

4-7-2011

The Prospector, April 7, 2011

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SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Women's Resource
Center to host
events that shed
light on issue

BY BEATRIZ A. CASTAÑEDA
The Prospector

Sexual assault remains one of the most unreported crimes in America. According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, nearly 19 million women and 3 million men have experienced at least one incident of sexual assault nationally.

April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month and the UTEP Women's Resource Center is bringing attention to the issue by hosting various events on campus. The goal is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and educate communities and individuals on how to prevent it.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month's campaign theme this year is, "It's time... to get involved." The national campaign explores common, everyday



Special to The Prospector

April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month and the UTEP Women's Resource Center is bringing attention to the issue by hosting various events on campus.

behaviors and offers individuals viable and responsible ways to intervene.

Sherri Terrell, director of the University Counseling Center, defines sexual assault in many layers. She said that sexual assault is physical assault and is often about power, dominance and control.

"So often we think of sexual assault as something different. Assault is assault and it's not always about sex, it's about power and control," Terrell said.

Terrell said the first thing to do if a person is a victim of sexual assault is to get medical attention as quickly as possible.

Then, she said, it depends on the individual to decide whether or not to get professional help about what to do next.

According to UTEP's annual security reports there were six cases of forcible sex offenses on

see **ASSAULT** on page 3



File Photo

UTEP and the University of California at San Diego will join together to provide a scholarship to research drug-related issues affecting the U.S.-Mexico border.

Research Scholarship focuses on impact of drugs on the border

BY ANOUSHKA VALODYA
The Prospector

UTEP and the University of California at San Diego will form a partnership in a binational scholarship program to research drug-related issues, including negative health effects and social issues related to drug trafficking and abuse in Mexico.

"This program is not focusing on drug-related violence. It's trying to take a larger perspective on the drug problem," said John Wiebe, associate professor in psychology. "[El Paso] is very much about supply reduction and confiscating drugs and damaging supply networks with criminal justice means. That's necessary, but we don't do as good a job in drug demand and harm reduction."

The Training, Internships, Exchanges, and Scholarships (TIES2) Program develops "a binational training program on approaches to reduce drug abuse and related harms ... in the social and medical sciences," according to the University of California at San Diego's School of Medicine website.

"This scholarship is an especially good opportunity for students who live in Mexico and are invested in working to change the situation there," Wiebe said.

The scholarship, which covers tuition for the TIES2 program, offers \$1,200 for 10 post-graduate students per year. Karla Torres, director of International Training Programs at UC San Diego, said the program involves 120 hours, half of which are taught

see **BORDER** on page 4


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Student Publications

TIPA Awards

On April 3, the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association, the oldest collegiate press association in the nation, awarded students from The Prospector and Minero Magazine, 26 awards for their work in 2010. The Prospector placed second overall in the previously published newspaper competition. Statewide contests are held in general magazine, radio, television, online, two divisions of yearbook, literary magazine and six divisions of newspaper. For the individual overall excellence awards, the categories were Reporter of the Year, Designer of the Year, Editor of the Year and Photojournalist of the Year.

UTEP senior print media major Justin Monarez was named Division 1 Reporter of the Year.

Newspaper - Division 2

- Special Edition – 1st place – Sex & Love issue – Prospector Staff
- Sports Page Design – 1st place – Battle of I-10 – Sarah Burchett, Salvador Guerrero
- Illustration – 1st place – News Flash – Yasmin Marquez
- Sports Feature Story – 1st place – Culpepper prepares – David Acosta
- News Story – 2nd place – Stray Bullet – Aaron Martinez
- Feature Page Design – 2nd place – Music Sizzles – Sergio Ramirez
- Page One Design – 2nd place – Sept. 21 – Sarah Burchett, Aaron Martinez
- Information Graphic – 2nd place – Around the World – Sarah Burchett
- Sports Action Photo – 2nd place – Miners Win – Robert Corral
- Feature Page Design – 3rd place – Warped Tour – Sergio Ramirez
- General Column – 3rd place – Are we ready? – Vanessa Juarez
- Editorial - Honorable Mention – Two more Miners - Prospector staff

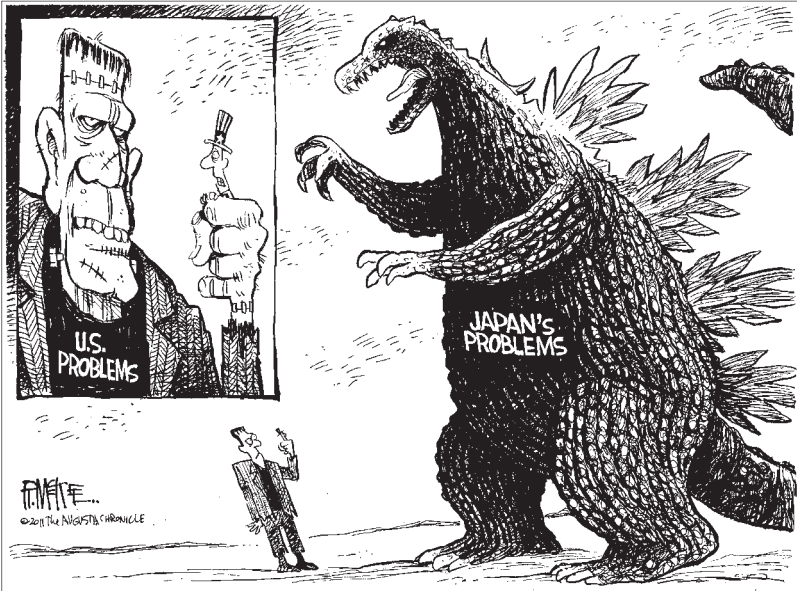
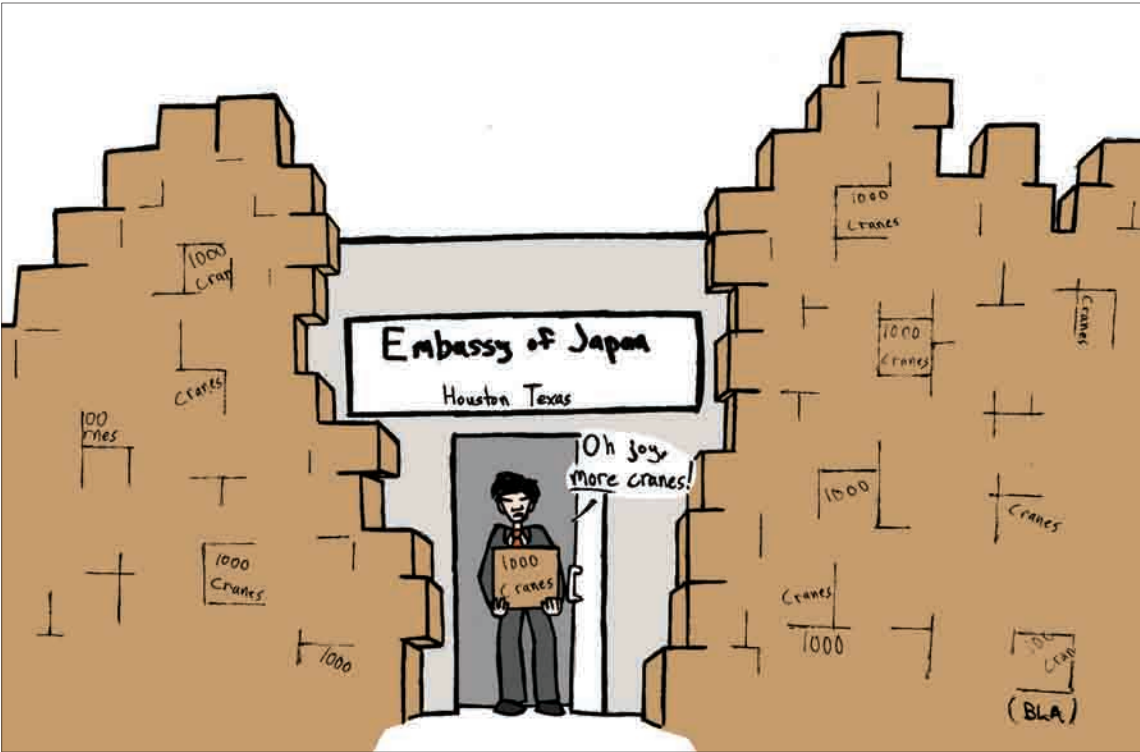
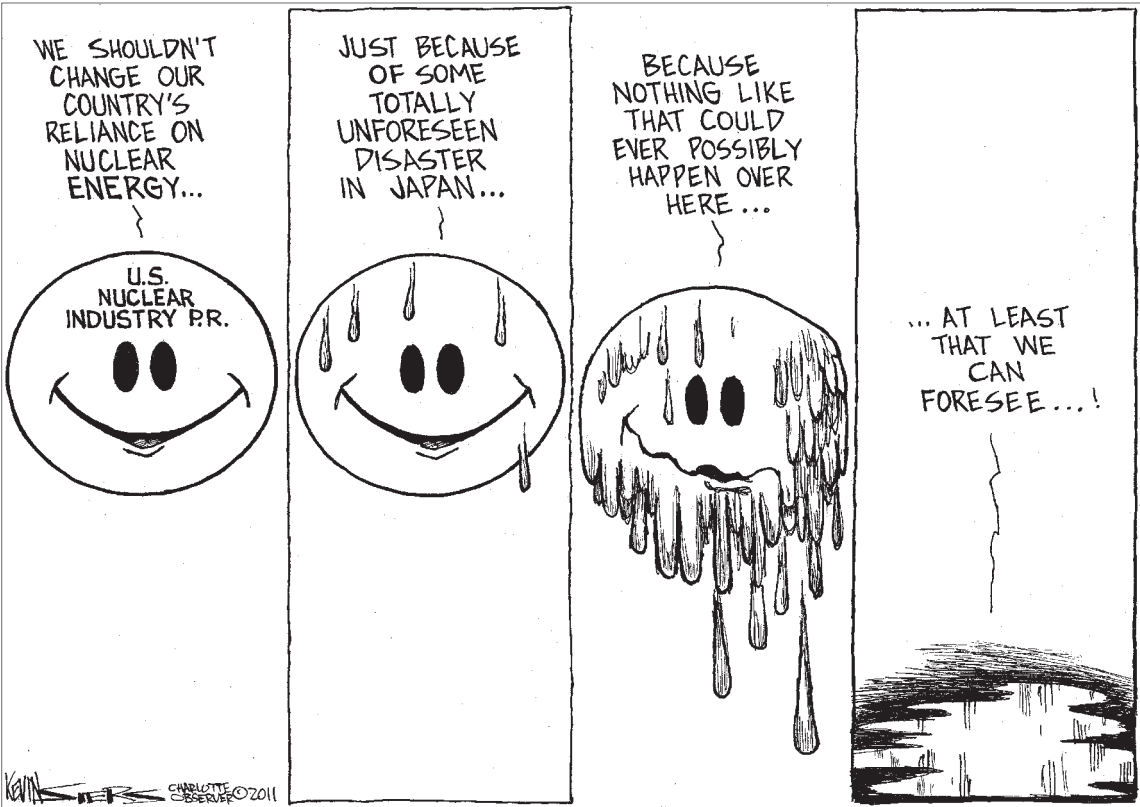
- Feature Story – Honorable Mention – Rock Duo – Justin Monarez
- In-Depth Reporting – Honorable Mention – Borderland Research – Aaron Martinez
- News Photo – Honorable Mention – UTEP Mourning – Salvador Guerrero
- Photo Illustration – Honorable Mention – In the shadows – Robert Corral
- Single Subject Presentation – Honorable Mention - Homecoming – Sarah Burchett, Salvador Guerrero
- Spanish Writing - Honorable Mention - Protestan – Avelyn Murrillo

Online

- Best Audio Slideshow – 2nd place - Immigration Rally – Robert Corral
- Best Breaking News Package – 3rd place – Obama Visits - Herman Rojas, Aaron Martinez, Nicole Chavez, Robert Corral
- Best Video Package – Honorable Mention – Slain students – Herman Rojas, Nicole Chavez, Beatriz Casteñeda, Salvador Guerrero, Esteban Marquez
- Best Breaking News Video – Honorable Mention – Stray Bullet – Herman Rojas, Aaron Martinez

General Magazine

- Illustration – 1st place – The Golden Hour – Yasmin Marquez
- Feature Story – 3rd place – Off the Ropes – Herman Rojas
- Column/Essay – Honorable Mention – I am a gamer – Jesus Martinez
- Overall Design – Honorable Mention – Minero Staff
- Overall Excellence – Honorable Mention – Minero Staff



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the prospector

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THE
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Monday, April 25-
Thursday, April 28
Clothesline Project
8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Geology lawn

Wednesday, April 27
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10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Union Plaza

Thursday, April 28
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Special to The Prospector

Take Back the Night will be the last event at UTEP to raise awareness about sexual assault.

ASSAULT from page 1

campus in 2007. There were no reports of any sexual assault in 2008 or 2009.

Part of the events will include a National Sexual Assault Awareness Month fair, which will include the Sexual Trauma and Assault Trauma Response Services (STARS), the Center Against Family Violence, and the yearly tradition of 15 Points of Light to Take Back The Night.

“There will be a clothes line with T-shirts out that will be written on with messages speaking for someone who’s been in a domestic violence situation, or someone that has passed away,” said Ambar Calvillo, Women’s Resource Center intern and senior organizational and corporate communication major.

The clothes line project will take place April 25-28 at the Geology Lawn where people can see messages dedicated to those affected. Anyone can write messages or hang their own T-shirt there.

The Women’s Health Initiative and a new organization called Men Creating Change will stage a play from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 14 at the Union Cinema. Voices of Men will address sexual assault and consent, dating violence and domestic violence, objectification and sexual harassment. Admission is free. At the play, Ben Atherton-Zeman will perform and speak to the audience about these issues.

Take Back The Night will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. April 28 at the Geology Lawn.

“This year we have a speaker, that was the offender in a domestic violence case and this is the first time we have someone like this speak to us,” Calvillo said.

Students, faculty and general public are invited to attend. The admission is free. Domestic violence survivors who will share their personal stories during the event.

“It’s a very delicate and important issue, it is a healing moment to end the month with this event,” said Ryan Garcia, Women’s Health Initiative grant intern and sophomore English and American literature major.

Terrell encourages students that if they know somebody that has been in any kind of assault situation to offer them help.

“Part of recovering from assault is regaining your power and that’s why Take Back The Night is so important,” Terrell said. “It’s about taking back our power to have some control over our personal lives and not have to live in fear.”

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

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BORDER from page 1

in a classroom on Saturdays and the other half taught in the field. Students will be required to go to Mexico for the program.

“The best approach to good health is one that is multidisciplinary,” Torres said. “This means that the steps toward a treatment, cure or solving a problem come from a number of different perspectives, such as the physi-

cal, mental and social well-being of each individual.”

Since TIES2 involves the border regions of San Diego-Tijuana and El Paso-Juárez, lecturers will be able to reach out to multiple classrooms in Mexico and the U.S. through distance learning technology.

Upon completion, students will receive a Binational U.S.-Mexico Certificate On Drug Addiction and Related Harms.

Scholarship applicants must have Mexican citizenship, be enrolled in a master’s program in a U.S. or foreign institution, and plan on doing work in Mexico that focuses on the prevention, treatment or reduction of harms in drug abuse.

Mary Cuadrado, associate professor and director of the Hispanic Addictions Studies Program at UTEP, will be lecturing on what she called, “the comparison of the U.S. and Mexican approach to the problem of drug use.”

According to Cuadrado, this is a very important and complicated issue.

“It presents the importance of the complexities of drug use not as a function of the intrinsic characteristics of the substance,” she said. “But by the context in which the substance is used, such as medicinal, religious, or recreational and the reaction, like acceptance, tolerance, or rejection.”

Lorena Tabares, graduate student in Latin American and Border Studies, said in order to fix Mexico’s drug problem, lawmakers also need to step in.

“It is necessary to create and implement strong and effective laws whose application can really sanction those who violate them by trafficking drugs,” Tabares said.

Louis Brown, assistant professor at the University of Texas School of Public Health, will lecture on community empowerment.

“Empowering community members to fight drug abuse taps a vast underutilized resource,” Brown said. “When organized, community members have the power to get effective drug prevention policies working in their communities.”

The original TIES program, which started in 2010, strived to specifically combat HIV/AIDS, according to the School of Medicine website of UC San Diego.

TIES2, scheduled to expire in 2015, comes from the Merida Initiative from the U.S. State Department. It is funded by the United States Agency International Development and Higher Education for Development organization through UC San Diego.

“I think if there’s a difference to be made, it’s going to take a lot of people and a lot of programs, and this is a piece of that,” Wiebe said. “I’m excited about it.”

The scholarship is ongoing and renewable for up to two years. Wiebe said that he and his associates are in the process of evaluating applications, which will take a few weeks.

However, TIES2 is not limited to scholarship winners. Tuition costs \$100 for the certification. For more information, contact Torres at TIES2@ucsd.edu.

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GREG CASTILLO / The Prospector



ESTEBAN MARQUEZ / The Prospector



DIANA AMARO / The Prospector

(Left) Students went barefoot April 5 during the Tom's national event "One Day Without Shoes," to raise awareness about impoverished children, who go barefoot everyday. (Center, Right and Top Right) Fraternities, sororities, student organizations, the Red Cross and the Geology Department sold baked goods to raise money for the Japan relief effort and made paper cranes to send to the country in a show of support. The combined student organizations, excluding the Red Cross, raised \$641.01 during the 1,000 Cranes for Japan event April 6.



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Review

Take the battle to the states in 'Homefront'

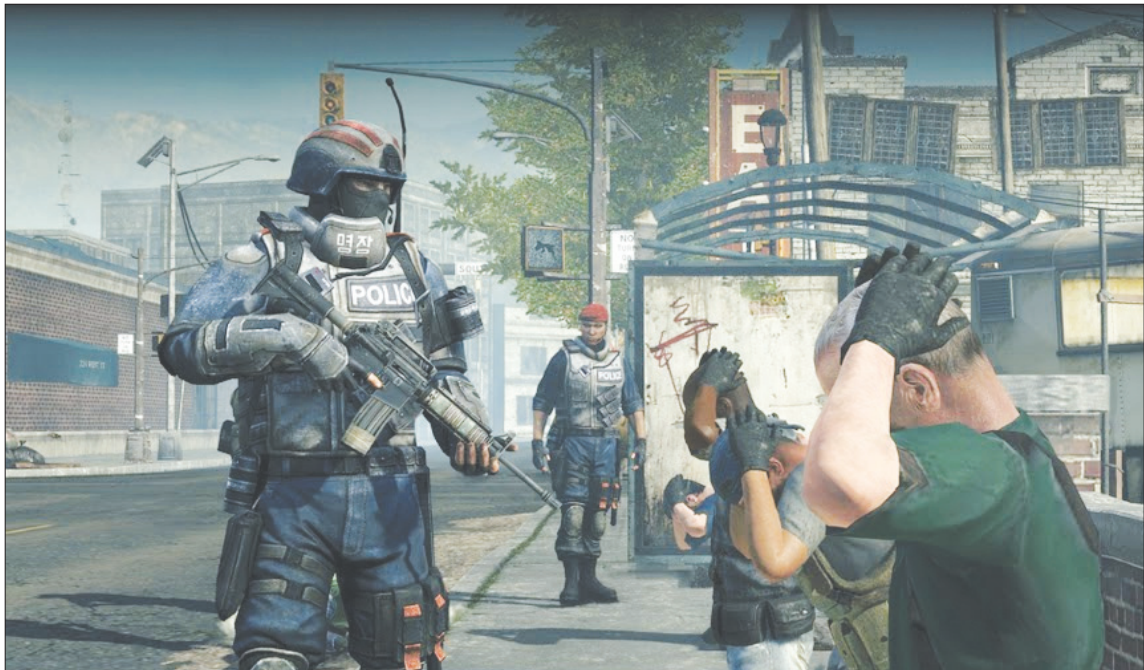
BY JESUS C. MARTINEZ
The Prospector

When North and South Korea united in 2013, Kim Jong-un led the Greater Korean Republic towards global domination with their take-over of Japan in 2018 and destruction of the United States. In 2025, an electromagnetic pulse emitted by a Korean satellite blacked out all electrical devices in the U.S., which made it easy for The Korean People's Army to seize Hawaii and San Francisco. The year is 2027 and with the KPA patrolling most of the U.S., a small beacon of hope lies with the American Resistance.

This sets the premise behind "Homefront," a military, first-person shooter for the Xbox 360, Playstation 3 and PC. However, its unique and engaging plot is robbed by cheap A.I., forgettable characters, linear gameplay and blessed with a unique twist to traditional multiplayer.

The campaign consists of six missions and starts players off in loaded into a bus by the KPA. Here, players see the destruction of their former free world, and they witness first hand how the last 20 years affected their country. A resistance group T-bones the bus, sets you free, and recruits you to their cause. You spend the rest of the game following the resistance and their plans to get their country back.

Unfortunately, that's as far as the story goes. You don't spend any time



Special to The Prospector

'Homefront' was released March 15 and is currently available for the Xbox 360, Playstation 3 and PC.

learning about their characters and they remain flat and one-dimensional. When one of them dies, the music makes it seem like a big event, but you literally just put one foot over the other and continue on your linear missions.

Overall, the single player campaign is underwhelming and forgettable, but it serves as a precursor for the multiplayer. There is nothing special when it comes to online modes. You

have your standard deathmatch and territory modes, and a unique feature that creates a marker on certain players that have the most kills in certain game modes. That's it. "Homefront's" multiplayer aspect is just as simple as its campaign, which is why most reviewers gave this game such a low score. On the other hand, that in no way should keep anyone from giving this game a shot because of something unique that makes this game worth it.

Players are rewarded battle points with each action, such as kills, assists and spotting enemies. These points may be used to purchase special equipment that may be customized and unlocked as players progress. For example, after a few kills, a player can purchase an aerial drone to spot enemies or shoot small missiles. They can also purchase air strikes, tanks, humvees and helicopters.

What makes battle points such a big deal is that it completely levels the playing field. You are only able to purchase equipment if you are a good enough player and conserve enough battle points. In other games, people make a rush for a vehicle and sometimes kill their own teammates for beating them to it. This almost always ruins the experience. In some cases, a lot of players spawn with rockets and start blowing everything sky-high. These elements are controlled with "Homefront" and it makes for a rewarding experience, that is to say when the servers are working properly.

Graphically, the game stays up to par with its competition, and the ability to have firefights in the suburbs is interesting to say the least. However, the guns, bullets and explosions don't sound as realistic as "Battlefield Bad Company 2." The multiplayer is the breadwinner of the game, and it stands on its own enough to warrant a rental, at least. If THQ adds more online modes via updates, "Homefront's" multiplayer would be a force to recon with.

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

what: 'Homefront'

miner picks: 3 out of 5

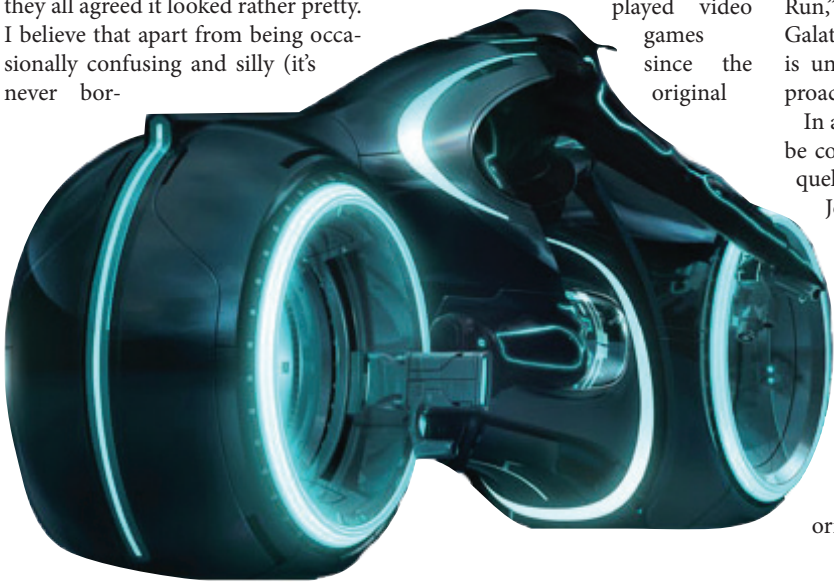
TTTTT

Review

'Tron: Legacy' honors the original and geeks

BY MATTHEW MUNDEN
The Prospector

Upon its theatrical release four and a half months ago, "Tron: Legacy" got maligned by many critics for being boring, confusing, and silly. However, they all agreed it looked rather pretty. I believe that apart from being occasionally confusing and silly (it's never bor-



ing), the sequel is still an enjoyable film.

The biggest complaint that seemed to run through most critiques of the film is that it resembled a video game. However, this complaint came from people that didn't seem to have played video games since the original

"Doom." Yes, "Tron: Legacy" sort of makes its rules up as it goes along and the movie has only two objectives for its main character, Sam Flynn. One: find Dad. Two: RUN! However, the film has more in common with films like "The Last Starfighter," "Logan's Run," and the original "Battlestar Galatica" than video games. The film is unapologetically dorky in its approach to science fiction.

In a lot of ways, "Tron: Legacy" can be compared to the "Star Wars" prequels and the most recent "Indiana Jones" film. All the movie series had a considerable amount of time between the newer installments and all were able to disappoint fans on some level. However, I don't feel "Legacy" is the same type of blunder that "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" was.

Part of this has to do with the original "Tron" being sort of bad. see **TRON** on page 8



Special to The Prospector

'Tron: Legacy' is now available on DVD and Blu-ray. This sequel to the 1982 film 'Tron' made its debut December 17, 2010.

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Review

'Taxi Driver' remains frightening 35 years later

BY MATTHEW MUNDEN

The Prospector

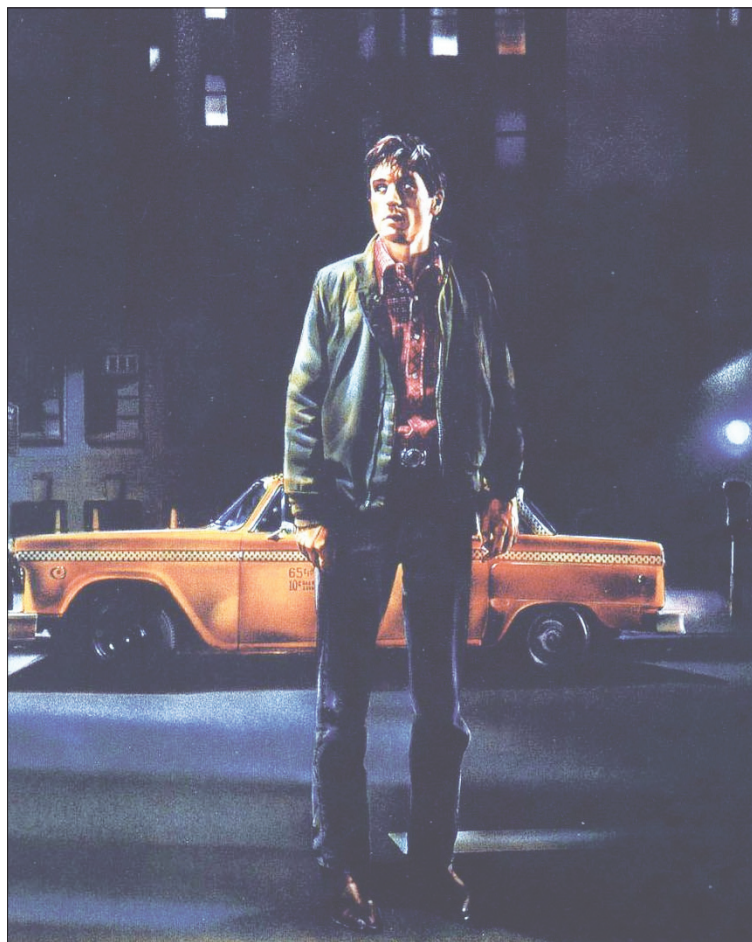
"Taxi Driver," not "Raging Bull," "Goodfellas" or "The Departed," is, and probably will remain, Martin Scorsese's best film.

It's not just because of Robert De Niro's performance as Travis Bickle or the haunting conclusion; it is because this movie has stayed relevant for 35 years since its debut, which is probably why it was recently rereleased on Blu-ray.

Bickle's feelings of isolation are universal feelings that most experience at one point in their lives. However, most deal with it better than he does. His delusions of grandeur are also universal feelings, yet most don't get lost in them.

Paul Schrader's script is widely known to be inspired by John Ford's "The Searchers." In the 1956 film, John Wayne plays an aging Civil War veteran obsessed with rescuing his niece from a group of Native Americans. The only problem is that the young woman might not need to be rescued. Still, the thought of her with Native American drives him to go after her. When he finds her, she says that she wishes to remain with the natives, so the veteran changes his mind and plans to kill the girl. Things work out in the end—for the veteran at least. He doesn't kill his niece and is able to take her home. Happy ending.

In "Taxi Driver," Travis obsesses over saving Iris (Jodie Foster), a young 12-year-old prostitute. Her "kidnapper" is a pimp named Sport (Harvey Keitel). So, Travis kills those using the girl in a scene of such



Special to The Prospector

'Taxi Driver,' starring Robert De Niro, celebrates its 35th anniversary with a re-release in high definition on Blu-ray. Despite its age, the film still proves to be just as frightening as it was when it was first released. For those that are interested in a good scare, this is a must see.

shocking violence that you cannot believe what you are witnessing. He is sent a letter from the girl's parents telling him, "thank you," but by the time this note comes, you question

whether you're still in the real world or just Travis' reality.

Travis also obsesses over a young woman named Betsy (Cybill Shepherd), a campaign worker for a

presidential hopeful, Charles Palatine. Travis thinks that Palatine is corrupting her and plots his death as well. In the film, there is a moment at a political rally when Travis smiles in a strange way that resembles photos of Arthur Bremer just before he shot George Wallace, the Democratic presidential candidate in 1972.

Today when I watched that scene, all I could think about is the picture of Jared Lee Loughner after he was taken into police custody.

Scorsese said that the most important shot in the whole film is one that has Travis on a payphone while a girl is turning him down. The camera moves to the right and looks down a long hallway, not allowing the audience to watch Travis feel the pain of rejection. Later, when he goes on a rampage, the camera shows the entire bloody catastrophe. Almost like the film is just daring you to look away like it did once.

In the end, I believe that "Taxi Driver" and "The Searchers" are both trying to depict what justified genocide in the heroes' minds. In "The Searchers," it was racism. In "Taxi Driver," it was loneliness. The message of both is that an alienated man, unable to create normal relationships, loses himself and assigns himself to rescue someone from a life that he cannot understand. The final image of "The Searchers" is John Wayne standing in a doorway with the entire western frontier behind him. The final of image of "Taxi Driver" is him driving a taxi with Betsy in the backseat. He sees her in the mirror, but doesn't turn around.

If only both men could turn around and see what lies behind them.

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

TRON from page 7

The original had amazing technology and Jeff Bridges going for it. The story was beyond silly. The sequel also has amazing tech and Jeff Bridges is still in it (although, he seemed to be playing the Dude, from "The Big Lebowski," trapped in a computer...not that I'm complaining about that). But the sequel also has a pretty competent story, even though it occasionally expects the audience to remember more about the original than any normal person should be able, i.e. those star shapes that both Kevin and CLU pick up for three seconds are actually kind of important to the series.

On a high definition television, "Tron: Legacy" looks gorgeous. The video occasionally expands from 2.35:1 to 1.78:1 to fill the screen better during some scenes on the grid. Like "The Dark Knight," the disc contains the IMAX edition of the film and, while I would have wished that the entire film could have been shot using the IMAX specific film (I dislike black bars on my TV), it's a nice inclusion.

In 7.1 surround sound, the score by Daft Punk is absolutely amazing. The pairing of Daft Punk to the "Tron" series is as amazing as when Jonny Greenwood wrote the score to "There Will Be Blood." Daft Punk writes a score that honors the score by Journey from the original, while also effectively making it fit in with the rest of their musical catalogue.

The Blu-ray release of "Tron: Legacy" is an outstanding bit of geek merchandising. The highest priced edition of the film comes in a light up case that resembles the life discs from the film series, has "Tron: Legacy" in 3-D and 2-D on Blu-ray and a standard definition of the film comes on DVD and a digital copy disc for portable media players. Also, in the case is a Blu-ray edition of the original "Tron," re-mastered for high definition. The original does not hold up well, but to understand the slightly convoluted story of the sequel it is still required viewing.

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

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Football

Hitting drills erupt spring practice

BY SAL GUERRERO AND
WILLIAM VEGA
The Prospector

The third day of UTEP spring football began with a bang—literally—with the team starting practice with an old fashion Oklahoma hitting drill. “It was a great start. I think the guys had fun particularly at the beginning of the practice,” head coach Mike Price said.

At the start of practice, the coaches introduced a new motivational tool in the form of blaring music from a set of speakers strategically placed on the sidelines. The players hooped and hollered with the change in the music, adding fervor to an otherwise routine stretching session.

“It’s a different feeling but I like it. It’ll help us get pumped up more for pre-game and pre-practice and anything like that,” Banyard said. “It’s a different vibe and that’s what we’re trying to get this year. We’re going to try and do that again. We like that.”

Others were not as in tune with the type of music blasting from the speakers. Sophomore defensive lineman Marcus Bagley jokingly said he wanted to see a bit more diversity with the selection.

“The music was all right, but I’m from Dallas so that wasn’t my type of music. It was pretty good though,” Bagley said. “It lightened up the mood a little bit so they should bring it out, but a little more hip-hop.”

Although the music stopped right after warm-ups, the energy peaked with the anticipation of the first hitting drill of the spring. Price circled his team around him and used his words as a catalyst, inciting uproar before they began hitting drills.

“The goal line drill is always good before practice. It gets everybody



SAL GUERRERO / The Prospector

The UTEP football started their third day of practice with hitting drills. The Miners are practicing three times a week at Glory Field.

pumped up and hyped up,” Banyard said. “It brings out the toughness in everybody.”

The “GATA” drill, as it’s more commonly known on the team, separates those who can tackle from those who can’t Price said. Converted outside linebacker Michael Pickett showed his enthusiasm for the controlled violence of the drill.

see HITTING on page 12

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Softball

Troupe returns for Houston game

BY WILLIAM VEGA
The Prospector

Hoping to end another losing streak, UTEP will get a key player back from injury when they face a major test in Houston in a three-

game series April 9-10 at the Helen of Troy Softball Complex.
Junior catcher Chelsea Troupe, the Conference-USA leader in batting average, homeruns and RBIs, will return to the diamond after missing her first game of the season April 4 in

a 3-1 loss against Jacksonville State. Troupe broke her nose in warm-ups after their third loss to UAB the day before, but said she will be back for their next series April 9.
UTEP has now lost seven consecutive C-USA games and four overall.

The Miners went 0-4 in Alabama when they were swept by UAB in three games in Birmingham April 2-3. They then fell to Jacksonville State in Jacksonville. UTEP was able to pick up just one hit the entire contest without Troupe in the lineup.
"It is definitely important to get back to winning. Everyone wants to win. It's just a matter of time for us to

come together as one. Bringing both offense and defense together," Troupe said. "I think in order for us to get back in rhythm we need to become more familiar with our swings and pitching styles we will face. Putting in the extra effort at the field is really important too."

see **TROUPE** on page 12

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DIANA AMARO / The Prospector

Utility player Kayla Oranger attempts to hit a pitch against Memphis at the Helen of Troy Softball Complex.

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

Answers to 4-5-11

BRAIN ZONE

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Entreaty
5 Reverberate
9 Hope or Newhart
12 Skirt edges
13 Christmas refrain
14 Rhyming tribute
15 Instrument panel
17 Intention
18 Group of actors
19 Greene of "Bonanza"
21 City-related
24 "Leave It to Beaver" dad
25 Any moment now
26 Square dances
30 Greek vowel
31 Journal
32 "That feels so good"
33 Rump
35 Hodgepodge
36 Uses a shovel
37 Bracelet location, maybe
38 Throng
40 Timbuktu's country
42 Blood-group letters
43 Go downhill,

DOWN

1 Third degree?
2 Meadow Type
3 squares
4 Garbage receptacle
5 Eve's grandson
6 Layer of
7 That girl
8 Wife or mother, slangily
9 "Monopoly" property
10 Valhalla VIP
11 Everly Brothers' "Let It -"
16 Prohibit
20 Acapulco gold
21 Secondhand
22 Memory method
23 Staff meeting site
24 Existed
26 Hastens
27 Rowing need
28 Hammer's target
29 Oxford, e.g.
31 Literary condensations
34 Disencumber
35 Toppers for Whoppers
37 Priestly garment
38 Suspend
39 Do as you're told
40 "- Lisa"
41 Vacationing
44 Wacko
45 Have a bug
46 Nipper's co.
47 Morning moisture

Football

From the hardwood to the grass field

BY WILLIAM VEGA
The Prospector

Spring practice is a time for new and returning football players to get familiar and reacquainted with UTEP football, but for former basketball player Wayne Portalatin, it's an opportunity to continue playing Division 1 athletics.

"It's a lot more intense with football than basketball," Portalatin said. "That's the one transition that I have to work on by getting my intensity up every day. It's definitely exciting."

Portalatin, a 6-foot 8-inch 290-pound senior, is getting his shot at the gridiron as he tries out for the 2011 UTEP football squad with one year of eligibility remaining. Portalatin, recently finished his college basketball career playing all four seasons with the Miners.

"In basketball, his height was an advantage so he always wanted to play as tall as he could," defensive coordinator Andre Patterson said. "In football, being a defensive lineman, you've got to play with your pad level down because if you don't, you're going to have a big 300 pounder hitting you in a chest."

After two practices, Portalatin has shown he can make the team as the tallest Miner on the roster, but lacks some of the fundamentals and techniques. He does not have much of a football background as he only played sparingly his sophomore year in high school.

"He's a big target so he's a bit easier to block, he's got to work on his stance and getting on the ball," head coach Mike Price said after practice March 31. "His conditioning was good. It's a different kind of conditioning so I know he will be sore tomorrow."

Portalatin has shown improvement from day one getting by his opposing offensive lineman and showing intelligence on the field.

"In two days, the thing I've been most impressed with is that once everybody started moving he didn't become a deer in headlights," Patterson said. "When all the guys started moving all over the place he tried to go where he was supposed to go."

During both practices Portalatin was near the end of every line watching each drill and taking advice from his experienced teammates and coaches.

"When the coaches are not working with you that means you're not going to be one of the better players," Portalatin said. "When they are that means you have talent and you'll go somewhere with it. I'm excited. Every little bit of help I can get I'm looking for."

Portalatin tries to learn on his own at times. He would wait and participate with the last string in certain drills to see which gap he should accelerate at or how he should attack his opposing linemen.

Portalatin has shown that he is fully dedicated to making the team, staying long after practice is over and his fellow defensive players have already left the practice field. While working overtime, Portalatin continues to improve on his defensive stances by getting his tall frame crouched low and ready to pounce. Portalatin also needs to work on his timing when the ball is hiked which will come with more speed.

Portalatin did hit one high note with his teammates during his second day of practice April 2. While battling against the offensive line, Portalatin showed his hard work had paid off when he bulldozed his opponent and got to the ball that brought forth a roar from his teammates on both sides of the ball.

Portalatin will have 12 more spring practices to show that he means business and will end his campaign for a spot on the roster April 30 at the spring game. Portalatin's third practice on April 5 will prove to be a real test for the 290-pound frame when the team puts on pads for the first time this year.

"All my teammates told me it's going to be all the way turned up on Tuesday. It's the next step for me," Portalatin said. "We went from no helmet to the helmet and on Tuesday I'm going to have the helmet and pads. Now I'm going to see what football is all about."

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



SAL GUERRERO/ The Prospector

Former center on the basketball team Wayne Portalatin is trying out for the football team this spring in hopes of extending his athletic career as a Miner.

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HITTING from page 9

Originally a defensive back, Pickett converted into linebacker during the offseason after putting on over 20 pounds of muscle. He sparked the defensive unit when he tackled senior running back Vernon Frazier to the sidelines, rabble-rousing his fellow players.

"I really needed that. I wanted to show people that I'm a big hitter here so it was really fun," Pickett said. "I kind of proved a lot to people because they wanted to see me out there as a linebacker. I feel pretty good."

The drill started off poorly for the defensive side of the ball when they were unable to stop the offense during a simulated goal line stance. The offensive line shot off the ball, opening holes for backs Banyard and Frazier to make the drill an effortless battle—that was until Pickett put a stop to the running.

"We started off a bit slow. Offense came with it all at the beginning but then we got it back together," Bagley said. "Pickett did really well running down hill every time. We finally started to hit the running backs and finally got to beat our man in front of us."

Sal Guerrero and William Vega may be reached at prosepector@utep.edu.



SAL GUERRERO / The Prospect

Red shirt freshman linebacker Michael Pickett tackles senior running back Joe Banyard April 5 at Glory Field.

TROUPE from page 10

The Cougars have shown promise since suffering their own sweep at the hands of UAB March 12-13. Houston has now won eight of their last nine conference games and have clawed their way back into a tie for third place. Once a top-25 team, the Cougars have become a consistently balanced team on both sides of the ball.

At the plate, Houston has proven to be one of the best in the league. The Cougars place in the top-four in batting average, homeruns and runs scored. Consistent batting has become a niche for Houston as nine of their batters have a batting average above .200. Of those, seven have hit at least 10 RBIs this season and five have at least four homeruns. Junior catcher Melissa Gregson leads her team with 25 RBIs and 10 homeruns which is second to Troupe in both categories.

From the mound, the Cougars have been pitching at a top level. Houston has the second best team ERA in C-USA and players are giving up the fewest hits in the league. Both starting pitchers for Houston have an ERA under 1.70 and have combined for 26 complete games. Senior Amanda Crabtree has struck out a league-leading 230 batters in 24 appearances. Most impressively, with an ERA of

"It is definitely important to get back to winning. Everyone wants to win. It's just a matter of time for us to come together as one."

- Chelsea Troupe, catcher

1.10, Crabtree has given up only three doubles all season, a statistic UTEP has thrived off of this year, ranking in the top 10 in the nation.

UTEP showed they can stick with some of the best pitching teams in the nation when they put the eighth best team ERA squad, UAB, on the ropes April 2. The Miners blew leads in both contests that day and even put up four runs during the second game. Freshman pitcher Laura Ramos was one bright spot for UTEP going the complete game in a 3-1 loss April 2 and getting the lone RBI for the Miners in an 11-4 setback in game two. Ramos hopes an overall team effort will eventually translate into wins for UTEP in the final stretch.

"I thought I hit fairly well, not as good as I feel like I should have done, but I felt like I did help the team as much as I could this weekend," Ramos said. "I think coming together and putting everything together is going to be the key to our success this year. We have great talent and just need to focus on working as a team to reach our ultimate goal, which is to win games."

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

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