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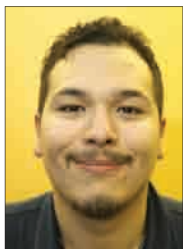
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Column

A generation’s chance to celebrate

BY AARON MARTINEZ
The Prospector



As President Barack Obama announced to the nation the death of the most-wanted terrorist in the world, hundreds of people, mostly college students, gathered to celebrate outside the White House.

The military operation that killed Osama bin Laden was not only a major milestone in the ongoing War on Terror, but for a generation of young adults, who have grown up only knowing a world that has been under constant threat, this event has given us a sense of relief, however temporary it may be.

The one moment in our nation’s history that has paralleled the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon was the vicious attack by the Japanese military December 7, 1941 at the U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor. Both attacks left the nation shocked and the U.S. declared war within days after them.

This generation of students, who are 25 and under, are too young to really remember the Gulf War, so the events of Sept. 11 were our first glimpse of war. Many of us who are now in college, were in middle school or the first years of high school when the attack on our country happened. The events left, without a doubt, a hor-

rible and unforgettable impression. Now, almost a decade later, many of the friends that we knew since middle and high school are serving our country in Afghanistan and Iraq. For the better parts of our lives, we have experienced increased security at airports and border entries and many of our colleagues have died fighting against terrorists like bin Laden.

The hundreds of college students that celebrated outside the White House and near ground zero, where the World Trade Center used to stand, is not surprising. Unlike the generation that lived through World War II, my generation has yet to see a victory. The closest we have come to witnessing any retribution for the vicious attack against our country was on May 1, when President Obama announced live from the East Room of the White House that we had finally captured and killed bin Laden.

Many Americans have come under criticism for their reactions to the news of his death. Still, like the events that led to the end of World War II, today’s celebration may prove to be bittersweet.

As the U.S. dropped atomic bombs over Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan, Americans and people around the world celebrated. They did not celebrate the death and destruction caused by the bombing; they were celebrating the coming end of the four-year long war. After the two devastating bombings, Japan soon surrendered due to fear of the U.S. continuing these attacks. The use of

the atomic bombs was widely criticized and it even brought mixed emotions to Americans since it resulted in the deaths of thousands of innocent people.

The emotions that Americans went through after the atomic bombings of Japan and now the death of Osama bin Laden, are hard to describe to those that were detached from the two attacks on our country. As former President Harry S. Truman, who ordered the bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan, said: “When you have to deal with a beast, you have to treat him as a beast. It is most regrettable, but nevertheless true.”

The images of the Sept. 11 attacks are haunting memories for us all, but what the victims’ families went through as they dealt with the death of their loved ones is even more tragic. As President Obama said in his speech: “And yet, we know that the worst images are those that were unseen to the world—the empty seat at the dinner table, children who were forced to grow up without their mothers or their fathers, parents who would never know the feeling of their child’s embrace. Nearly 3,000 citizens were taken from us, leaving a gaping hole in our hearts.”

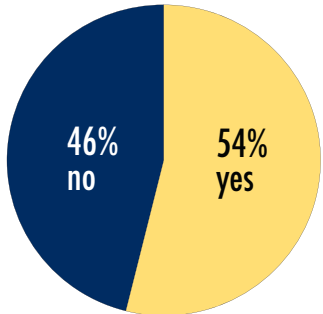
While it may seem to some that it is inhumane and cruel to celebrate a person’s death, the world now seems a little bit safer and some justice has been served.

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

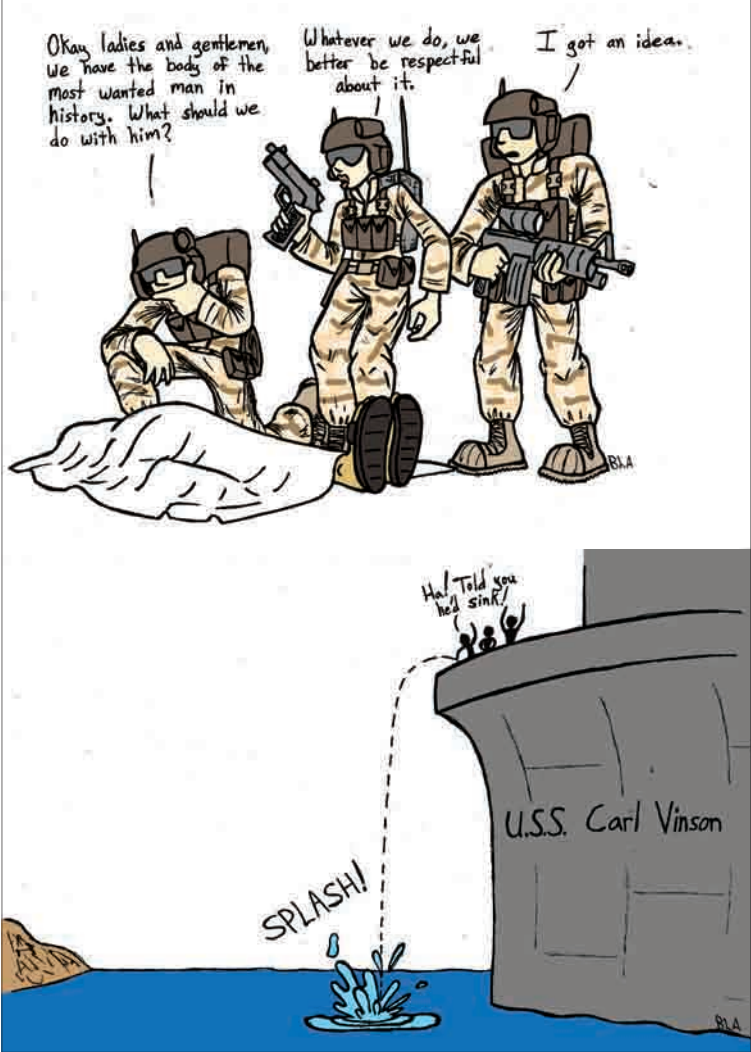
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the prospector

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Economy

Graduates anxious over job market



DANIEL ROSAS / The Prospector

UTEP students graduating this May enter tough national job market.

BY ANOUSHKA VALODYA

The Prospector

Instead of exams and assignments, an upcoming preoccupation for graduating students is the prospect of finding a job. In a slumping national economy and with El Paso's unemployment rate standing at 10 percent, according to the U.S. Dept. of Labor Bureau, job seekers are getting worried.

"It's been really tough because employers don't want to interview me until I have a degree," said Emmanuel Ortega, senior business major.

Ortega said that fortunately he already has a full-time job to support his family as he attends classes part-time. But Ortega said he's still not satisfied

and has been trying to find another line of work for a year.

"I'm an IT technician, an area that is outside of my major, but it pays the bills," Ortega said.

Ortega said he is looking for a position in sales or logistics and is willing to leave El Paso for that kind of job.

Besides the availability of jobs, another issue is the pay. According to a survey the University Career Center conducted last fall on nearly 200 students, the average salary for a bachelor's graduate was nearly \$45 thousand and the average for a master's graduate was nearly \$57 thousand. These salaries were not all based in El Paso, though.

George Barton, director of the University Career Center, said he is aggravated over the tendency of small salaries in El Paso.

"I asked this question to an employer, 'are you prepared to pay what these people are worth?' Because sometimes they think, 'it's El Paso with a low cost of living, so we don't have to pay much.' So they think can low ball people and that's not good," Barton said.

Barton said that El Paso is growing with opportunities, though, especially from Fort Bliss and large corporations like Hewlett-Packard coming to El Paso.

But he added that it's a good idea to go where the jobs and money are, even if it means leaving El Paso.

"You have to be paid what you're worth. You put in all your time and money into your education," he said.

"Say you're an engineer and here they want to pay you \$30 thousand, but if you go somewhere else you can make \$60 to \$70 thousand. Well, that's absurd."

Samia Grimida, an environmental science engineering doctoral, said that she's looking for a teaching assistant job that will complement her studies. She's been using the Career Center for a few weeks and has applied to four or five places.

"It's difficult to find a job here [in El Paso]," she said. "I've heard citizens say it takes like four or five months to find a job."

Barton said it's not easy to look for work and can be discouraging if not done right.

"Keep in mind that finding a job can be a full-time job. Strategically spend some time each day to do something...And you can't just wait for the phone to ring. You have to hustle."

- George Barton, director of University Career Center

"Keep in mind that finding a job can be a full-time job," Barton said. "Strategically spend some time each day to do something. Don't slam-dunk a letter-writing campaign in the next two days and wait for responses. And you can't just wait for the phone to ring. You have to hustle."

The Career Center at the Union West building offers many services, such as the online Job Mine that connects students with employers, interview and résumé writing techniques and even assistance in applying to graduate school.

"Take advantage of these kinds of services," Barton said. "These services outside of UTEP can cost a lot of money, and it's been shown that students who are more inclined to use the career centers at their school are more inclined to find opportunities."

Charlotte Reyes, nursing sophomore, said that she's been looking for a part-time tutoring position since January, but started using services offered at the University Career Center and is optimistic.

"It's been frustrating because I've been applying everywhere [outside of

Job Mine] and I've gotten false hope from employers," Reyes said. "I've spoken to a lot of people who said they used Job Mine and within the same week they submitted their resume, they got a call back from several employers."

Reyes offered advice to those who are stuck at a job that they don't like.

"I had a job and I ended up quitting, and it didn't go well with the manager," she said. "It helps a lot to end on good terms with your previous employer. So when you apply, you can put that job down and not worry about getting a bad reference."

In spite of all the frenzy of landing a job as quickly as possible after graduation, Barton said that students should have an alternative perspective regarding job hunting.

"Most folks graduating from UTEP are 22 to 23 years old, so they have a good 40 years of work ahead of them," Barton said. "So take your time and find what's important for you and wait until the right thing comes along."

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

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Farewell

The Prospector seniors say goodbye



DAVID FLORES / Special to The Prospector

Seniors on The Prospector staff say their final goodbye as they prepare to graduate. Left to right: Matt Munden, Karina Sandoval, Jesus C. Martinez, Claudia Martinez, Celia Aguilar, Alejandra Guerrero and Yasmin Marquez. Not pictured: Sarah A. Burchett, Justin A. Monarez, Fernando Hernandez, Selene Macias, Alheli Tocoli and The Prospector's editorial advisor Lourdes Cardenas.

Standing at the door of self-discovery

BY MATTHEW MUNDEN

The Prospector



No one ever cleared out a bar by yelling “There are two guys getting along outside.” I decided to use that mentality in most of my work for The Prospector and it worked to varying degrees of success.

It generated a lot of clicks, the currency of this age of journalism. It also generated a decent amount of hate, leading some people to even comment that they hated me or that I was a “f*cking c*t” (key for those that do not swear: * = u).

I never wrote something that I didn't believe, however I did write stuff that I wouldn't read. I didn't care about what I thought about Christmas movies and I agreed with the one person that told me in person that she thought that was an awful article. But that is the past. I, as so many people have told me, have to move forward - think about the future.

I am, or, if you are reading this after May 14, was, a creative writing minor (not major to that one hateful commenter on a particularly nasty column I once wrote). In a lot of my classes, the professors seemed to talk about the idea of our eventual death. It is the one thing we are all certain will happen. But we don't know when. Brandon Lee once quoted Paul Bowles' “The Sheltering Sky,” which had a line about the randomness of death. Lee got accidentally shot to death on the set of “The Crow,” a movie which spawned a rather awful fashion style. He probably didn't think that was going to happen, but it did. Irony is a bitch.

Once had an aunt. I don't anymore. That is usually the case when someone says that they once had something. She had a brain aneurysm when I was seven. I remember that my great-aunt wouldn't tell my brother and I that she was dead. She actually told us that my aunt was very sick on the night she had died. It amuses me to think of a scenario that would have existed if we never found out the truth. “Arlene has sure been in the Bahamas for a long time. Is she ever

coming back home?” “No, she likes it too much and wants no visitors.”

My great-grandmother died not too long ago. It was weird seeing someone you knew your entire life just stop being part of it. I knew her for 20 years. When I'm 30, she'll only be in two-thirds of my life. When I'm 40, only half; it just keeps getting smaller from there. But that is the past. I, as so many people have told me, have to move forward- think about the future.

I've been in school since I was four. I'm now 20 and I face a life that doesn't feature more school. It is a bizarre thought. It was like I was living the controlled segment of my life and now I'm thrown into pure chaos.

I've had a dream that all wanna-be artists have. It is if I just screw my life up, I can finally have the time to write and be the person I really want to be. It is sad that this dream involves ruining my life. But this is my mind of school and my school-addled mind seems to leave me with this one idea.

Ironic: I think I'm an awful writer. Probably am. One guy commented on one of my short stories that it was pornographic and no one would

publish it. The day after he wrote that on my story, my great-grandmother died. He thought I ditched the class because of what he said. I tried not to talk to him again. Not cause he hated my story. I hate most of my work and I still talk to myself...probably should see someone about that. But he thought I cared about what he said and he thought I would actually ditch a class because of it.

But that is the past. I, as so many people have told me, have to move forward- think about the future. I'm leaving this place for a job that I have no idea how I got in Austin. I've tried out the two largest employers in El Paso (Wal-Mart and EPISD) and found I don't have much of a future here.

You won't miss me and I won't miss many of you. The ones that I will miss and you know who you are: thank you, you made everything seem so limitless.

As Kurt Vonnegut famously said in his last speech, “And I thank you for your attention, and I'm out of here.”

Matthew Munden may NOT be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

It's finally over

BY SARAH A. BURCHETT

The Prospector



This goodbye column is somewhat bittersweet for me. While I've tried to avoid writing and reminiscing over the last few years, I've had to force myself to take a look back over this exhausting, fun-filled and frustrating educational experience.

You reach a certain point in college, usually during the most demanding part of the semester, where you contemplate whether or not you'll actually make it to the end. I can remember telling myself that if I quit school now and work full-time, I'd work my way up the corporate ladder in no time.

Well, I didn't quit school. Instead I tried to work full-time while taking 15 credit hours. If anything, it's taken me longer to graduate because of that decision. I learned quickly that without a degree, I wouldn't get far. Instead of finding my “dream job,” I became well versed in dirty politics, defamation and, of course, corruption.

Just a few hours ago, I actually realized that my time in the college setting was quickly coming to an end. Although I've gone through the motions of ordering regalia, announcements and planning a graduation celebration, it never dawned on me that it's actually over.

It feels like it was yesterday that I was sitting in my first college class. It was University 1301 at 8:30 a.m. and I distinctly remember being frustrated for paying so much for a class that seemed liked such a waste of time. I found myself thinking that quite a bit during this experience. But that memory is so vivid in my mind, it really feels like I'm going to wake up from some dream and still be in that first class again, simply daydreaming because of a boring lecture and mediocre powerpoint presentation.

When I think back on the hundreds of exams, endless research papers and the dreaded group projects, where you inevitably get stuck with a deadbeat group member, it instills excitement in me because they're all over with. I'll never have to rely on others to pass a class or pull an infamous all-nighter because of a forgotten test or paper due the next day.

Looking back on these experiences makes me elated to walk across that stage. However, I'm certainly going to miss those who truly impacted my life at the university. To all of those faculty and professors who really are there for their students, thank you for what you do. It may not seem like it, but some students really are listening.

To my fellow student colleagues and Prospector staff, there have been hilarious, stressful and discouraging times, but we became a better staff because of it. I wish you all the best of luck as you continue on your journeys.

Working in this newsroom was the best experience in my college career and it really can be a thankless job at times. But the fact of the matter is that it was worth every minute and I wouldn't change one second.

Sarah A. Burchett may NOT be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

When the lights go down in the city

BY JESUS C. MARTINEZ

The Prospector



Almost three years ago, a professor of mine encouraged me to write for The Prospector. I worked up the courage to fill out an application to become a reporter, and that was easily the smartest decision I ever made in my life. Although, I had no idea what I was getting myself into.

In no way am I saying that this adventure was all puppies, unicorns and sunshine. It sucked. The pay sucked, my editors sucked - until I became one and then I sucked - the hours sucked, getting a hold of sources sucked, but damn was it rewarding. Repeatedly seeing my name in black ink in the hands of my peers, profes-

sors and on the floor of the men's restroom made me feel accomplished, and very few people can say that they had more than 50 published articles while they were in college, albeit they may not be scientific.

I had some remarkable experiences at The Prospector. I got review tickets for AC/DC and KISS, I got to interview Lacuna Coil when they played at the El Paso Downtown Street Festival, I got close to a dozen video games mailed to me to review, and I became the first male editor of Minero Magazine. How cool is that? Very.

All of those perks made the long nights of crying in frustration and praying for death seem worthwhile, but I'll never forget the production nights I spent here with my fellow editors. Aside from the jokes and video game sessions and whatnot, the best thing about production nights was seeing UTEP at night.

A calm blanket buries the campus after 8 p.m. There's less foot and vehicle traffic, which allows for a quiet ambience that engulfs the night sky. This scene was best enjoyed around Christmas time when the campus used to be covered in festive lights.

Other than my fellow editors and a few students, the only individuals who would be seen around campus that late were of the four-legged kind. You may see a cat or two wondering around campus during the day, but at night, they take over and roam the grounds, presumably heading to night classes. Joining them are foxes, squirrels and a dark, stinky menace.

The first time I laid my eyes on this stripped creature, I thought to myself, “Hey, it's a skunk!” but that immediately turned into “Holy shit! It's a skunk” and I would casually walk away so that I would not anger that furry little jerk.

There are a lot of beautiful spots at UTEP that you'd have to explore in order to discover. Well, there used to be more before all this construction started happening, but you get the idea. I'm not saying that I'm in love with UTEP and I never want to leave. I'd just like to say thank you to this campus and all the people in it for giving me such pleasant and forgettable memories that I will cherish forever.

This campus prepared me for what's to come, and has supported me in everything I set myself out to accomplish. It may have been a bumpy road at times, but getting through it all was an adventure for the ages.

This is the last time my name and my writing will see The Prospector, and it's a welcomed ending. Come at me, world. I'm ready to fuck shit up.

Jesus C. Martinez may NOT be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

Graduation

Successes of top students celebrated

BY CANDICE MARLENE DURAN
The Prospector

While many graduate students feel nostalgic about college and how it just flew by, the 2010-2011 UTEP top ten seniors expressed their excitement for what waits for them after graduation.

“I feel super happy to know that all my long hours of studying and being involved on-campus and being involved around the community have paid off,” said Marcela Aguirre, senior communication studies major and top ten senior. “I’ll start graduate school this fall at Boston University and work on getting a double master’s degree in International Relations and International Communication. I hope to be able to work for the United Nations or for a U.S. Embassy after graduate school.”

The top ten seniors for May’s graduation are Aguirre, Humberto Cruz-Chavarria, Monica Delgado, Melissa C. Desilets, Katherine A. Diaz, José D. Guerra, Alejandro Muñoz, Rocio J. Orozco, Luis A. Rubio and Rubi K. Yañez.

Aguirre said her motivation for being among the best came from seeing the plaques of previous top ten seniors at the Union

see **SENIORS** on page A13



DANIEL ROSAS / The Prospector

Top Ten seniors were officially announced at the Spring 2011 convocation April 17 at Magoffin Auditorium.

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Legislature

Federal money may increase graduation rates

BY DIANA ARRIETA

The Prospector

At a special town hall meeting, held at a predominately Hispanic high school in Washington D.C. March 28, President Barack Obama assured students, parents and educators that he would preserve government financial support for education.

"I think Obama's efforts to protect the budget for education will prove to be very beneficial for all students, but particularly higher education students," said Christian Guerra, junior linguistics major.

Obama's efforts are the result of an ongoing campaign that is focused on the importance of spending on education for the future of the United States, claiming that minority students are falling behind. In his speech, he said he estimated

that more than 150,000 additional Pell Grant awards would be given to Hispanic students by 2020

"All target areas mentioned by Obama reflect the needs of significant portions of the Texas population, especially Hispanic communities," said Reynaldo Reyes, associate professor of education. "Continuing to fund or provide additional funding to these areas will help."

By defending a requested budget increase for education in the middle of the Republicans' efforts to cut \$61 billion in spending for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, Obama's budget proposes to increase the investment in education and grants along with a focus on underprivileged communities.

"An increase in the amounts awarded to university students will affect UTEP students significantly, given the number of students who

"An increase in the amounts awarded to university students will affect UTEP students significantly..."

- Dennis Bixler, director of Chicano Studies Program

qualify for grants," said Dennis Bixler, director of the Chicano Studies Program. "Unmet financial need is one of the major barriers to graduating on time for UTEP students. A substantial grant infusion would

promote faster graduation rates for UTEP students."

Obama's initiative, which amounts to \$830 million in funds for public education in Texas, could also have a significant impact on the state's education spending, as the Texas Senate struggles to set a budget that will affect both public education and higher education for the next two years.

"Given Texas' large population of students, who fall under the poverty line, the investment, not expenditures President Obama proposes, would have a tremendous impact if the state doesn't use that funding as an excuse to reduce other types of funding for K-12 education, making the investment a wash," Bixler said.

The funds for Texas' public schools have been tied up by political wrangling between Texas Gov. Rick Perry and U.S. Rep. Lloyd

Doggett, D-Austin, who attached an amendment to the funds that would require the governor to use the funds to supplement existing school spending.

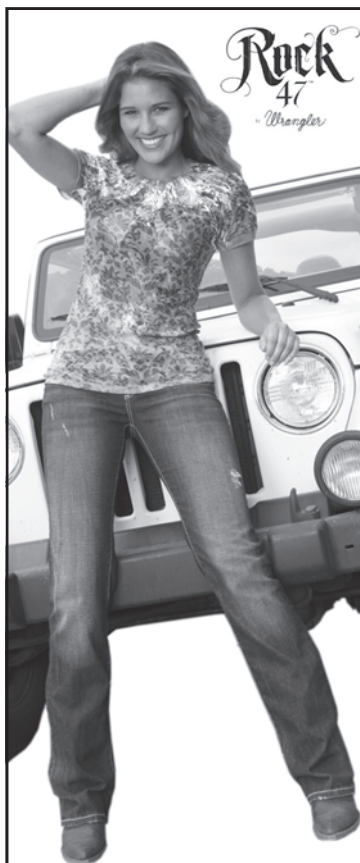
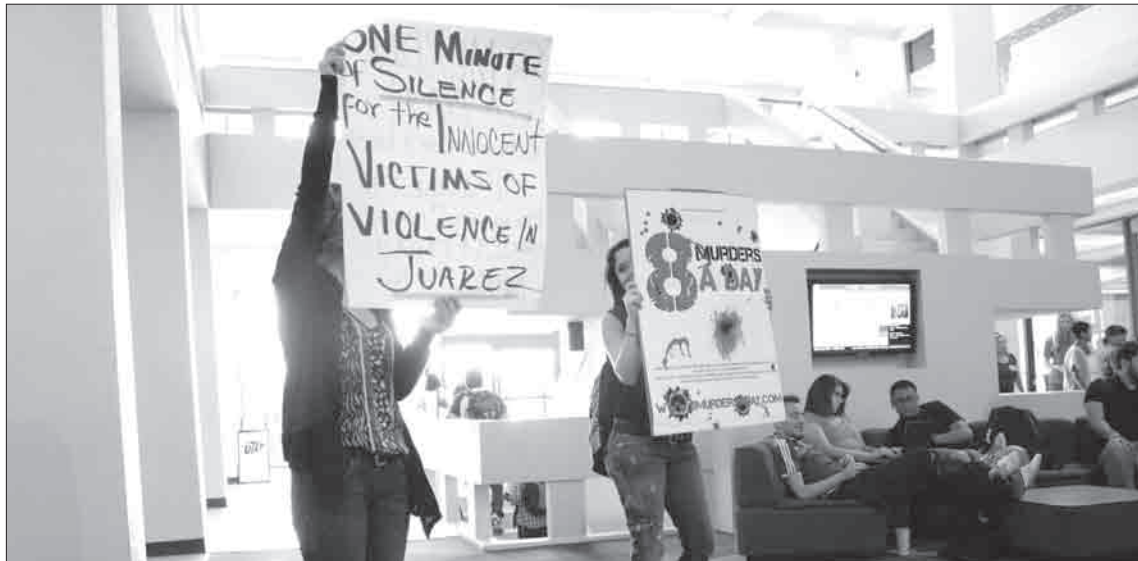
On April 12, a federal budget deal was negotiated in the U.S. Senate to avoid a government shutdown, which will allow for the release of \$830 million in federal money for public education in Texas.

"I think that Obama's plan is particularly promising, especially after hearing that the state legislature is going to cut funds for public education institutions," said Maria Rivera, sophomore education major. "It is the beginning of a new opportunity for students as well as Hispanics."

Diana Arrieta may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

Activism

Students show support for victims



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JUSTIN STENE / The Prospector

UTEP students participated in a flash mob April 29 at various locations on campus to promote director Charlie Minn's documentary '8 Murders a Day'.

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Profile

Professor to retire after nearly three decades of guiding students

BY CELIA AGUILAR

The Prospector

After 27 years of mentoring aspiring journalists as an associate professor of communication, Barthy Byrd is set to retire after the 2011 summer I session.

"I've enjoyed every minute I've taught here. I'm not leaving because I don't like the job. I'm 63 years old and it's time to make way for somebody who's younger," Byrd said.

In 1984, after nearly 20 years of television experience around the nation, Byrd attended the University of New Mexico to pursue her doctoral degree in American Studies when she received a life-changing call. Bill Mitchell, who was then an anchor at KDBC, called her to say there was a job at UTEP with her name written all over it.

Though Byrd did not have her doctorate, her expansive experience landed her the job. Until 1989, she traveled back and forth to UNM finishing off her degree as she concurrently worked at UTEP.

Once she got the job, Byrd focused her efforts on helping her students achieve success in journalism by teaching them all she could.

"My accomplishments really center around what I consider my prime job, which is to teach students journalism," Byrd said. "My best accomplishments are keeping students in school who otherwise would quit, raising up students who've had very little education in the past and getting them through."

Some of Byrd's students even ended up on network television. Much of what her students gain comes from the personal experience entrenched in the curriculum.

"She has a lot of real life examples from her own experience so I like that she could tie that into the class. She's a really good instructor and I learned a lot," said Claudia Yelder, senior organizational and corporate communication major.

Being interested in entertainment law, Yelder hoped the communication law and society course Byrd has been teaching for 15 years would give her a leg up.

"Professor Byrd was a journalist, so her knowledge is communication and how the law works," Yelder said. "If I do pursue entertainment law, I'll come across a lot of the things we're learning like copyright, patents and things like that. She was able to give me a lot of information so I took a lot out of the class."

Frank Pérez, chair of the Department of Communication, described Byrd as a master teacher who has always been a student favorite.

"She's trained several generations of journalists who've graduated from UTEP and many of them have gone on to some of the top positions here locally or nationally. A lot of times when I go out into the community I hear 'How's Dr. Byrd? Say hello.' They recall her with a lot of fondness and hold her to a high esteem," Pérez said.

Despite Byrd's retirement, she will still be accessible to her former students.

"I have a motto, once my student always my student, which means you get to email me or call me forever, as long as I'm around," Byrd said.

As for future plans, Byrd is still unsure of what is next, but she is not too preoccupied with it.

"I don't know what I want to do. I'm sort of an intermediate Spanish speaker now; I'd love to be a fluent Spanish speaker, and that takes a long time and a lot of work. I'd like to try to do that," Byrd said. "I don't think there's anything that really drives me more than that. I'll figure it out when I get there."

While Byrd has plenty of time to decide, she said she will miss being able to help up-and-coming journalists.

"I'm going to miss my students. I hope they miss me," Byrd said.

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

“I’ve enjoyed every minute I’ve taught here. I’m not leaving because I don’t like the job. I’m 63 years old and it’s time to make way for somebody who’s younger.”

- Barthy Byrd, associate professor of communication



DIANA AMARO / The Prospector

Barthy Byrd, associate professor of communication, gives her last lecture for the spring semester May 2. Byrd is set to retire after the end of Summer session 1.

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Career

Students struggle to find jobs in El Paso



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH BURCHETT

UTEP graduates face tough challenges find a job in El Paso as El Paso's unemployment rate rose to 9.5 percent in 2010, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor statistics.

BY BEATRIZ A. CASTAÑEDA
The Prospector

After years of hard work and academic dedication, new graduates enter El Paso's job market expecting to land a job. Instead, they have found it has become difficult to stay in El Paso due to low hiring and high unemployment rate.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, El Paso's unemployment rate rose to 9.5 percent in 2010, compared to 8.8 percent

in 2009. The unemployment rate in March rose to 10 percent, the highest it's been since June 2003.

"Last year was hard, we started feeling the financial crisis that hit at the national level," said Roberto Tinajero, assistant director of the Institute of Policy and Economic Development. "Starting this year, as a comparison, we have had a higher unemployment rate than the state and the nation."

For the state of Texas, the unemployment rate was 8.1 percent in

March. Tinajero said that there have been some improvements in the El Paso job market in certain areas.

"We have seen improvements in specific industries such as trade, utilities, obviously government, and that's more or less the overall picture of our local job market," Tinajero said.

Tinajero said many UTEP students try to get a job in other parts of the state, as well as other inter-

national students that decide to go back to Mexico.

"I will say there are a lot of factors that influence not finding a job here," Tinajero said. "We have a lot of international students that came to UTEP, graduated and have then decide to go back to Mexico or other parts."

He also said the overall graduating senior may not be qualified for certain jobs.

"Maybe we need to do a better job in preparing more effectively and efficiently our labor force. If we have a more prepared labor force, the more qualified it is, you will attract more business that will attract better jobs and get more highly paid jobs."

- Roberto Tinajero, assistant director of the Institute of Policy and Economic Development

"Maybe we need to do a better job in preparing more effectively and efficiently our labor force. If we have a more prepared labor force, the more qualified it is, you will attract more business, that will attract better jobs and get more highly paid job," Tinajero said.

George Barton, director of the University Career Center, said there are limitations in staying in El Paso.

"Students need to choose if they want to stay in El Paso, it is very important to decide what they want to do," Barton said. "If they are really eager to get a job in their chosen professions in what they studied, they need to broaden their horizons and to look around to see what else is out there, so the wider the net the bigger fish they will catch."

Barton said students will have plenty of time to work in their lives, so they don't need to be distraught about not getting a job yet. He also said recent graduates need to keep a positive attitude and network with professionals in their desired field.

"It's very important to make new contacts and continue to network, and look for different employers," Barton said. "They need to broaden their search and need to be patient."

Barton encouraged students to use the career center. The center offers various programs that can help prepare students for the job market by helping with resumes, interview tips and workshops.

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

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our view^{May 5, 2011}
editor
Diana Amaro, 747-7446

Best photos of spring 2011



Above: El Pasoans join hands during the Peace and Justice Protest that took place Jan. 29 along the Sunland Park/Anapra Border. Photo by Diana Amaro
Top right: Children from Juárez look through the border fence during the Peace and Justice Protest Jan. 29. Photo by Diana Amaro
Middle right: President Diana Natalicio listens to Pete Duarte, who returned his 2004 Gold Nugget award after the removal of Cesar Chavez Day as an observed campus holiday. Photo by Greg Castillo
Bottom right: Diana Natalicio makes an appearance Feb. 27 at the Project MOVE pep rally at Memorial Triangle. Photo by Greg Castillo



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Jose Guerra



Alex Munoz



Rocio Orozco



Luis Alberto Rubio



Rubi Karina Yanez



SENIORS from page A5

East Building. She would visit the plaques on a daily basis and felt inspired to become a top ten senior as well.

“I knew it was going to be hard work,” Aguirre said. “But I was willing to do my best to accomplish this goal.”

UTEP will not just be celebrating this year’s graduation, but also the 100,000 degrees handed out in the university’s history.

“It’s really interesting that I’ll be a part of that class that reached the amount of the 100,000,” said Luis Alberto Rubio, senior biological sciences major. “In a couple years, UTEP is celebrating their centennial and that’s really neat so even though I won’t be part of that class it’s awesome that we passed the 100,000 degree. I think it’s a sign of UTEP moving forward and becoming a more recognizable university.”

Another student who found the commencement inspiring, said this achievement will bring UTEP to a higher stage in education.

“I believe that the people from the border region have the potential to compete with anyone in the world,” said Jose Guerra, senior business major. “UTEP has given us the portal to that arena. I am proud of this university and believe that we will be showing the world very soon what a top-quality education this institution has prepared us with.”

Katherine Diaz, senior biology major said her excitement comes from graduating, rather than being a top ten senior.

“I mean it feels great, it’s exciting to be graduating and that in itself is a little bit more exciting than being top ten senior,” Diaz said. “But it’s really nice and just the support that comes with it is great.”

Diaz said faculty and friends at UTEP were a major help to her as she worked her way to her degree.

“Friends for sure helped me,” Diaz said. “They were my study partners and they were really encouraging. One friend of mine read all my personal statements to each scholarship I applied to and edited my papers.”

Diaz said it was important for her to be involved with the community. She also said that education is something more than just taking classes.

“I actually decided to stay in El Paso,” Diaz said. “I’m going to Paul L. Foster School of Medicine, but for me the main reason why I decided to stay was because I love the El Paso community and there are milestones in your life where you have to decide on those things and that was my main motivation.”

Diaz would like to become a physician and have her own clinic in El Paso, so she would contribute to the community that brought her up.

“El Paso is undeserved and we do face different (things) because of our population demographics, we’re more Hispanic, we’re prone to different diseases, like diabetes,” Diaz said. “So that’s really what I want to do.”

One student who faced maybe the hardest challenge of being in college was Monica Delgado, senior biological sciences major, who came to the United States when she was 16 years old and had to overcome language barriers.

“For me, it was impossible to think that I would be able to attend college because I know first-hand what it means to be disenfranchised,” Delgado said. “I was unable to communicate and that was my biggest obstacle to overcome.”

Delgado participated in UTEP’s Upward Bound Program, which she feels helped her surpass her fear of speaking English. Since joining the program, Delgado received the support she needed to achieve her academic goals.

“One of my goals is to become a physician,” Delgado said. “I want to be able to share the benefits of my good fortune with those who have not been as fortunate.”

Delgado said she is very humbled to be a top ten senior and honored to experience a moment that she had never thought possible.

“My family has been immensely supportive and a great guidance for my career goals,” Delgado said. “This year I am applying to medical school and hope to earn a MD/PhD degree. I am seeking job opportunities at Harvard Medical School and Baylor College of Medicine in order to look into more of my interest in translational research.”

Delgado feels that she has come a long way from where she used to stand as a struggling student and she feels her hardships have paid off.

Guerra shared the same excitement for his hardships as well.

“It is very gratifying to know that my efforts are being recognized,” Guerra said. “Because there is a great deal of people that helped me along the way and this award shows that their effort paid off as well.”

Guerra said his motivation was to push himself to the limits and reach his potential. He believes people should find that within themselves and that the results could be surprising.

“I think that everyone should try to reach one’s potential,” Guerra said. “Because it is surprising to find out how much one can achieve without even realizing that we are doing so.”

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

I want to thank my family and Mirza
for always supporting me along the way.

Fernando Hernandez
Class of 2011

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PRE-COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

Schedule of events

SENIOR BBQ

When: 5 p.m. April 29
Where: Peter and Margaret deWetter Center

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

When: 8 a.m. May 14
Where: Magoffin Auditorium
For more information: 747-5174

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

(For graduate students only)
When: 6:30 p.m. May 13
Where: Magoffin Auditorium
For more information: 747-5783

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

When: 11 a.m. May 14
Where: Magoffin Auditorium
For more information:
engineering.utep.edu/plaza/
Pre-Commencement

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Graduate Hooding Ceremony
When: 3:30 p.m. May 14
Where: Magoffin Auditorium

For more information: 747-7201
or e-mail chsprecommencement@utep.edu

DEPARTMENT OF KINESIOLOGY

When: 6 p.m. May 13
Where: North end of the Sun Bowl Stadium
For more information: 747-7245

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS HONORS & HOODING CEREMONY

(for Honor Cord Recipients, Award Recipients and Master's/Doctoral Students)
When: 7 p.m. May 12
Where: Magoffin Auditorium
For more information: e-mail ycar-ranz@utep.edu

MILITARY SCIENCE - COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

When: 3 p.m. May 13
Where: Soldier Hall, Bldg. 2, Fort Bliss
For more information: 747-5621 or e-mail acorona4@utep.edu.

SCHOOL OF NURSING – GRADUATE HOODING CEREMONY

When: 1 p.m. -3 p.m. May 14
Where: Morgan-Roderick Auditorium
For more information: 747-7201

SCHOOL OF NURSING – UNDERGRADUATE PINNING CEREMONY

When: 6 p.m. May 11
Where: Magoffin Auditorium
For more information: 747-7273

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

When: 6 p.m. May 6
Where: Magoffin Auditorium
For more information: Roxanne Giron 747-5042

UTEP GRADUATION RING CEREMONY

(Ceremony is only open to those who have purchased UTEP rings.)
When: 6 p.m. May 3
Where: Union East Cinema
For more information: 747-8600

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The Prospector thanks you for your sponsorship of the Spring 2011 Graduation Issue.



YOU SHOULD KNOW
Tips for graduation day

1. Plan to arrive at Memorial Gym (across from the Don Haskins Center) at least one hour prior to the commencement ceremony to check in. Check in will be held in the south lobby, where you will receive special instructions for the day.
2. Please leave all personal items such as backpacks, cell phones, purses, coats, etc. at home or in your vehicle. These items, along with beach balls, balloons, confetti, noise makers, silly string etc., will not be allowed in the Don Haskins Center.
3. Though your family and friends are an important part of commencement, child care services will not be provided and children may not accompany graduates during the commencement ceremony. Please make appropriate plans for the care of your children.
4. Wear regalia, comfortable shoes and out of courtesy for your fellow graduates, please remain for the duration of the ceremony.
5. Remember that this event is being shared with other graduates, their families and friends. Being joyful is important, but do not let your celebration ruin anyone else's experience.

Graduation

50,000 hand shakes later...



Special to The Prospector

Q: Is there a special graduation moment that you remember and would like to share?

A: Seeing the beautiful smiles on the graduates' faces is always the highlight of my graduation days.

Q: What do you say to each graduate when he or she goes up to you during graduation? Do you say the same thing to everybody or do you change after a while?

A: I usually say their names and congratulate them or wish them good luck.

Q: What is the weirdest thing someone has done when he or she goes up to you during graduation?

A: It'd probably be a tie between funny/weird hat decorations and funny/weird dance steps.

Q: Can you please talk to us about the “100,000” logo that is on every graduating senior’s t-shirt?

A: Since at this graduation UTEP will award its 100,000th degree, we thought that all students in this graduating class should be designated our 100,000th graduate.

Q: What is the funniest moment that you can remember from a graduation?

Q&A with UTEP President
Diana Natalicio

By Diana Arrieta

A: It would have to think further about this.....can't recall anything especially funny. Graduation is always happy....the best days of the year at UTEP are graduation days.

hope that they will stay in touch with us and keep us informed of their many future successes.

Q: What do you do to prepare yourself before each graduation?

A: I try to get a good night's sleep because three ceremonies require a lot of physical stamina.

Q: How many hands have you shaken at graduations since you've been UTEP's president?

A: The Registrar's Office tells me that UTEP has awarded 56,727 degrees since my first graduation ceremony in December 1987. Since a few graduates each year don't attend the ceremonies for a variety of reasons, it'd probably be safe to say that I've shaken in the neighborhood of 50,000 hands... Wow! That's even more than I thought!!



File photos

UTEP President Diana Natalicio will award the 100,000th degree at the Spring commencement ceremony May 14.

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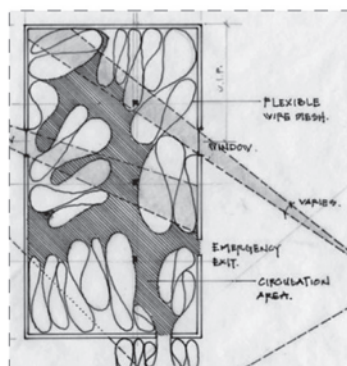
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Jay Atherton & Cy Keener, *Planning Drawing* (detail), ink on tracing paper, 2011; Rigoberto Gonzalez, *Levantón* (detail), oil on linen, 2009; Allan D'Arcangelo, *Landscape* (detail), silkscreen, 1969.



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Jay Atherton & Cy Keener, *Planning Drawing* (detail), ink on tracing paper, 2011; Rigoberto Gonzalez, *Levanton* (detail), oil on linen, 2009; Allan D'Arcangelo, *Landscape* (detail), silkscreen, 1969.

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Question of the week

What are your thoughts/feelings about the U.S. killing Osama Bin Laden?

Photos by Greg Castillo, Diana Amaro, Justin Stene, Daniel Rosas and Esteban Marquez



OMAR GUERRERO
freshman criminal justice major

"I feel it's great but suspicious that they dropped his body at sea. I don't understand why we're respecting him by not showing his dead body after all he did on 9/11."



ERIN MCNALLY
sophomore nursing major

"I'm glad it finally happened. It may be the beginning of destroying Al-Queda and ending terrorism. It's a good start."



JUSTIN TOMPKINS
sophomore criminal justice major

"It's a great victory for the U.S. A lot of people are at ease, especially victims of 9/11 who can now have closure since he is no longer alive."



SERGIO PINEDO
freshman electrical engineering major

"It's a relief after 10 years, everyone had kind of forgotten about it. It's good though because it's justice."



ANA QUEZADA
senior microbiology major

"It's wrong to celebrate a death. It's the United States' right to defend our welfare, but at the same time it's morally wrong to commemorate the death of a fellow human being."



CRISTAL RUIZ
freshman education major

"We should expect another 9/11 attack from Al-Qaeda, the death of Bin Laden will result in much more violence and nothing good will come out of it."



ERIK DESTEFANO
junior criminal justice major

"Bin Laden's death has surely assured Obama's re-election and his death will surely incite revenge from Al-Qaeda."



LYNDA OBANDO
sophomore business major

"Osama Bin Laden's death was a great blow to Al-Qaeda but I don't believe people should celebrate his death."



LORENA VILLELA
freshman multimedia journalism major

"By killing Osama Bin Laden, the U.S. was able to obtain a grain of justice; it just proves that we will fight back."



KARINA JARAMILLO
freshman criminal justice major

"Now that Osama Bin Laden is dead, the U.S. gains some sense of justice, but terrorism will still continue regardless."

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SERGIO VALDEZ
freshman digital media production major

"I'm relieved that they finally got him but confused about the evacuation of the troops in the near future."



WAYNE LANDRY
senior anthropology major

"It's good but nothing's going to change."



GABRIEL FRIETZE
psychology graduate student

"I don't celebrate it, but it's good they got him."

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ANDRES CARRETE
junior psychology major

"It's convenient, but I'm skeptical about the date, it's the same day Hitler was confirmed dead back in 1945."



EDWARD HUDGINS
freshman computer science major

"It makes me believe in justice once again."



STACY REEVES
sophomore psychology major

"Whether he's dead or not, someone else will take over."

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Magazine guides new immigrants through the American labyrinth

BY YTZEL ARRUNADA

Special to The Prospector

Mario Fernandez, 45, crossed the border illegally in search of an opportunity for a better life, but he found himself here without rights or guidance and countless unanswered questions. But now, a new publication is on their side.

Nuevos Paisanos magazine was launched in February to help inform and aid immigrants with useful information. As of now, this is the first immigration-oriented publication in El Paso. Priscilla Portillo, editor of “Nuevos Paisanos,” said the name of the magazine was influenced by the thousands of immigrants coming to the U.S.

“The tens of thousands of nuevos paisanos – hence, the name of our publication – fleeing from the dangers and harsh living conditions present in Mexico,” Portillo said.

Like Fernandez, many immigrants come to the United States looking for a job that will pay enough to feed their families. Others cross over to receive an education or to flee from danger.

“I think El Paso needed a publication like this one, I learned a lot from it, and I liked that it was in Spanish too,” Fernandez said.

Whatever their goals, some immigrants are kept from achieving their dreams because of their illegal status, which imposes severe limitations on their movement and their opportunities.

Portillo, who is also a recent UTEP graduate, said that a big part of creating the magazine was support from the community.



Courtesy of Del Pueblo Press

The first edition of Nuevos Paisanos is available online.

“My business partner and owner of Del Pueblo Press and I began Nuevos Paisanos with the invaluable contribution and support of our five-member editorial board: Gina Núñez-Mchiri, Gabriela Castaneda, Eduardo Beckett, Maria Victoria Moreno, and Sergio Saenz-Rivera,” Portillo said.

The editorial board members compose short articles in English and in Spanish that cover immigration related themes pertaining to men and women of all ages.

“We have people who speak both languages in our city. Some parents may read in Spanish but their children are more likely to read in English. We have to respect the diversity in language use within our local immigrant community,” Núñez said.

Taking into consideration the mixed citizenship status of immigrant families, language preference is important to reaching a broader audience.

“We are a heterogeneous community with different levels of education. The information is not in technical terms and we write short pieces we can share with our general audience,” Núñez said.

David Haro, a local immigration lawyer, said the expert advice will explain common misconceptions and will provide an understanding of our government and legal topics related to immigration issues.

“The magazine will help inform and teach immigrants what their rights are,” Haro said.

For example, the inaugural printings of approximately 250 copies of Nuevos Paisanos had an article written

by Sergio Saenz-Rivera that explained the difference between a passport and a green card, and a consulate and an embassy.

Another article titled Domestic Violence and Immigration, discusses the challenges of immigrants in domestic violence cases.

“There are programs that offer help and support. If a person lacks legal documents they are still eligible for help,” said Patricia Bylicki, a victim services unit specialist for the El Paso County Sheriff’s office.

According to the article, crime and violence contribute to the severity of an immigrant’s complicated situation. Learning about the Violence Against Women Act may help domestic violence victims to seek their U.S. residen-

cy without having to rely on their abusers to do something about their case.

Healthcare and educational opportunities for immigrants are also included in a Nuevos Paisanos resource guide.

“We hope our resource list can provide someone with access to a health clinic, legal representation or any other basic service available,” Portillo said.

Readers can contact Del Pueblo Press if they need additional information or if they wish to share their stories or current concerns.

The first issue of Nuevos Paisanos also included an article on midwife services currently available to expectant mothers, thus sharing maternity options that guarantee a healthy delivery for the mother and her baby. According to Núñez, mothers can benefit from learning about traditional and low cost health care options.

“Our goals are to print and distribute Nuevos Paisanos in large quantities throughout El Paso County,” Portillo said.

The non-profit publication faces the economic challenge of having to rely on donations from the community to publish and distribute the magazine.

“We have faith in our project,” Núñez said. “The community can benefit from having this new media that seeks to be proactive in providing timely and relevant information for its local immigrant community.”

Del Pueblo Press is located in downtown El Paso, and the inaugural issue is available at www.delpueblapress.com.

This story was previously published on Borderzine, a project of the Department of Communication. Ytzel Arrunada, senior multimedia journalism major, may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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PHOTOGRAPHER / The Prospector

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Band profile

Brain Matter: little band, big dreams

BY JACKIE DEVINE
The Prospector

Self-described indie/hip-hop band, Brain Matter, fronted by Jay Marcell (who goes by Junky Jay) and Djuan Crosby, better known as CirQlar, have aspirations and dreams to make it big in the music industry. The journey began the first day they met in the fifth grade.

Marcell and Crosby started performing together in middle school, and like all emerging bands they’ve paid their dues playing gigs in as many clubs in El Paso as possible.

They began making a name for themselves in El Paso’s punk scene in 2004 while still in high school, and were known under their previous alias, F.A.T. They broke up in 2005 due to personal issues. CirQlar was in the midst of a nasty divorce and struggling with drug addiction, while Junkie Jay was dealing with drug problems of his own.

In December 2010, they decided to get back together to do what they love, making music. From that, Brain Matter was formed.

“I really believe in our music, for us the sky’s the limit when it comes to our sound,” said CirQlar, instrumentalist of the group. “We’re really influenced by artists like Radiohead and Outkast, it’s very unique.”

To accomplish their unique off the wall sounds, they use only a one channel interface, guitar, bass and drum samples. Because they don’t like to limit themselves to one genre, in their melodies it is possible to hear everything from reggae, punk, hip-hop, experimental, indie and everything in between. In every song they make, the hope is to push their musical limits as well as deliver strong messages.



ESTEBAN MARQUEZ / The Prospector

Jay Marcell and Djuan Crosby make up the band, Brain Matter. They formed back in December 2010, even though they have been playing together since middle school.

see BRAIN MATTER on page B3

Review

‘Fast Five:’ good acting and a decent script would have only slowed it down

BY JERRY ALDAZ
The Prospector

While the world has learned much in the past decade, since the release of “The Fast and the Furious,” Hollywood insists on being the clingy partner who doesn’t want to let go of a failed relationship.

While the franchise has constantly struggled to maintain relevancy, a feat no easier accomplished after releasing commercial flops such as “2Fast 2Furious” and “The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift,” “Fast Five” seems to return back to its roots by actually (I’m serious) containing a storyline. Now, don’t get me wrong, this is by no means an Oscar-worthy film (although, I would nominate Dwayne Johnson’s sweat glands for best sup-

porting actor), I would go as far to say that it ranks among the best in the series, right next to the original. Despite recycling old condiments under a different recipe name, “Fast Five” accomplishes something magical. While there is no shortage of slick cars, attractive señoritas and racially stereotypical one-liners, this film is a Nitrous-induced thrill ride.

Let me get the main gimmick out of the way, the cars. Following the muscle regeneration we have seen in the past few years (which I hold Bumblebee responsible for), “Fast Five” tries to appeal to this current trend by continuously shoving Dodge’s muscular gas-guzzlers down my corneas. Let me put it to you this



Special to The Prospector

see FAST FIVE on page B3

Vin Diesel and Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson face off in a fight that belongs in an old “Godzilla” film.

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Campus life

Kick-off the summer with P3 Kidz

BY ALEJANDRO ALBA

The Prospector

With over 120 summer classes and camps offered, the UTEP Office of Professional and Public Programs will be kicking-off summer with a one-day event where families will be able to get a \$10 discount on each of their registrations.

The office of Professional and Public Programs is a program at UTEP that offers a variety of classes to the community. On May 7, they will be having their second P3 Kidz on Campus Summer Kick-Off at Kelly Hall.

"We are all very excited," said Stephanie Glover, associate director of Professional and Public Programs. "I want kids to really experience the university campus."

There will be free hot dogs, and music sponsored by 104.3 Hit FM. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the first 50 on-site registrations will receive a free backpack. Paydirt Pete will also be in attendance and interact with the children.

With so much advertising this year, Glover said that she is hopefully expecting a greater turn out. The event has been advertised by television, billboards, magazines and newspapers.

"We really exposed the campus this year to the communities," Glover said. "We are really hoping to get more registrations than last year's 1,400."

Glover mentioned that the community seems to have liked the new concept of P3 Kidz.

At the end of the summer, they conducted a survey that asked customers to rate P3's services, classes and facilities.

"We received lots of feedback," Glover said. "We grow with all their responses."

The survey revealed that many people enjoyed the classes but would have liked for there to be classes for older kids. The survey also revealed that many desired more variety in the offered courses.

Portions of the survey also led to the renovations of Miner Hall. According to Glover, many people mentioned in

see P3 on page B3



Special to The Prospector

The UTEP Office of Professional and Public Programs will be kicking off summer with a one day event where families will be able to get a \$10 discount on each of the registrations.

Student life

El Paso Summer Music Festival promotes youth

BY JACKIE DEVINE

The Prospector

The El Paso Summer Music Festival presented the Young Musicians' Competition Recital Sunday, May 1 at the University Presbyterian Church. The recital celebrated youth who have a passion for playing classical music.

The recital featured three young performers: 19-year-old Ismael Beltran, a freshman at UTEP who plays the clarinet, 15-year-old guitarist Joshua Saenz from Franklin High School and special guest flute player James Blanchard, a student from Ocate High School in Las Cruces. This recital was created to develop young people's leadership skills and generate inspiration through their music.

"We really want to encourage the youth to participate in the arts, especially when it comes to classical music," said Nicholas Miller, vice president of the summer music festival. "This is the second year we held this competition and we hope it continues."

The festival also featured Dr. Donald Wilkinson, a UTEP associate professor of music, his Master Class and Audition Workshop, conducted by Dr. Lowell Graham, chair of the UTEP department of music. The workshop showed students what it takes to prepare for auditions, scholarships, performances and competitions. It was designed to teach them what to expect if they ever consider auditioning for any type of music program.

The festival with the help of the inaugural Instruments for Young Lives Program has also given away instruments to students who have demonstrated musical and academic achievement, strong character and financial need.

"The purpose of the festival is to also bring back classical music to the El Paso community," Miller said. "The youth in particular benefit the most. Young people who study music do better in school and get good grades, it's called the Mozart effect."

The music festival attempts to promote a greater musical understanding

through outreach from the community as well as education. The festival also honors an outstanding person who has been integral to the support and continuation of the arts in El Paso through the donation of time, talent and/or money they've put into.

According to Lynn Provenzano-Guris, president of the El Paso Summer Music Festival, this year's Young Musicians' Competition challenged the standards of musical excellence set in 2010. What they found this year was promise, an interesting message that reminded students that there are seeds of growth in the music of all those who cared to share.

The El Paso Summer Music Festival is dedicated to providing classical music during the summer months. The organization outreaches to the youth of the borderland.

For more information on The El Paso Summer Music Festival and find out how to donate or volunteer visit epsmf.org

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



Special to The Prospector

The El Paso Summer Music Festival presented the Young Musicians' Competition Recital May 1 at the University Presbyterian Church. The recital celebrated youth who have a passion for playing classical music.



Special to The Prospector

Paul Walker and Vin Diesel drive a stolen car off a cliff in one of the film’s more plausible stunts.

FAST FIVE from page B1

way, if I would have taken a shot of Tequila for every time Dodge-related material appeared on the screen, I would have passed out on the stairs while drowning in my own tears and vomit before the credits had began rolling. You got to love shameless product placement, now if you excuse me; I have an inexplicable urge to purchase some Under Armor apparel.

With corporate crap out of the way, my biggest problem, from the many my bitter-self has, is the sub-par acting. The actors on this film are like public nudists, while watching them independently is amusing, putting them together in one room leaves you feeling awkward and ashamed. While Vin Diesel’s character, Dominic Toretto, has discovered a little thing called emotions, which were absent in the previous installments, he insists on maintaining his high-testosterone, brick-wall personality. When any conflict ensues, he lets his muscular-filled stride do all the talking, because God knows his Christian Bale-like grunt leaves you wondering what the hell he just said. While Dominic plays the distant yet misunderstood father figure, it is up to Brian O’Conner, played by Paul Walker, to represent hormonal-unbalanced teenagers across the country. His ego-centric

lines alongside his unjustified moments of rage made me think that any moment he would lock himself in a room, increase the music volume and scream, “Go to hell, Dominic, you’re not my real dad!”

As for the rest of the characters, they simply lack any depth or character development. Aside from the protagonists, they seemed to maintain the same characteristics and mannerisms as their previous roles. While the men act like morons throughout the entirety of the film, it’s Gal Gadot who steals the show (as well as my heart). Gadot’s sensual yet intellectual presence nicely contrasts against the fleet of men who spend their time making sex jokes and complaining about their lives.

While budget cuts were clearly made within the writing and acting departments, producers nicely funded the mayhem which is “Fast Five.” Whether it’s breaking through brick walls or through city banks, there is more action in this film than a drunken boxer holding a machine gun. Regardless, whether it be the clash between Dominic and Lucas (Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson), which reminded me of a ‘70s lost budget Japanese Godzilla movie; or any intense police chase were laws of physics don’t seem to apply, I slowly realized that the director probably

have asked himself, “How much shit can I break while still having a movie?”

In short, while cars still have a function within the plot, this movie is simply a Hollywood merger between the Call of Duty and Need for Speed franchises. So it’s terrible, you might assume? Not really, it is the film’s constant cheesiness which makes it ridiculously fun. The best way I can summarize this film is quite simple: it’s like eating a cake while on a diet. While you don’t really need to eat the cake, the dirty satisfaction you get from this guilty pleasure makes the moment worthwhile.

Would I pay \$11 to see those shiny rims glistening in all their chrome glory? Not really, after all, I am a cheap man. However, if you are an automobile aficionado, a fan of attractive leading ladies or perhaps simply looking for a gap-filler on a stale Friday night, I say do it. While you will not leave the theater pondering on the meaning of life or with a heightened sense of appreciation for those around you, stepping on the gas pedal while doing 80 on the freeway will bring you a sense of pleasure long forgotten.

3 picks out of 5

TTTTT

Jerry Aldaz may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

BRAIN MATTER from page B1

“I hope our fans walk away knowing that we put our hearts into the music and that it means something to us. I hope they understand the message and embrace it,” said Jay Marcell, lead vocalist and producer of Brain Matter. “One of our biggest musical influences would have to be a what and not a whom, and that’s life. Life has definitely had the biggest impact on our music and fans.”

Jay and CirQlar use music to get them through tough times and personal hardships like the deaths of relatives, drug abuse/addiction and heart-

break. They want their fans to relate to them. They hope that the love they have for their craft will make a difference in the lives of anyone who hears their music and message.

“Lyrically it’s important that the fans feel what we’re saying,” CirQlar said. “We want them to build their own idea of our message because music is personal.”

In the future they still see themselves making music and would like to get signed to a record label. To listen to their songs visit soundcloud.com/brainmatter.

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

P3 from page B2

the survey that they would appreciate if the environment in which their kids learned would be enhanced.

“The surveys are everything. We look at them at the end of the summer and we start planning for the next,” Glover said. “The planning for this summer began in October.”

Glover said that many things requested have been applied. All camps have been extended one week and now run through August. New programs have been added as well (Kids Abroad, Kids on the Move, and Super Saturday), which brings family connection. Some classes have also been added to the weekends.

Glover said another aspect of the camps is that they serve as a way for parents to not leave their children in daycares. Thirty seven percent of the feedback received said they were content with the supervision their kids had and the supervised lunch that was offered as well.

“We really have something for everyone,” Glover said. “We try to provide more each time and encourage more people to register.”

Vanessa Herrera, junior pre-nursing major, currently holds a work study position at Kelly Hall and said that she is ready for this year’s event and also expects a better turn out.

“I am very excited for this year’s event,” Herrera said. “104.3 will be playing music and I hope many people show up.”

Both Glover and Herrera mentioned that the kick-off is well organized and does not get out of control. Herrera said that last year she was surprised with how smooth things ran. This year, she expects the same organization as last year.

“We have strategies to minimize the hectic aspect of this event,” Glover said.

Glover did admit that the day is very fast paced, yet it is very energetic and fun.

Bernadette Baca, graduate rehabilitation counseling major, is one of the P3 customers. She mentioned that, after receiving one of P3’s catalog through mail, she decided to sign up her son for some courses. She said that what really caught her attention was that they have a wide variety of classes and activities in which her son would take interest in.

“My son had so much fun last year,” Baca said. “He can’t wait to start his classes.”

Glover said that the discount being offered per registration should be taken advantage off.

“We are doing this for the discount,” Glover said. “But at the end of the day what really counts and makes me happy is that the kids are happy.”

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

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Column

Lighting the desert in a neon hue

BY BEATRIZ A. CASTAÑEDA
The Prospector



Lights illuminated the sky during El Paso’s first Neon Desert Music Festival. Being the first of its kind, I came to the conclusion that it catered to our community’s taste in music.

I was told, before Saturday’s event, that it was going to be an amazing treat for anyone that attended and they were right. When I arrived downtown, I was captivated by the setting of the festival. It was scattered in a way that it was not hard to get lost despite the several closed blocks. The setup gave downtown the perfect upheaval as the music bounced from building to building.

Wishing I could have seen all 29 bands, I got there just in time to watch some of our local talent: The D.A. This indie rock and new wave band catered to its own crowd. They’ve got a great sound and it was fun to dance to it.

After that, I made my way to see Bulletproof Tiger, another one of our local live-electronica, rock-synth, ti-

ger-mask-wearing bands. Despite the heat of the day and unbearable high winds, they blew the crowd away with their eclectic sounds that entertained the audience throughout their scheduled time.

The local food vendors were also able to do their job and provided people with various choices. Six food trucks between the Scion and Poe stages, including the Drifter and Creative Gourmet Eats, sold a variety of things to eat, such as gourmet burgers, buffalo wings, tacos and shaved ice. The beers were sold for \$4 - \$7 and I thought it was a decent price since most large festivals sell them for around \$8.

The MTI Ready Mix stage on Main St. where the Venezuelan band Los Amigos Invisibles played, as well as Monterrey Mexico’s band, Kinky, played on the most beautifully set stage of the whole festival. The way the stage featured downtown San Jacinto Plaza, with its entirety of trees surrounding the area, definitely made the area look stunning. Both bands, in my opinion, seemed to be the performers that most people enjoyed.

Los Amigos Invisibles played for an hour and, right after them, I hurried to see Designer Drugs. I went



Special to The Prospector
The Neon Desert Music Festival was well liked by most of those that the attended the April 30 event.

to the festival quite ecstatic to see MSTRKRFT, but after comparing them to Designer Drugs, I really thought Designer Drugs had a better performance. Unfortunately, I didn’t get to see CSS or Dirty Vegas, but I heard they were both amazing as well.

MSTRKRFT’s performance sort of sucked. I didn’t feel their reverberating sounds measured up. Everyone was jammed together and made it unbearable to dance. It sort of made me wish that I would have gone to see the Omar Rodriguez Lopez Group

instead since they played at the same time. Ironic since I didn’t have the slightest interest to see them at all. After The Mars Volta’s last local performance in 2008, they turned into a self-centered solo show that disappointed me, so I didn’t intend to see them (even though it’s now consists of new group members).

One thing I didn’t like was the lack of re-entry to the festival. Once you were out, you were out; people couldn’t come and go from the festival site.

In the end, everyone seemed to be exhausted from the day, but that’s what happens at these festivals. I realized that after Neon Desert and SXSW I am definitely a junkie for these sorts of events.

Overall, I’d give it an A for the stunning outcome the festival had for its first year. Most of the performances went well and I heard many of the bands complemented the festival and the organization.

The first NDMF proved to be everything its creators envisioned and maybe even more. Let’s see what next year has in store for El Paso.

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

Review

‘Thor’ swings and hits it out of Asgard

BY MATTHEW MUNDEN
The Prospector

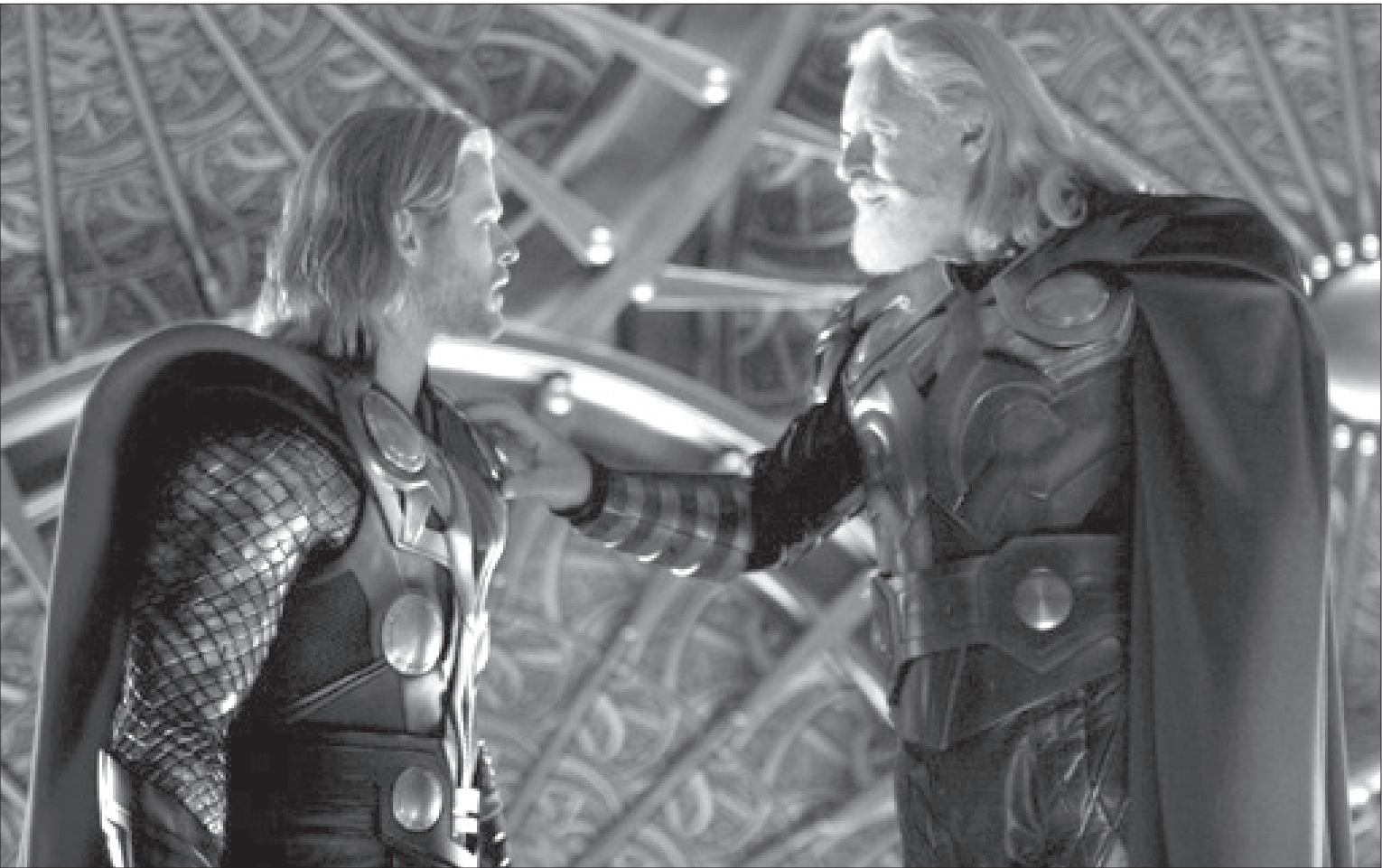
Occasionally magical, occasionally awesome, and always fun, “Thor” is the best comic book movie since “The Dark Knight.” Of course, that wasn’t very hard to by (what else came in between? “Kick-Ass” and “The Green Hornet” didn’t really set the world on fire), but “Thor” could be the first comic book movie I’ve seen that didn’t just seem like another comic book movie.

Perhaps, that has to do with the setting of Asgard, a fantasy setting that would feel more at home in “The Lord of the Rings,” being the setting of about half of the film. While most comic book films are based in science fiction, “Thor” is based partially in Norse mythology and it helps make this film seem different in the current glut of comic book films.

Directed by Kenneth Branagh, a director that is known more for his Shakespearean adaptations and a terrible adaptation of “Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein,” “Thor” feels at times Shakespearean (sons feeling betrayed by their fathers, an ignorant prince learning the error of his ways, brothers fighting for power), but it is the comedic touches that help this film from too dark or over serious.

Thor, played by Chris Hemsworth, is a young god, whose father, Odin (Anthony Hopkins, who really hams it up in this film), feels has gotten too proud and has been taking too many risks with his missions in Asgard. So he banishes him to Mygard (a.k.a. Earth).

Thor lands in the middle of New Mexico and is discovered by a group of scientists (Natalie Portman, Stellan Skargard, and Kat Dennings), who find the now-mortal Thor to be sort of odd and possibly crazy.



Special to The Prospector
Thor, played by Chris Hemsworth, and his father, Odin, played by Anthony Hopkins (who really hams it up in the role) has a heart to heart... right before Thor gets banished to Earth.

Like every Marvel Studio production, “Thor” has enough geek references to make Marvel fanboys’ heads explode. Tony Stark is referenced, Hawkeye is shown, and S.H.E.I.L.D. agents are around to cause trouble for the fallen god.

While “Thor,” like last year’s “Iron Man 2,” could be classified as an action-comedy, instead of just a straight up action film, “Thor” doesn’t disap-

point when the god goes into hammer time and heads are cracked. Whether it is when he goes up against the Destroyer or his brother Loki, who has a desire to destroy Earth, “Thor” brings some brutal and fun action set pieces that were missing from “Iron Man 2.”

Many people that see this movie will probably see the movie in 3-D and while it is an up conversion (“Thor” was not filmed in 3-D), the film still

has the occasional brilliant use of the 3-D technology. While it isn’t a necessary way to see the film, no one paying the extra surcharge will be as angry as when they watched “Clash of the Titans,” “The Last Airbender,” or other terribly converted 3-D films (also a huge difference “Thor” is actually good, while the others weren’t).

“Thor” is a great film that kicks off the summer movie season with roar-

ing thunder. While it still is a comic book movie, it is the rare movie in that genre that rises above the rest of its lot.

5 picks out of 5

TTTTT

Matthew Munden may NOT be reached at the prospector@utep.edu.

Column

Shooter fatigue

BY JESUS C. MARTINEZ
The Prospector



It seems as though every month a new first person shooter game is on the market, and, no matter how terrible it may be, it sells. People love guns and they love pretending they are shooting no matter how ridiculous the storyline is.

In a world full of “Call of Duty” and “Halo” wannabes, the video game market is saturated with shooter games and, for the most part, some are pretty bad. They all seem to follow the same formula: an outside force is destroying the world as we know it and only one man/team can stop them with guns blazing. After a series of checkpoints and capturing bases, the game is over.

But wait, there's more! These games have an online component with standard death match and capture the flag/base game modes. Lather, rinse and repeat and you got yourself popular, money-making shooter game.

Every once and a while, one game company gets ambitious and tries to mix it up, but for the most part, it doesn't happen. There are some games, like “Borderlands,” that adds other elements into the mix and creates a welcome change, but far too often we get a Call of Halo combination that can be summarized as same shit, different day.

But instead of complaining about the surplus of shooter games, I offer a bold solution: welcome innovation and listen to fans. The good folks over at Bungie constantly took in feedback from fans and they used it to better their games and it strengthened the “Halo” community. Sometimes too much fan service can be a bad thing, see “Final Fantasy VII” spinoffs, so a good balance is needed to make a strong game.

Innovation to the videogame world is almost always welcomed with open arms. “Assassin's Creed” and “Dead Space” were unique games that were unlike anything else and they worked out just fine. But what can be done to the already saturated shooter genre?

“Modern Warfare” became popular because of how real it felt with its scenarios and gunplay. Why not make a game that feels even more real than that? Get rid of the heads up display and ludicrous ammo reloading tactics. If I shoot one bullet in a 16-round magazine and reload, I should lose 15 bullets. How awesome would it be if I could not tell how many bullets I had in my rifle without mentally counting them? That would definitely make a more strategic firefight.

Since when does someone phase into a vehicle and have it automatically accelerate? Having someone open the door and physically start the engine every time may slow down the game-play, but it would become more strategic and, in theory, eliminate the amount of people who run and gun or just blindly get into vehicles.

In the end, there will continue to be a plethora of shooter games on the market, but only the unique ones will develop a strong fan base. Developers, if you want to turn your seemingly generic shooter into a triple A title, roll the dice, listen to fans and do something different. It might just be the next big thing.

Jesus C. Martinez may NOT be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A once-harmonious relationship appears to be hitting some sour notes. Spend some time together to see why things have gone off-key. What you learn might surprise you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You feel a need to make some changes. Good -- you can do it on a small scale (some new clothes, for example), or go big and redecorate your home and/or office.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Control your tendency toward early boredom. A situation in your life might be taking a long time to develop, but patience pays off. Stay with it.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You might feel that you're on an emotional roller coaster this week. Don't fret; just ride it out and let things settle down. A Pisces shows understanding.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Do something different for once -- compromise. A stubborn stand on an important issue proves counterproductive. You need to be open to new ideas.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A friend offers advice that you perceive as an act of betrayal. But before you turn against the messenger, pay attention to the message.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A year of riding an emotional pogo stick finally settles down. Use this calmer period to restore frayed relationships and to pursue new opportunities.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your words can sting, so be careful how you respond to a friend's actions. A calm approach could produce some surprising facts.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Be careful about whose secrets you're being asked to keep. They could impose an unfair burden on a straight arrow like you.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) While you prefer taking the tried-and-true course in life, be adventurous this week and accept a challenge that can open new vistas.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Your strong sense of justice helps you deal with a job- or school-related situation. Stay with your principles. A Sagittarius emerges as a supporter.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You need to build a stronger on-the-job support system to convince doubting colleagues that your innovative proposals are workable.

BORN THIS WEEK: You might not say much, but you're capable of extraordinary achievements. You are a loyal friend and a devoted family person.

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Anthony J. D'angelo

Column

Sometimes there isn't enough time for love

BY NICOLE CHÁVEZ

The Prospector



After almost three years of having an affair with my job at The Prospector, I finally gave love a chance. I met this guy earlier in the semester, things started off good until we realized, being involved in a romantic relationship would not work for us. I won't deny that some of the best memories I have from the spring semester involved him, however, what I have learned from this experience is that sometimes there just isn't time for love.

Certainly, most of us students forget that our college years are the foundation of our professional careers, but we somehow often allow partying, drinking and romantic relationships to become the priorities while studying in college.

A few months ago, some women, whom I admire from UTEP, gave a lecture about relationships and career success. They left everything behind in order to focus on their careers, and more importantly, they learned how to say no.

I have some friends who used to follow the philosophy of these women. They spent 24/7 thinking about what their next step in their profes-



File photo

Students may devote their personal time to furthering their career instead of cultivating a relationship.

sional career would be. One of my friends had her entire life planned. I remember she was even counting the days until she was finally able to leave El Paso. Without realizing it, tables turned on her and she now has a boyfriend.

In a couple of weeks she is finally graduating and completely lost. Even though she is getting job offers out of town, she wants to stay and a look for a job here. She struggles because her relationship took first place and

is now afraid of breaking up with her boyfriend if she moves out of El Paso.

For my other friend, her boyfriend is the center of her life. She knows it and now realizes that it wasn't right. Around a month ago, some friends encouraged her to apply for a summer internship. When she was told that it was out of town, she did not even consider it anymore because she did not want to leave her boyfriend alone. Three days after her deadline passed, her boyfriend told her he got a sum-

mer internship in Houston. Now she regrets it entirely and next time she gets a similar opportunity she will not hesitate to take it, at all.

Dino Chiecchi, administrative editor at the San Antonio Express-News and my internship coordinator for the summer gave very wise advice. "Think of your internship as your summer love," he said. "And put it as your top priority for those three months." Even if you are in a relationship or you are about to commit to

one, you should ask yourself beforehand how often you would have the opportunity to gain professional experience while attending college.

Summer is just around the corner, whether you are a graduating senior, taking summer classes or you are leaving for a summer internship. Now is the time to start being a little selfish and forget about everyone else but yourself.

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

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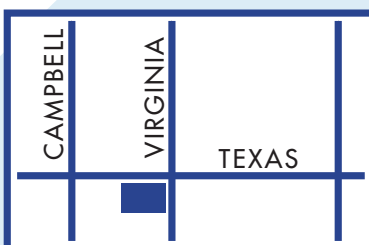
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5 MOMENTS TO REMEMBER

1 Tim Floyd returns to Orangeville

Head coach Tim Floyd's return to the Don Haskins Center felt just like old times for fans old enough to remember UTEP men's basketball heyday in the 80s. Floyd left his mark on the school and the community as an assistant to Haskins from 1977-1986. Mary Haskins said Floyd was like a son to her late husband. The excitement culminated in the city changing its name to Miner Orangeville Nov. 12 to commemorate the team's season opener against Pacific. The color orange was everywhere- from the star on the mountain to the shirts on fans' backs. For that day, at least, big-time college basketball atmosphere returned to the Don as UTEP sold out its home opener for the first time in nearly 25 years.



BOB CORRAL / The Prospector



SAL GUERRERO / The Prospector

2 Men's basketball falls one point shy of second straight NCAA bid

For 20 minutes, UTEP looked like the team head coach Tim Floyd said they could be all along—unselfish, smart and, above all, defense minded. The Miners went in to halftime of the Conference USA tournament championship on their home court leading the Memphis Tigers by nine points. UTEP led the Tigers the entire way. Even after squandering a 13-point advantage, the team still led with under 10 seconds to play in the game. Then, with seven seconds

left, the Tigers took their first lead, 67-66. Senior guard Christian Polk was inspired, having one of the best games of his Miner career. Yet, despite scoring 27 points, his final attempt at the buzzer rattled off the rim, taking with it the team's dream of a second straight NCAA tournament appearance. UTEP would go on to lose in the first round of the NIT versus New Mexico on March 15.

3 Women's golf wins Conference USA title



UTEP Athletics

Led by senior Rosana Gomez and junior Teresa Nogues, the UTEP women's golf team won its first Conference USA championship April 19. Coach Jere Pelletier's team won out in a field that included two ranked teams, no. 13 Tulane and no. 42 Tulsa. The team was coming off a fourth-place finish in Arizona at the Wyoming Cowgirl Classic, their best finish of the spring. Little did they or fans know they would top that, both as a team and as individuals, just two weeks later in Gulf Shores, Alabama.

Nogues came through in the clutch on the final day of the tournament. She held the team's two-shot lead over Tulsa by shooting par on the last seven holes and finishing an even-par 72 for the day. Nogues won the individual championship, shooting a two-over-par 218. Gomez and junior Shang-Fan Huang also finished in the top-15 individual standings. Nogues and Gomez were named to the all tournament team. Nogues is UTEP's second individual conference champion.

4 Kimaiyo dominates cross-country

Sophomore Risper Kimaiyo became the first woman in UTEP cross-country history to come in first at an NCAA regional meet. In doing so, Kimaiyo broke the course record at the 2010 Mountain Regional Championships in Salt Lake City Nov. 13, finishing with a time of 20:02. On her way to the NCAA, Kimaiyo became just the third female in Conference USA history to win back-to-back individual cross-country titles. Kimaiyo led the

women's team to a third-place finish at the C-USA championships. The All-American went on to finish fourth at the 2010 NCAA Cross Country Championships. She was also named 2010 C-USA and Mountain Region Athlete of the Year.



File Photo

5 Football gets bowl game despite ups and downs

It was a season of "should haves" and "what ifs" for head coach Mike Price's football team in 2010. What if senior running back Donald Buckram didn't injure his knee in practice before playing a single down? Price should have saved a timeout for a final drive in the 16-12 loss against Marshall. The Miners got off to a 5-1 start despite the loss of Buckram, before hitting a three game losing skid and dropping all but one of their last seven games. The team's 6-6 overall record was good enough to score a bid to the New Mexico Bowl Dec. 18 in Albuquerque versus Brigham Young. UTEP

fell to the Cougars 52-24. The bowl was Price's fourth as head coach of the Miners.



SAL GUERRERO / The Prospector

Football

Carr overcomes obstacles in pursuit of degree

BY WILLIAM VEGA
The Prospector

Senior wide receiver Russell Carr defied one odd by graduating from a high school with a dropout problem. After he receives his bachelor's degree in Multimedia Journalism this month, Carr will start his journey to obtain a masters degree and trounce those doubts, once again.

"A lot of kids get on the wrong tracks. They don't get away from the drugs and the nonsense," Carr said. "When you go to a high school like that you really have to focus and have a support system. I'm just really thankful that my brother and the rest of my family supported me."

After receiving a redshirt his first year, Carr is now in his fifth year of eligibility. In order to sustain his scholarship and continue his career with UTEP, Carr will begin his jour-

ney through graduate school focusing in Leadership Studies.

Carr entered UTEP in 2007 from a school district that was not known for many high school graduates. Hailing from Chino, California, Carr received his diploma from Don Lugo High School in the Chino Valley Unified School District, which has a 20 percent dropout rate.

"The dropout rate was pretty tough. I don't want to bash my old school but there were a lot of successful people that made it out of there," Carr said. "Some actually made it to some Ivy League schools and other great schools, also."

Carr attended the same school as WNBA star Diana Taurasi, Washington National pitcher Chad Cordero and three-time Olympic softball gold medalist Leah O'Brien Amico. Carr hopes to one day add his name to that list by becoming a coach or starting

see CARR on page B12



UTEP Athletics

Senior wide receiver Russell Carr has used the support of his family and temmates to stay focused on school and football.

Softball

Season comes to an end for UTEP against Golden Hurricane

BY WILLIAM VEGA
The Prospector

Without any possibility of making the Conference-USA tournament, the UTEP Miners will play their final series of the season when they host the Tulsa Golden Hurricane May 7-8 at the Helen of Troy Softball Complex.

The Miners were eliminated from postseason contention during their most recent series against the Marshall Thundering Herd April 30 and May 1. UTEP dropped both games of a doubleheader April 30 that clinched the eighth and final spot in the tournament for Marshall. The second day did not rack up a win for the Miners but played out in their favor. The teams finished the game

in an 8-8 tie thanks to a preset drop-dead time that snapped a 15 game losing streak.

This season will mark the first time that UTEP will miss the tournament since 2007 which was the last time the field had less than eight teams. The Miners also missed the postseason in 2006, their first year in C-USA, when only six teams qualified for the tournament.

In addition, UTEP has already clinched their worst record in league play and are tied at the moment for least amount of wins with the inaugural 2004 team that finished 1-20 in the WAC. The Miners are also just one loss away from holding the second worst overall record in team history. They are currently three games back of tying the 2005 team that went 19-38.

The Miners will now have the opportunity to play spoiler when Tulsa visits as they are currently in a tie for first place with the Houston Cougars. After their struggles with the eight-seeded Thundering Herd, the Miners will have to turn things around quickly against a streaking Golden Hurricane squad.

see SEASON on page B12





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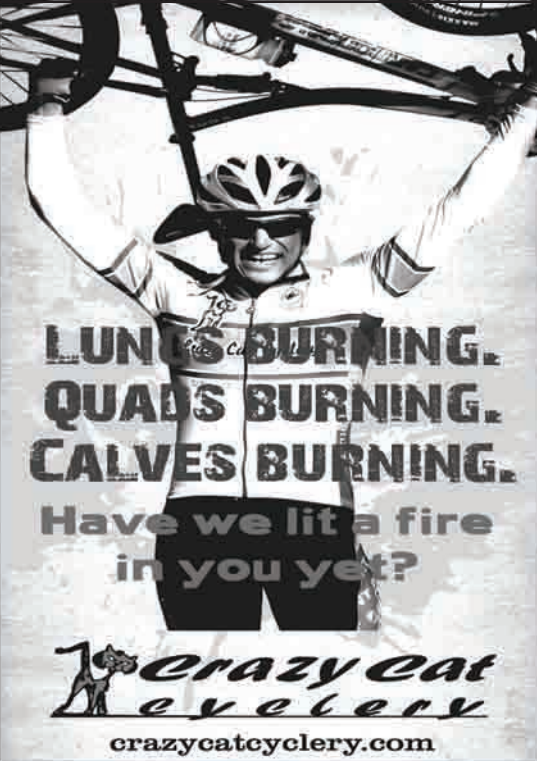
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DIANA AMARO / The Prospector

Junior Chelsea Troupe got a hit off Memphis April 9 at the Helen of Troy Softball Complex. The UTEP softball team defeated Marshall in Huntington, West Virginia in the final road trip of the regular season. The Miners Closed out the regular season on a 15 game losing streak.

Track

Miner high-jumper soars above competition

BY KRISTOPHER RIVERA
The Prospector

Senior jumper Amanda Apodaca is taking her final jumps in a Miner uniform as she prepares to walk out of UTEP with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

Apodaca, an El Paso native and successful athlete, faced the toughest of all obstacles last year, when she lost her mother due to a terminal illness.

In June 22, 2010, when she was returning from the Outdoor Conference Championships, Apodaca was given the bad news about her mother's sickness. For the next few months she would be by her mother's side until she passed away.

"It was hard this year. It's hard looking up because they would come to conference and every home track meet," Apodaca said.

"It was hard this year. It's hard looking up because they would come to conference and every home track meet. She would always sit at the same spot, it's just hard not seeing her."

- Amanda Apodaca

a lot, she's been more focused and has a stronger personally," assistant coach Althea Johnson said. "It has shown on the track as well, because she excels, she got first at the UTEP Invitational and the Texas Tech Invitational."

Apodaca cleared 1.66 meters at the UTEP invitational for the gold finish. Then went on to the Texas Tech Open Invitational the following week to claim the title with a jump of 1.65 meters.

Besides the track she stays on top of her game in the classroom.

"Academics always come first, especially for the track team, it's a big must," Apodaca said. "He (Mika Laaksonen) wants us to be good on the track but he wants us to be successful in the future."

Aside from the track and the classroom, Apodaca puts her close relationship with her teammates and friends at UTEP a close third.

"Even if I'm older than her I seem like the little sister sometimes, maybe because I'm not in my country," junior pentathlon athlete Marine Menez said. "She helped me with everything when I came in, and since that time, we're always together and even moved in together."

So as seniors get ready to cast off into an unpredictable world, ready to pursue their dreams, Apodaca holds ambitions close to her heart as she sets her sights on the future. She will be enlisting into the Air Force and work towards a nursing degree. On top of that, she has strong intentions of becoming a pilot, taking flying lessons this summer.

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



UTEP Athletics

Senior high jumper Amanda Apodaca is a native of El Paso and graduate of El Paso High School. Before attending UTEP she spent one season at Doane College.

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SEASON from page B10

Winners of six of their last seven, Tulsa has shown their dominance in C-USA as a top four team in batting, pitching and fielding. Four batters are hitting better than .300, but their true leader comes in freshman pitcher Aimee Creger. Creger leads the league with a 0.90 ERA, a 20-2 record and is third in the league with 217 strikeouts.

The final game on May 8 will also mark senior day for three players as outfielders Kia Moore and Becky Smith will play their last Division-1 game with pitcher Courtney Auger. All three players are junior college transfers with one letter of experience with UTEP, each. Moore and Smith are two of the top three batters on the team and Moore is the lone Miner to play in all 51 games. Auger was the best pitcher for UTEP this season with a 4.57 ERA and 116 strikeouts.

One player that will not be joining her fellow seniors is catcher Camilla Carrera, who went out with a back injury after only 12 games. Carrera, the 2011 C-USA Preseason Player of the Year, will

red shirt this season and return for a fifth year of eligibility. To join her in the lineup next season will be junior utility Chelsea Troupe who was leading the conference in home runs, batting average and RBIs before she missed the final 14 games of the season with a head injury.

A big recruiting class may not be expected for next season as seven of the nine players in the lineup will be returning, not including Troupe or Carrera. Three pitchers will also return and not a single one of them will be a senior next year. Freshman pitcher Laura Ramos showed promise at the end of the season, picking up two wins despite a 6.96 ERA, but her presence at the plate was even better. Besides Troupe and Carrera, Ramos has the best batting average of any player returning next season. Ramos drove in 13 RBIs off two homeruns and a .296 batting average.

William Vega may be reached at prospector@utep.edu



DIANA AMARO / The Prospecter

Senior pitcher Courtney Auger throws a pitch against Houston April 9 at the Helen of Troy Softball Complex.

CARR from page B10

a non-profit organization after he receives his masters.

"I'm one of the first in my family to attend graduate school so I'm pretty excited. My family will come down and watch me graduate (with a bachelor's)," Carr said. "My mom just gets really soft on me. She just feels blessed."

Carr has never caught a touchdown pass in his collegiate career but has become more active over the past two seasons. During his freshman year in 2008, Carr played in just seven games receiving just two passes for 12 yards. The next two seasons Carr played in 12 games each reeling in a career high 11 passes for 115 yards in 2009 and seven passes for 60 yards in 2010.

"He's definitely matured and he's gained a lot of confidence but I think what he's improved on is maximizing his ability. He plays big and uses his body well," wide receivers coach Guy Holiday said. "Russ (Carr) is capable of making some big catches and running after the catch and because he's so big and strong, he's got the will to get the extra yards and get the first down."

With seniors like running back Joe Banyard, defensive lineman Bernard Obi and fellow receiver Donovan Kemp assisting him during stretches and leading the team in practice, Carr has big expectations in his final year.

"My freshman year, we didn't do so well but with this last class, they set a legacy by taking us to a bowl game," Carr said. "We want to continue that conditioning by trying to get this conference championship back in El Paso."

Carr may begin studying leadership skills for the next two years but he may already contain some of those skills as recognized by his coaches.

"His work ethic is second to none. Where he may lack in some other areas he overcomes by working hard," Holiday said. "His character has always been excellent since I've been involved with Russell."

Head coach Mike Price can vouch for that reasoning, too, as he feels Carr is not only seasoned for this fall but for his journeys after football.

"He always gives good effort. I like that he has a positive attitude," Price said. "I'm really pleased with Russell Carr especially with his progress. He's a man, now."

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

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