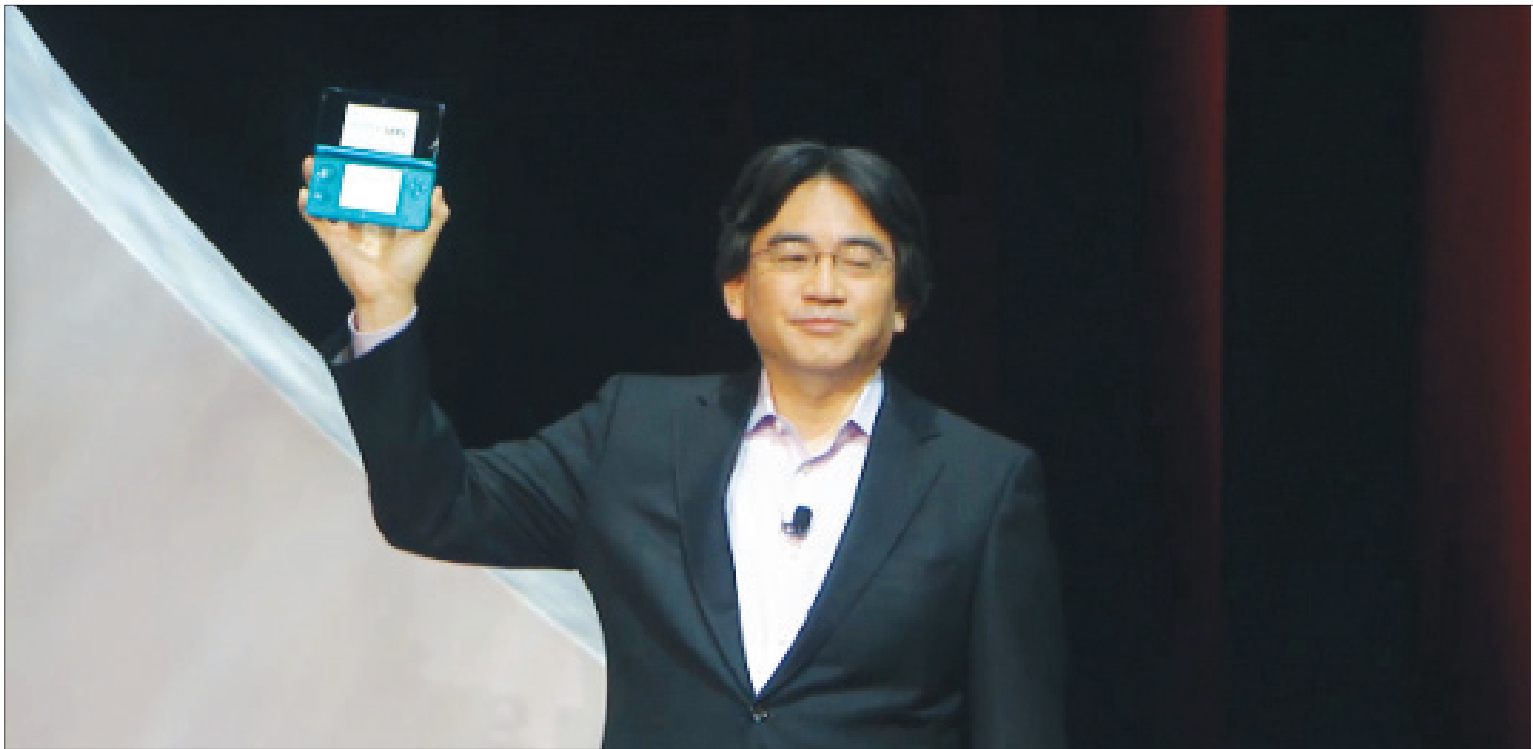
The Nintendo DS, which was consistently the highest-selling video game system during its lifetime since late 2005, is about to get an upgrade. The dual-screen handheld will be receiving a glasses-less 3-D top screen, accelerometer, improved processing power and better Wi-Fi connection capabilities, but to some consumers, this upgrade isn’t enough to warrant \$250.

“My old DS works and it isn’t worth it to me to shell out all that money for a gimmick handheld, plus Nintendo failed with 3-D before with the Virtual Boy,” said Ed Alvarado, UTEP alumni.

On campus, the sentiment appears to be similar.

“I’m not looking to buy the 3DS, the library selection and the features just aren’t what I’m looking for in a gaming console,” said Elias Munoz, senior chemistry major. “I think this is a good buy if someone doesn’t have any previous DS systems. The upgrade for current owners really isn’t worth the price of admission. The 3-D technology is still too new to really gauge how good or bad it is.”

Nintendo has experimented with a 3-D system before. On August 14 1995, Nintendo launched the Virtual Boy, the first video game console capable of displaying 3-D graphics,



Special to The Prospector

Saturo Iwata brings out the Nintendo 3DS at Nintendo’s E3 press conference in Los Angeles on June 15, 2010.

at \$180. Yet, according to Gamepro magazine, after selling only 770,000 consoles worldwide, Nintendo discontinued the system after a year on the market. In a recent “Iwata Asks” article on the Nintendo website, Satoru Iwata, president and CEO of Nintendo, even revealed that the Gamecube, the predecessor to the Wii, briefly had 3-D technology in it. Yet,

now with 3-D movies and televisions on the rise, Nintendo hopes to finally be successful with its 3-D technology.

Even when the 3DS launches on March 27, it won’t be the only system capable of 3-D graphics currently on the market. Sony’s Playstation 3 and Microsoft’s Xbox 360 have the tech to be 3-D enabled and recently games, like Sony’s “Killzone 3” and

EA’s “Crysis 2,” have explored this avenue of immersing gamers into the world of their video games. However, for the 3-D to work, gamers have to have purchased a 3-D television and a pair of 3-D glasses. The 3DS is the one console that does not require a pair of glasses to see the effect.

Using the display method known as autostereoscopy, the 3DS will have

two screens layered on top of each other. When the player of the system looks at the top screen from the center, these two screens will give the illusion of depth. The 3DS comes with a slider to adjust the 3-D effects anywhere between the highest levels of depth to regular 2-D viewing.

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Column

Apple’s iPad 2 converts yet another person

BY JAZMIN SALINAS

The Prospector

The popularity of Apple’s products has taken America into the new age of technology, but it hasn’t been all sunshine and roses on the Apple path. But with the release of the iPad 2, Apple’s future is looking up.

Apple released the first generation iPad in April of 2010 and everyone was ready to jump on the bandwagon, but the product didn’t fulfill all expectations.

Complaints of all kinds went straight to the Apple forums within the first week of the iPad’s release.

The biggest complaint Apple received was fluctuating Wi-Fi signals, which made the users question the awesomeness of the tablet. Other devices that used a Wi-Fi signal had strong reception which pointed the problem right to the iPad.

Among other complaints, consumers called it an over-sized iPhone without a camera and an uncomfortable “wannabe laptop.”

The ongoing complaint from some of Apple’s customers is the inability to use Flash Player, which enables some apps and websites to be accessed on any iDevice.

The ongoing public battle between Adobe and Apple is no secret to the public, but it does get frustrating when you’re trying to access a website and the dreaded message, “Apple restricts use of technologies required by products like Adobe Flash Player. Until Apple eliminates these restrictions, Adobe cannot provide Flash Player for the iPhone, iPad or iPod touch.”

YouTube videos show how you can get the Flash Player onto your iDevice, but wouldn’t it be easier to just lift the restriction? Of course, the matter runs much deeper than my

naive knowledge of the tech savvy world.

But enough with the negative aspects and into the realization that this tablet has broken a lot of technology boundaries and to put it in simple words, it’s pretty darn cool.

The release of the iPad 2 had a number of El Pasoans waiting in line to get their hands on the newest Apple toy March 11.

The popularity of the product and the much anticipated wait for its release had technology stores ready and



armed for the hundreds of customers coming into their stores.

The AT&T store located in westside El Paso had only four iPad 2s available and all retail stores were instructed to not sell the second generation tablets until 5 p.m. March 13.

Of course, by exactly 5 p.m. all the iPads that the AT&T store was holding had someone’s name on it.

The next retailer to hold an unknown number of iPads was the home of “The Geek Squad,” Best Buy. The employees and all supervisors were not aware of how many iPads were shipped to the store and could not guarantee that all the people in line were going to be able to get one.

I had to jump on the iPad bandwagon and waited in that line, which wrapped around the Best Buy building on the westside.

I have never waited in line for a new piece of technology or waited in line for two long drawn out hours for a new product that was going to cost close to the amount of a house payment (iPads start out at \$499 for the 16 gb, Wi-Fi only model!).

The innovative tablet is extremely light weight yet packed for some power.

With the addition of the 64 gig 3G coverage iPad, many are able to use it as a toy and as a tool for business.

The best part about the iPad is the games and the convenient size that allows for easy access and handy entertainment.

The iPad 2 was worth the wait. Even though Apple has already received some complaints and problems experienced with the new product, most people are quite satisfied, including myself.


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



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3DS from page 5

However, the 3-D brings considerable downsides to the handheld. With the 3-D functionality turned on, frame rate in games, like Capcom's "Super Street Fighter 4 3D," falls from 60 fps to 30 fps. The battery life on the system is also diminished, lasting three to five hours compared to the previous DS system's 13 to 17 hours. Finally, the 3-D effects might cause some to get motion sickness.



Rock
47
-Margarita



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"3-D movies give me headaches," said Andreana Gamboa, junior art major. "Although the 3DS looks pretty cool, I don't think I'd get the DS in 3-D. But I don't know, maybe once I give it a test run, I might change my mind."

However, with the emphasis on 3-D and cartoony visuals, some just think Nintendo focuses on a younger demographic.

"Nintendo has continually evolved. But it's market is for the young kids, and young teens," Munoz said. "There will always be a market for that, which is why Nintendo will continue to be successful."

Jazmin Salinas and Matthew Munden may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

Tips for buying the 3DS



According to a sales associate at Toys R Us, customers buying the 3DS games will be able to buy one at full price (\$39.99 MSRP), and get another at half price.

At Best Buy, according to the website Cheap Ass Gamer, if you buy two of the following games ("Lego Star Wars 3," "Nintendogs + Cats," "Steel Diver," "Madden," "Ghost Recon," "The Sims 3," or "Asphalt 3D"), you'll receive a \$10 gift card.

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G	E	T	R	E	A	D	E	T	N	A
S	C	O	U	R	S	L	A	R	G	E
			G	N	U	E	R	G	O	
G	A	G	E	R	A	K	N	I	F	E
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A	S	H	O	R	E	S	T	Y	M	I
J	E	E	P	G	E	T	A	L	O	N
A	M	A	H	A	L	L	O	R	S	O
R	I	D	E	S	K	Y	N	E	T	S

Answers to 3-22-11

BRAIN ZONE

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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Track

Miners gear up for spring competition

BY KRISTOPHER RIVERA
The Prospector

The men’s distance runners pulled out of the last curve and kicked into final gear as they approached the final 100-meters of their 1,600-meter run. The Miners look toward their first outdoor meet March 26 for the Springtime Invitational at Kidd Field.

“I think the first meet, it’s almost like a practice meet. Once we hit that meet I think we’ll know what we have to take care of, as far as if anyone is injured,” women’s junior distance runner Kitria Stewart said. “We’ll know what we have to work on and what we have to improve for the upcoming meets. It will help us find out what direction we are moving in for the future.”

There was no rest during spring break for the UTEP track and field team. After a short indoor track season, the Miners will display their improvements in various events as well as showcase several outstanding athletes that will lead the team.

“We are not used to indoor season most of the time, so I think we are excited to start our outdoor season,” men’s junior distance runner Justice Chirchir said. “For this spring break time we have used the valuable time

to practice very well and I think we are ready to run the whole meet and see how the outdoor season begins.”

The Miners face fair-weather competition. They will take on the likes of Texas Tech and New Mexico State at the Springtime Invitational.

“I’m excited with the fact that everyone is improving, everybody is excited to compete to see the effort they have put during the break,” Chirchir said. “If you get in good shape, you can be at 100 percent.”

Although the team has a few sustainable injuries, the season has a wide enough margin for error that could leave enough room to see a kick later in the season.

“The indoor track season was a little short, but the outdoor, we have a little longer season and there is a little more time to work on things,” track and field head coach Mika Laaksonen said. “We have had individual meetings with everybody... it’s business from day one and on.”

Athletes to watch for will be women’s junior distance runner Risper Kimaiyo and women’s junior sprinter Endurance Abinuwa. Both recently represented UTEP at the 2011 NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships and achieved

see **SPRING** on page 8



BOB CORRAL / The Prospector

UTEP’s track and field team will host their first meet of the outdoor season. The Springtime Invitational is an all day event will take place March 26 at Kidd Field.

Softball

UTEP prepares to bounce back after loss



BOB CORRAL / The Prospector

The UTEP softball will take on Memphis March 26-27 at the Helen of Troy Softball Complex.

BY WILLIAM VEGA
The Prospector

Following a dominant performance by no. 14 Nebraska, the Miners will hope to regain their composure when they play their first Conference USA three-game home series of the season against Memphis March 26-27 at Helen of Troy Softball Complex.

“It happens. That was the first thing coach said to us, it happens to the best of us as a team. I would have to say that we fought through it and no one gave up. That’s all you really can do,” senior right fielder Kia Moore said. “We’ll put these games completely behind us. We forget about it and move on. We have a big conference series this weekend so that’s where our minds are.”

UTEP was overwhelmed by the Huskers offense, losing both games of their double header by a combined score of 24-0. The Miners managed a total of six hits and were run-ruled in both contests. UTEP used three pitchers in the final game with all three of them giving up at least three runs.

“We told our pitchers to just stay in their game. We’re there as support. We got some really good hits in the first game and I guess in the second we weren’t linking them together and weren’t able to drive runs in when we needed to,” junior catcher Chelsea Troupe said. “Frustration always comes with a loss, especially a loss like this.”

As quiet as the bats were for UTEP against Nebraska, their offense may face similar struggles when the Tigers come to town.

Four Tiger pitchers have an ERA under 2.73 and are led by senior Janelle Valle with a 0.82 ERA in 10 appearances. With a 1.46 team ERA, 110 hits and 51 runs, Memphis has dominated the top of the C-USA statistical standings with UTEP as the last place team in terms of ERA, walks and strikeouts. On the other side of the spectrum, the Miners place in the top three of the conference in batting average, runs, home runs and doubles while the Tigers are in the bottom two in all four categories.

see **LOSS** on page 8

LOSS from page 7

Without looking at the standings, UTEP hopes to focus on what they need to do to get back on top.

“We need to practice just a little bit more defense again and probably hitting,” senior center fielder Becky Smith said. “We hit from time to time and then we don’t. We’re hoping to bounce back and focus on conference. We just need to learn from our mistakes which can always bring a team together too.”

During their first C-USA series against UCF March 12-13 in which they went 1-2, the Miners had trouble getting runs in against the sixth best pitching team in the conference scor-

ing only four runs. The pitching for UTEP showed promise during the first day of the series giving up only four runs off ten hits with freshman Megan Atchison picking up the lone victory. The Miners are hoping to turn the tide and pick up a winning conference record with a home crowd on their side.

“With Memphis coming here, we’re going to be in front of our fans and it is conference so this is what really counts,” Troupe said. “Every conference series is a clean slate as far as that series. We know that as conference goes on we have to just keep racking up the wins.”

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

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BOB CORRAL / The Prospector

Senior thrower Justin Kepple trains for the outdoor season, which will start with the Springtime Invitational March 26 at Kidd Field. Kepple hails from Burges High School.

SPRING from page 7

All-American results in their events. Kimaiyo finished seventh in the 5,000 meter with a time of 16:13.55. Abinuwa finished fourth in the 400-meter run, crossing the finish line with a time of 53.06.

Although this is a small team, they have adequate ambition and potential to progress. Other athletes that will be key to the team include men’s senior thrower Dimitrios Fylladitakis, who is a two-time Outdoor All-American in the hammer throw. Also key to the team is women’s senior thrower Ter-ran Alexander who ranks fifth in the hammer throw at UTEP with a mark of 58.15 (190-09).

“We do have great athletes,” Stewart said. “Our athletes do perform and produce the most that they can, our athletes produce well.”

Most athletes on the team don’t just focus on conference opposition, but also opposition at the national level.

“I want to compete in the NCAA championships, so I start at practice as soon as possible,” Chirchir said. “If you aim high, then you are going to succeed through. By the end of maybe pre-nationals if we qualify, we have achieved something.”

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

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