

9-8-2011

The Prospector, September 8, 2011

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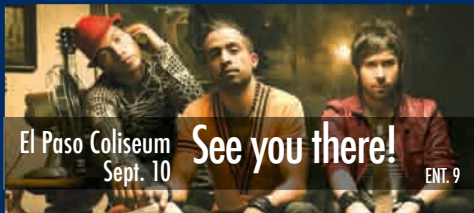
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weekend
THIS **CAMILA**



ON THE ROAD AGAIN



The University of Texas at El Paso September 8, 2011

the assayer of student opinion
prospector
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10 YEARS LATER

9/11 SPECIAL EDITION

Sept. 11 memories still linger on the borderland

BY AARON MARTINEZ

The Prospector

Although a decade has passed, the memory of the Sept. 11 attacks is still etched in people's psyche. This is especially true for Ezra Cappell, director of the Inter-American Studies Program, who lived just a mile away from the World Trade Center.

"I was living in the East Village of New York, downtown on 2nd Avenue and 14th Street, so about a mile or less than that from ground

zero," Cappell said. "I woke up to the commotion; there was a tremendous amount of sirens and things like that going down 2nd Avenue because a lot of the first responders were taking that route. I turned on the TV and saw what was happening, then went up to the roof of our building and I saw the twin towers on fire."

As the news spread of the attacks, Cappell said many other people began making their way to the roof to watch the events unfold.

"It was quite remarkable to watch the events as they were unfolding there and to know that you're a witness to see the buildings falling and to know that thousands of people just lost their lives. It was just unspeakable," Cappell said. "We knew we had just witnessed something awful and life altering for New York, the country and for the world at large."

As Cappell and others stood on the rooftops, they knew the world see SEPT. 11 on page 4

**We knew
we had just
witnessed
something awful
and life altering
for New York...**

- Ezra Cappell, Inter-American
Studies Program Director.



A generation of fear

BY WILLIAM VEGA
The Prospector

In Oct. 2002, controversial director Michael Moore released his documentary film, "Bowling for Columbine," as a reaction to the Columbine High School shootings in 1999. In this film, Moore explores the possible causes for the shootings and he also examines what caused the event and who the media was blaming.

One topic Moore examined closely, was the role that media has played in provoking fear, not only in the aftermath of the massacre, but throughout modern history. He discusses how the press will go to extremes to show the wrongdoings of American citizens that ultimately cause us to be afraid.

I finally saw the documentary in 2009 and its scrutiny of the media caught my eye. When I was discussing this film with my family, who saw it with me on satellite television, I thought about 9/11 and how it influenced the way myself and many other children, who were aged 10 to 14 at that time, look at the world now.

I'm part of the so called 9/11 Generation, composed of people who were children when the terrorist attacks occurred and are now on the verge of graduating from college and entering the workforce. We grew up with fear instilled in our minds. Fear was behind the long airline security checks and fear is also behind the increased immigration controls along the border.

In my case, it wasn't so much the media that instilled that fear—it was actually a teacher who made me realize how unsafe El Paso could be. I can recall the day the twin towers went down as clear as day. As any other American citizen, I have been periodically asked, "Where were you when it happened?"

My dad was on a business trip that week, so Sept. 11, 2001 not only marked that tragic event, but for us, it also marked his long-awaited return home.

As the attacks happened between 6:46 and 8:28 a.m. Mountain Time, my only concern was getting ready for school, which did not include watching television in my morning routine.

It wasn't until I got to school that I became aware of the events. As a native 10-year-old sixth grader, I honestly had no idea what the World Trade Center was, but I understood the

magnitude of a hijacking and also the attack on the Pentagon.

When I arrived at my classroom, my teacher had the lights off and was watching a national news station on a school-issued analog television. With the lights still off and the TV still blaring in the background, my teacher told us that the north tower had fallen. Not many of the students understood what she was talking about. While she talked, we started watching white clouds engulf people in New York and the fear began to kick in.

As the rest of the morning continued to unfold, my teacher began to discuss the significance of the terrorist attacks in the United States. By this time, a school-wide announcement had been made for students to stay in their first-period classroom for safety measures.

I began to ponder what dangers we should be on the lookout for as the attacks were thousands of miles away. Innocently, I asked my teacher just that.

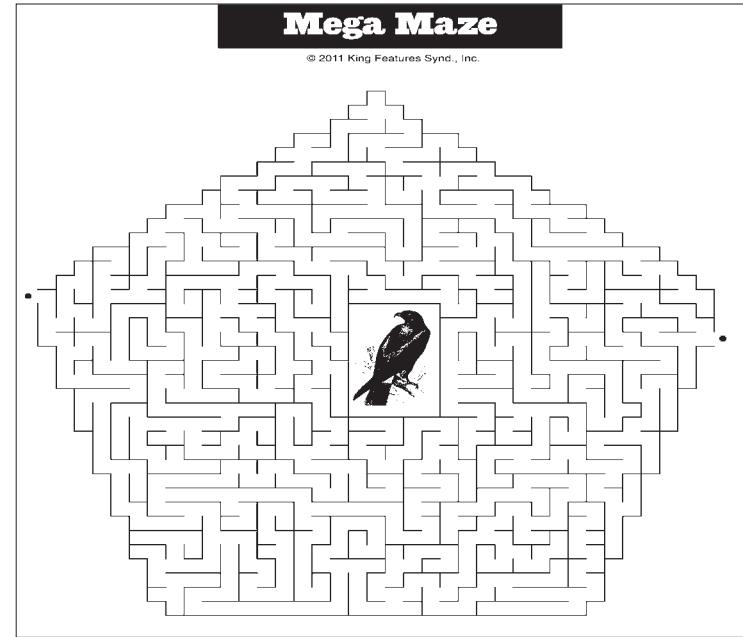
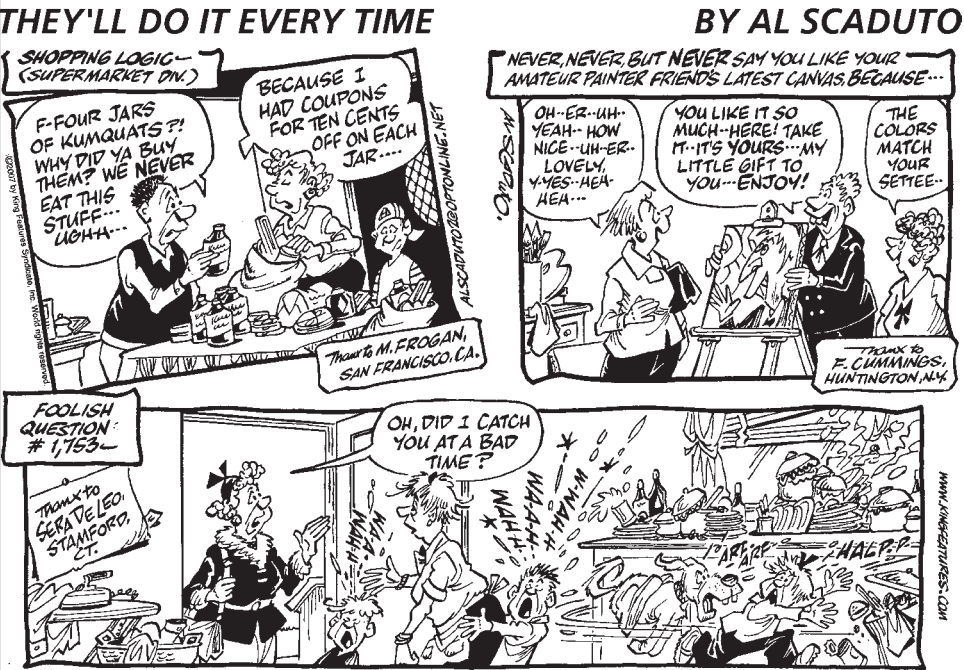
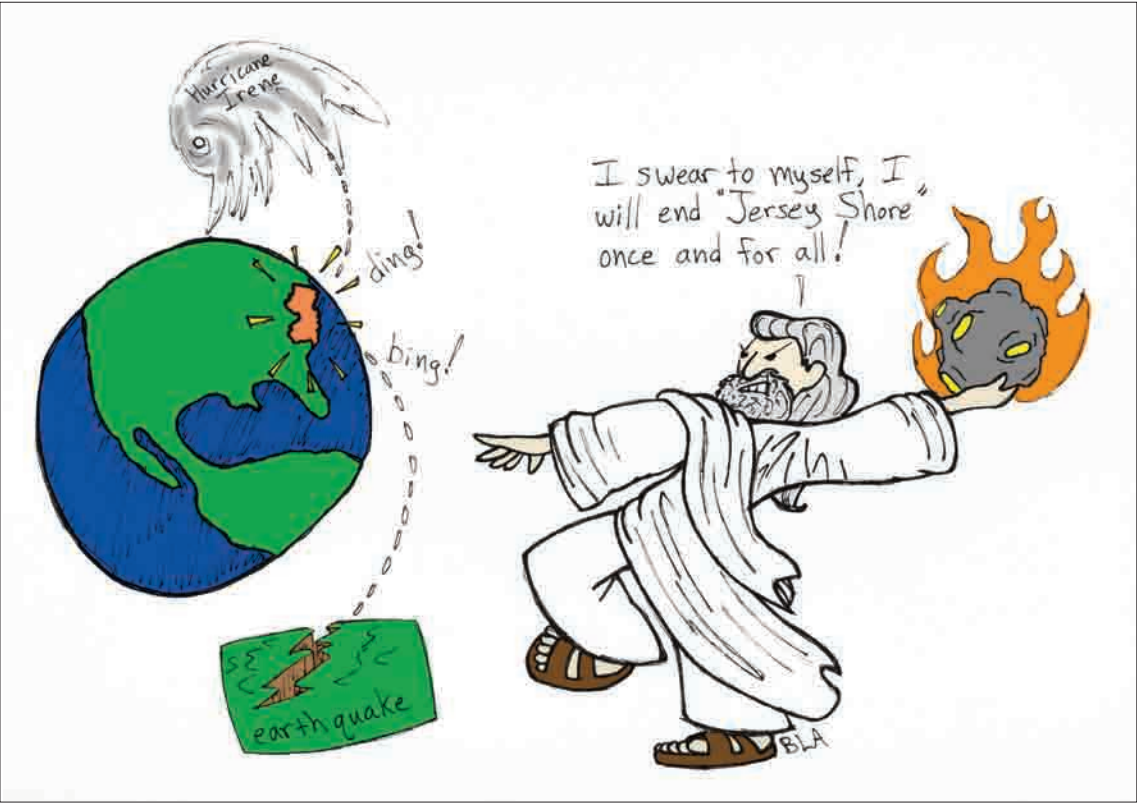
She said that Fort Bliss was why we needed to be careful. She began listing the other possible locations terrorists might head for and that Fort Bliss could be at the top of their list. She said that, as one of the largest military bases in the nation, terrorists might target the base along with the entire city of El Paso for economic reasons.

I then began to realize one thing: my dad was on a plane to El Paso and Fort Bliss was apparently a terrorist destination. I begged my teacher to let me call my dad with her cell phone, but he didn't answer.

Then it all hit me: the attacks, the terrorists, Fort Bliss and my Dad and I began to cry. My teacher tried to calm me down and sent me to the school counselor's office. With my friends mocking me, I instead headed to the nurse's office so I could be sent home. When my grandmother and my uncle picked me up I was finally able to talk to my dad. He was fine, but I was too ashamed to return to classes, so I stayed with my relatives until my mother came home from work.

Finally, my dad rented a car and drove home in the following days. Looking back, I realize that what scarred me the most was the atmosphere of fear that was portrayed as reality by my teacher. It was this newfound reality that this entire generation, myself included, has had to overcome in the new millennium.

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



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WHAT DO you think?
This week's poll question:
Did you attend to Sun City Music Festival?
vote at WWW.UTEPPROSPECTOR.COM

Question of the week

Where were you when the 9/11 attacks happened?

Photos by Audrey Russell, Daniel Rosas, Greg Castillo and Justin Stene



CARLOS MURILLO
junior computer science
"I got early to school and saw everything live in my English class. I got to see everyone's shocked faces and reactions as they all entered class and finding out what was going on."



BARRY BUTZLOF
senior computer information system
"I remember the workers jumping from the towers. At the time I was in middle school, it just didn't seem real. A few people in my class even cried. I felt sympathetic for the family's loss."



YVONNE SANDOVAL
sophomore social work
"I was in 6th grade in middle school. I remember I was really confused. I heard people say some planes had hit some Twin Towers but I didn't really know what was going on."



LAURA HERRERA
freshman pre-pharmacy
"My parents played it off as if it was a movie to protect me from the reality of the event because I was 8 and they didn't want me to have fear."



ABEL ORTEGA
junior biology
"I remember I was on my way to school and my mom ended up taking me home when she found out what was going on."



STEFAN MATTBAC
senior geology
"I was watching TV and my friend called me to tell me all about it so I turned to the news channel."

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SEPT. 11 from page 1

round them had just changed in a very dramatic way.

"We turned around and saw the Empire State Building to the north of us, we could see the Brooklyn Bridge to the southeast of us, but thought we were in the middle of a war zone now," Cappell said. "Looking around, we certainly felt that we were. We didn't know what was going to happen next."

Cappell will be a guest speaker at UTEP's 9/11 commemoration Sept. 9 at the Union Plaza. The event, hosted by the Student Development Center, Union Services, Student Government Association and the College Republicans will take place at noon.

"The event is a commemoration, not only of the 10th anniversary of Sept. 11, but also a time to pay tribute to those that lost their lives that day, to those that sacrificed their lives and those that continue to sacrifice their lives to keep us from harm," said Corey Bailey, director of the Student Development Center.

UTEP on 9/11/2001

As what seemed to be a normal day began at UTEP, word of the attacks slowly started to spread to students, faculty and staff.

"Like everyone else across the country, the UTEP community reacted initially with disbelief, then, as the news sank in that this attack had occurred, with shock and profound sadness," UTEP President Diana Natalicio said.

As the UTEP community learned of the attacks, many gathered around TVs on campus to watch the events unfold.

"I remember the campus was pretty quiet that day. There were a lot of people hovering around TVs trying to find out what was happening and just watching everything that was going on," said Mia Cortez, UTEP alumna and former editor-in-chief of The Prospector. "The TVs in the Union were just crowded with people and there wasn't much talking, they were all just shocked and silent as they watched the news."

As students were learning of the attacks, the U.S.-Mexico border was closed, which left many unable to get to their classes or back to their homes.

"One of the big challenges that day was we had a lot of students that would cross the border every day, which is how it still is there (El Paso), to go to school and they closed the border. So we had students stuck on both sides of the border," said William Schafer, former dean of students at UTEP and current vice president of student affairs at Georgia Tech. "We did some special things with housing to allow students who couldn't get home somewhere to sleep."

According to Schafer, one of the things university officials did was to encourage any students who were having emotional distress to visit the University Counseling Center.

"Being on the border during this time and with people having to cross back and forth, it had a pretty traumatic effect for students, in terms of their lives and their families until things got sorted out," Schafer said. "Any time some-

thing traumatic like that happens, you make sure your students know about your counseling center and the services that are available to them."

Impact on the border

According to Dennis Bixler-Marquez, director of the Chicano Studies program, before the Sept. 11 attacks, the border area was generally overlooked, but after the events, new and stricter policies came into effect that had an immediate and long-lasting impact.

"It brought the southwest border into the national spotlight," Bixler-Marquez said. "For the most part, this area had been ignored. We just weren't on the agenda and that changed after Sept. 11."

Bixler-Marquez said that these changes have had a big economical and social effect on border agencies and civilians crossing the bridge everyday.

"After Sept. 11, they said we needed to increase the Border Patrol and Customs agencies to meet the security needs of the border, but they really didn't increase the mon-

ey needed to make these changes," Bixler-Marquez said. "And with these increases in security and not the money to put in the proper infrastructure, the wait at the border has gotten even longer with people waiting in lines for hours."

As for the impact that the UTEP community experienced, Bixler-Marquez said that due to some of the ways the terrorists got into the U.S. through Mexico and other countries, new policies and regulations were passed on visas that many students had used to come to school.

"Some of the Al-Qaeda people came in on student visas, so all of a sudden there was a tremendous accountability on universities to be able to tell how many students they have on visas and their ability to locate them," Bixler-Marquez said. "No such accountably existed before and UTEP, (El Paso) community college and universities all over the country felt that effect."

According to Nick Zweig, former international student advisor and current coordinator at the University Career Center, a system called

SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) was introduced to help collect data on international students attending universities in the U.S.

"One of the bigger changes, long term, was the implementation of a computerized tracking system for international students, called SEVIS, which was rolled out in 2003," Zweig said. "The idea itself wasn't new, and a prototype called CIPRIS had been in development for some years before the attacks. However, there was a new impetus to getting that implemented, even though it was reported that the majority of the terrorists used tourist visas to enter the U.S."

Zweig said one change that came right after the Sept. 11 attacks was the requirement that part-time students could no longer use their laser visas. A student visa required full-time enrollment, which left part-time students with no options.

"In 2002, when it became apparent that thousands of part-time students across the nation stood to be affected, both Congress and the Immigration and Naturalization Ser-

vice took action to provide a remedy," Zweig said. "A new category of student was created that recognized part-time students who cross the border (both from Mexico and Canada) as legitimate. It was gratifying to see that in a time of great security concern, the government made efforts to take care of these international students."

Cappell said he hopes the lesson that everyone can take from the tragedy of the Sept. 11 attacks is one of tolerances and understanding.

"One of the things that I hope people have when they reflect on issues of mass tragedy, death and murder, which is what actually happened on Sept. 11, is to think about how they can help end intolerances, bigotry and hatred," Cappell said. "Make that sadness a useful sadness and help move the world in the right direction."

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

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when: Noon Sept. 9

where: Union Plaza

9/11 10th Year Anniversary
Commemoration Program

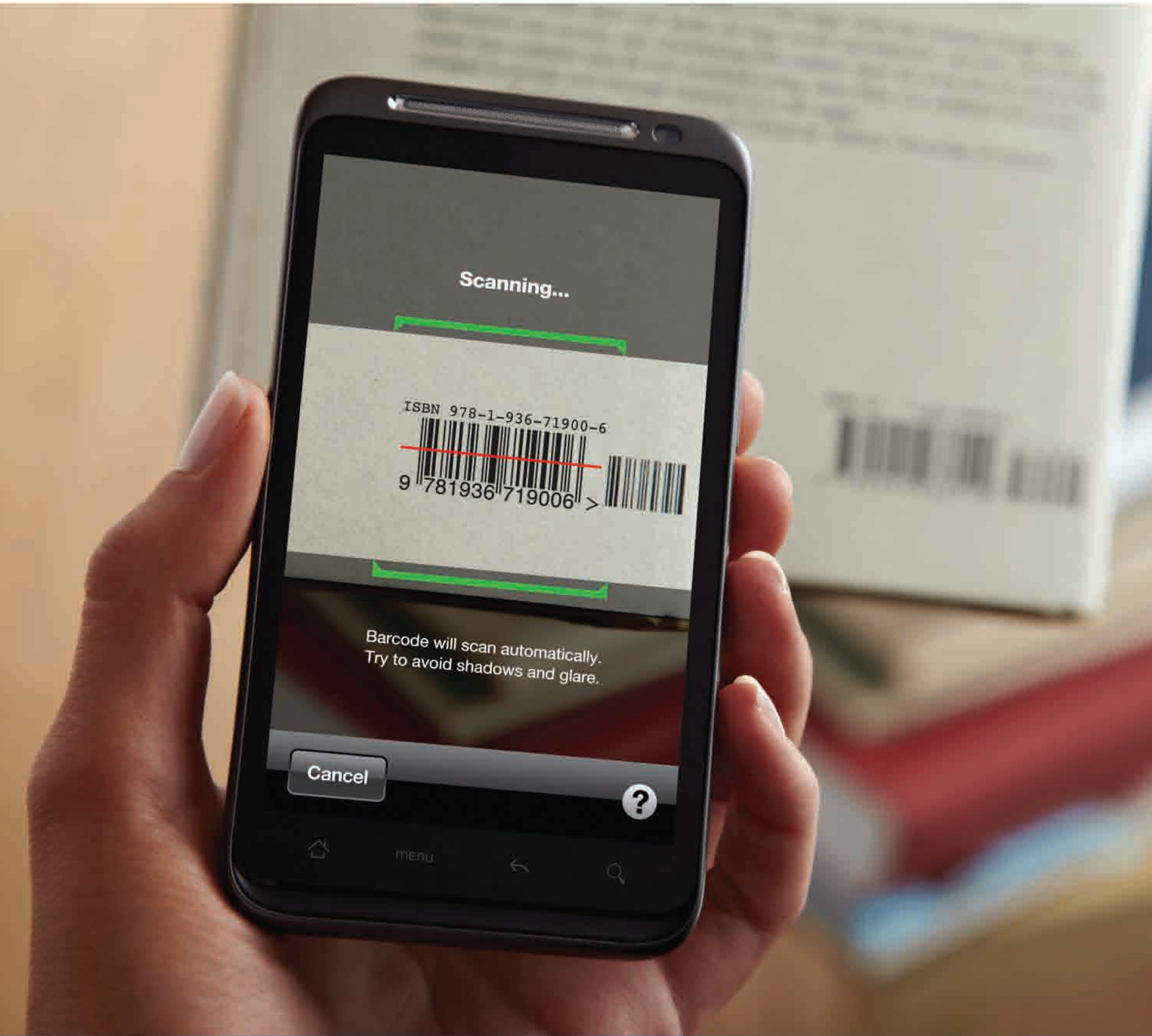
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9/11 - 10TH ANNIVERSARY



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Column

LOVE IN THE TIME OF COLLEGE



How do you know?

BY BEATRIZ A. CASTA EDA

The Prospector



The term "love at first sight" probably seems very cliché, but it is interesting to note how many people actually believe in this concept.

According to Psychology Today, approximately 60 percent of Americans do believe in this and more than 50 percent say they have experienced it.

Psychologists say that love at first sight depends on your psychological state at the moment you meet someone. They also say that it takes about 30 seconds to fall in love, or to be precise, to estimate whether the person is worth falling in love with.

While I believe in love and I believe that one can feel an immediate attraction to someone upon first meeting that person. I don't believe this necessarily means one will fall in love with someone right away.

It could happen in class, at work, at the grocery store and even at the gym. During that first encounter, one may feel attracted to someone because of their looks, but this should not be confused with love. You may be ogling someone at the bar for hours, but once they open their mouths, disappointment may set in. Although it may be easy to meet people, quality people are hard to find.

The attraction may be based on physical attributes, shared cultural aspects and even a potential conversation. Psychologists analyze that attraction as "just at first sight," and researchers also say that the first intense reaction involves sex rather than romance. If someone keeps smiling, keeps eye contact with you for a long time, they might be interested in you, but that may only be for that short moment of time. They're probably just trying to find someone to go home with.

see CAMILA on page 10

see LOVE on page 10

September 8, 2011

entertainment

editor

Beatriz A. Casta eda, 747-7442

Local

Hoppy Monk gives a pub feeling

BY ALEJANDRO ALBA

The Prospector

Fairly new, The Hoppy Monk, is a pub located on North Mesa known for its microbrewery that adds quality draft beers to the El Paso scene.

"We are trying to attract everyone who is into beer culture," co-owner Beto Longoria said. "We want people from 21-years-old all the way to 60-years-old to come and enjoy the beer."

Longoria mentioned that his other targets in clientele are the people who are familiar with the Belgium pub feeling and want to feel like they are back at home in England when they enter the place.

"The reason I really like the Hoppy Monk is because it's the closest thing to the pubs I used to go in England," said Rosa Meguerian-Faria, associate director for Professional and Public Programs at UTEP. "The drafted beer selection is also very diverse and good."

Longoria said they offer over 180 beers offered at the pub and with different flights categorized by region such as American, Belgian and Hoppy Monk beer flights.

"We can even build something to the customers taste if they request a special flight," Longoria said. "We are all about giving the people what they want."

With a vast selection of beer, the Hoppy Monk has daily specials where customers can get different beers at a lower price.

Longoria said Tuesdays are beer-feature glass night. If the customer asks for the beer that's being featured,



AUDREY RUSSELL / The Prospector

The Hoppy Monk offers over 180 drafted international beers. The bar will also be featuring food items starting September.

they get to keep the branded signature glass.

"I already have a collection of signature glasses," said Edwin Hamilton pre-business major. "I didn't like the beer, but the glass was worth it!"

The most common specials that flow throughout the week is the Fire sale. All beers that are not Belgian are under 7 percent alcohol are only \$3.50. Other specials include scotch and cigar sales, and Texas-brewed beer at \$3.50.

Longoria mentioned that within the wide selection of beers, the most re-

quested beer by his clients is the Hefeweizen and the Belgian white beer.

"I think these beers are famous because of the El Paso weather," Longoria said. "It is very refreshing and crisp."

With future plans involving a food menu, the Hoppy Monk is about to debut their kitchen just in time for the Monday Night Football games.

"We will have a small menu of food," Longoria said. "Mainly it will be appetizers and homemade food people can enjoy."

According to Longoria, other future plans include Hoppy Monk merchandise and a member rewards card named "The Hopptimist Club".

"We want members to try different beers," Longoria said. "For every certain beer they try, they will get points and eventually rewards."

The Hoppy Monk is open from 3 p.m. to 2 a.m. every day. For more information, visit www.thehoppymonk.com.

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

Concert Preview

Mexican pop trio Camila to enchant the borderland



Special to The Prospector

Latin Grammy winner Camila will perform at the El Paso County Coliseum at 8 p.m. Sept. 10.

BY ANDRES RODRIGUEZ

The Prospector

Jackelin Montelongo, junior accounting major has been anxiously waiting for a popular band to come to the city.

"I'm really excited for the concert," Montelongo said. "I know that it's go-

ing to be an amazing experience that everyone is going to remember."

She's referring to the upcoming concert of the Mexican pop trio, Camila, who will perform at 8 p.m. Sept. 10 at the El Paso County Coliseum. The popular Latin Grammy winners are set to begin their "Dejarte Amar" tour this month, hitting 10 major U.S. cit-

ies including Los Angeles, Chicago and New York.

Camila gained popularity in 2006 after their debut album, "Todo Cambio" produced major air-play hits like, "Abrazame," "Coleccionista de Canciones" and "Todo Cambio." Their soft-ballads catapulted them to Latin stardom, reaching the top of the Latin



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LRG selection varies by store.

LOVE from page 9

I believe that when two people have chemistry together—where at first, they’re drawn together by looks—eventually they need to find out about their likes/dislikes, similar backgrounds and start to get comfortable with each other. Psychologists say that the more you interact with a person you like (even slightly), the more you come to regard him or her as good-looking, smart,

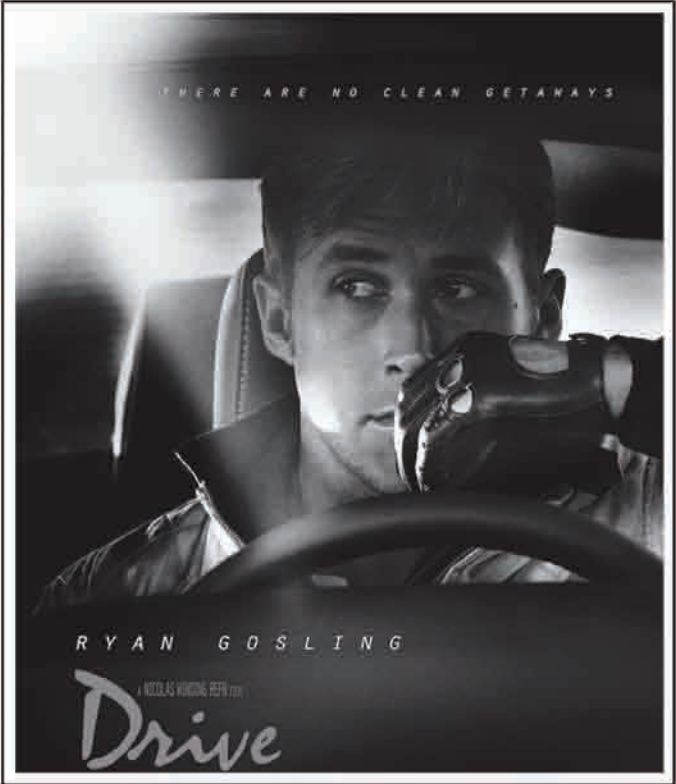
and similar to you – unless you discover something that breaks the spell. People’s personalities need to mesh, and if there is too much conflict, then the relationship won’t last.

I do not put too much faith in the concept of love at first sight because the chances of the relationship succeeding are slim. I believe two people must at least get to know each other first and see what happens over time. So I think it is wise to hang on to

someone worth having conversations with—someone with similar aspects and attributes. It may take a long time for two people to fully appreciate one another—it’s all about communication, chemistry and interactions. Whether it’s love at first sight, lust at first sight or love in hindsight, you should ask yourself if the person involved sees the real you or just your looks.

Beatriz A. Costa edo may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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Answers to 9-6-11

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CAMILA from page 9

Their first CD was released in 1999 and de Carlo says the band has grown immensely since.

“With our presentation this Saturday, we hope to reach another fan-base,” de Carlo said.

He said the band will open the concert with songs from their latest album, “Invulnerable” that took them five years to make. It includes the songs, “Mía,” “Noches de Día” and “Sobrenatural.” Their latest album is available on iTunes.

Camila’s success came as no surprise for the band. Their latest album, “Dejarte Amar” released February of last year, won the trio three Latin Grammys, and an eight-week stay as the number one album in the Mexico Album Top 100 chart.

Elizabeth Hernandez, sophomore social work major, said the band’s highest-rated single off the new album, “Mientes” is among the band’s most poignant portrayals of heart-break and recovery.

“I love Camila but I especially love that song,” Hernandez said. “It’s devastating yet beautiful. I really hope they play it in the concert.”

Montelongo agrees that the band’s songs are poignant.

“What I like about Camila is that their songs touch everyone,” she says. “That is what’s going to make the concert a truly memorable event.”

The band was scheduled to play in the region last year. However, the concert was canceled leaving fans disappointed. This time they’ll be headlining and fans anticipate their best.

“It’s Camila, what else can you expect?” Hernandez said.

Tickets sales through Ticketmaster include, \$27 balcony seats, \$47 reserved seats and \$67 box and floor seats.

For more information on ticket sales visit www.ticketmaster.com.

Andres Rodriguez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

Calendar of Events

Camila in concert at 8 p.m. Sept. 10, at the El Paso County Coliseum tickets available through ticketmaster, \$27, \$47, \$67.

El Paso Comic Con Sept. 10-11 at the El Paso Convention Center \$15 one-day pass \$25 two-day pass, for information at 534-0600.

Blue Man Group showcase at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 13-14 at The Plaza Theatre tickets range \$35-\$70.

Movies in the Canyon 7:30 p.m. Sept. 9 Nacho Libre, Iron Man 2 9:30 p.m. Sept. 10 ET, Bruce Almighty.

September 08, 2011
sports editor
William Vega, 747-7445

Football
Miners prepare for offensive-minded Mustangs

BY WILLIAM VEGA
The Prospector

The last time UTEP faced off against the SMU Mustangs, the Miners surprised the eventual Conference-USA west champions to pick up their bowl-eligible, sixth win of 2010. Now, in week two of this season, UTEP is hoping to duplicate that success as they take on their first conference and Division-1 opponent this year.

“I’m going to preach the same thing we did last year: be physical with this team,” senior defensive end Bernard Obi said. “This team is very good fundamentally and if we get in their heads, we’ll make them fold, eventually.”

Returning 10 starters on offense, the Miners may have their hands



MICHAEL DANCER/TheDaily Campus

full against an SMU team that scored more than 25 points per game last year. At the same time, the eight returning starters on defense are part of a team that allowed the same amount of points in 2010.

Senior defensive end Bernard Obi sees this trend in this offense-first group and knows that they must stop it in order to win.

“I’m sure they are going to come out and run the ball. (SMU) did run really well against (Texas) A&M last week so I guarantee they will run it more this week,” Obi said. “Then they’ll try and open it up with the pass but I’m definitely looking forward to the run.”

The Mustangs are entering this contest with UTEP after facing a major setback against the number-8 Texas A&M Aggies Sept. 4. SMU fell to the Aggies 46-14 and left the stadium with a quarterback controversy on head coach June Jones’ mind.

Junior starting quarterback Kyle Padron was benched after two unsuccessful drives that resulted in two interceptions. Senior J.J. McDermott, who played in just four games last year and completed two passes for 33 yards, was given the nod directing the Mustangs down the field on his first drive.

He set up a seven play, 60-yard drive that was capped off by a rushing touchdown to trim the Aggies’ lead to 14-7.

Jones kept McDermott in the rest of the game as he would eventually

find the end zone his self on a 27-yard touchdown pass in the third quarter.

Jones named McDermott the starter for the UTEP game, a team McDermott has seen in the past. He played for New Mexico State from 2007-08 where he backed up former QB standout Chase Holbrook. McDermott was on the sidelines for NMSU’s games against the Miners those years but UTEP head coach Mike Price still remembers watching film on the player even back then.

“He’s big, he can throw it really good and he was perfect for Hal Mumme’s offense. Then they made a coaching change, he left and went to another passing school,” Price said. “He’s a drop-back style, big quarterback that fits right in with what June Jones does.”

Another player familiar with the new starting quarterback is Obi who played against McDermott back in high school. Obi, a 2008 graduate of Pearlard High School in Texas, faced McDermott’s Cinco Ranch High School in the 2007 playoffs.

“He was really good in high school. He’s a big guy with a strong arm and he’s going to make his reads,” Obi said. “If he finds his reads, he’s going to throw it downfield, so it’s going to be a great challenge going against him.”

However, the Miners are not as worried about the passing game as they are with the Mustang’s running game. They are led by junior running back and first team All-Conference Zach Line who ran for 1,494 yards last



QB Nick Lamaison

JUSTIN STEVE/The Prospector

year. Against Texas A&M Sept. 3, he ran for 128 yards and one touchdown.

“We gave up a lot of yards last week so we expect them to come out and run the ball,” senior linebacker Jeremy Springer said. “They’re going to try and overpower us, gain on the mistakes we made and try to use that against us. We have to be very disciplined.”

On a three-game losing streak, the Miners returned to the Sun Bowl to face first-place SMU Nov. 6, 2010. The Mustangs were able to outgain UTEP 359-319 on offense but it was the Miners’ ability to score in the red zone that gave them the win. UTEP went 4-for-4 inside the 20-yard line against SMU’s 1-for-2.

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

Football
Maturity, focus propels senior to defensive leader



BOB CORRAL / The Prospector

Senior defensive end Bernard Obi (left) chases the ball handler during a practice at Glory Field.

BY FRANKIE RODRIGUEZ
The Prospector

Keeping his teammates focused and united, senior defensive end Bernard Obi hopes to lead the veteran Miner defense to a successful 2011 football season.

Returning seven first-team defenders from last season, Obi stands as one of three players to start in at least 12 games last year.

“I think I have progressed a lot. I have become more focused here than I would have at any other school,” Obi said. “It’s a laid-back town and not a lot of distractions out here. I can just focus on football and I think that is how I’ve become a better athlete. It allows me to just focus on my game.”

Last season, Obi started at right end, finishing with 27 tackles. He had over three tackles for a loss, including two sacks and a forced fumble.

During his sophomore year in 2009, where he never started a single game, Obi had career-highs with six tackles against Houston Oct. 3 and two sacks against Rice Nov. 21. His best showing came that year against number-12 ranked Houston when he had two tackles for a loss and a fumble recovery, as well.

FSN analyst: SMU a tough defensive battle for UTEP.



Special to The Prospector

BY WILLIAM VEGA
The Prospector

This year, UTEP isn’t the only institution going through major changes in football. Conference-USA switched from CBS Sports to Fox Sports Net over the offseason and will cover the UTEP-SMU game Sept. 10 in Dallas, Texas.

FSN contacted The Prospector to see if the publication would like the insight of college football analyst Gary Reasons. Reasons is a college football Hall of Famer and a two-time Super Bowl champion with the New York Giants in 1987 and 1991. He spoke exclusively to The Prospector Sept. 7 about SMU and the matchup, altogether.

In a surprising move, SMU head coach June Jones announced that junior Kyle Padron will not start at quarterback giving the nod to senior J.J. McDermott. Padron was benched in the first quarter after throwing two interceptions in two drives.

Reasons was surprised that Jones did not sub Padron back in the game and that he was not named the starter against UTEP. Reasons believes that Padron’s experience could still help the team but the move to McDermott could also work. He also credits that to McDermott’s familiarity with the system and his experience at NMSU from 2007-08.

Another offensive weapon that impresses Reasons is junior running back Zach Line. He said Line is strong and quick and has the ability to surprise teams with his power, speed and agility. He said that Lines is a tough target to tackle for smaller defensive backs.

On the defensive side, Reasons said that SMU needs to make strides to move forward after allowing as many points as they scored last year. He said that due to their high-powered offense, they’re defense is usually back on the field following quick scores.

UTEP’s defense, on the other hand, needs more improvement from 2010. Reasons said they did not have a great pass rush and were overshadowed nearly by most C-USA teams. He said they should try to improve their penetration to disrupt the offense in the backfield and get sacks.

All in all, Reasons believes that SMU’s defense can give them a chance to rally at home and give UTEP’s junior quarterback Nick Lamaison troubles on the road. After watching the Miners’ performance Sept. 3 against Stony Brook, Reasons said that stopping the run will be a focus for UTEP that could also open up the passing game for SMU’s quarterbacks.

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Volleyball

Miners looking to keep streak alive at next invitational

BY KRYSTAL OBLINGER

The Prospector

The Miners will look to continue their 8-0 start to the 2011 season when they take on Baylor, Lamar and Mississippi State at the MCM Elegante Invitational Sept. 9-10 in Beaumont, Texas.

The Miners aren't the only team off to a good start, the Baylor Bears have opened their season 6-1 averaging 323 kills. Senior middle blocker Briana Tolbert is leading the team with 65 kills and a .391 hitting percentage.

"Baylor is a really good match up for us because they have some really nice athletes that we match up well with. We are going to need to test ourselves against those type of players," head coach Ken Murphy said. "We're especially trying to get good at defending against outsider hitters which Baylor has to test us and see if we are getting better."

Also on the team is senior libero Allison King, who is second on Baylor's all-time digs list. King has earned top-Defensive Player honors and ranks second with 4.70 digs per set.

"There isn't a big difference on how we look at our opponent before a game," senior libero Stephanie Figueroa said. "Each one we play with respect even though we know Baylor is going to be one of the toughest teams we face this weekend."

Unlike Baylor's strong start, the Miners will also take on Lamar University, which is 1-6 this season. They lost their last two games against Louisiana-Lafayette and Texas Christian University. Sophomore outside hitter Sierra Whittaker holds the top spot for cumulative kills at 64 out of 219 as the team's hitting average is .183 after the Louisiana-Lafayette match.



BOB CORRAL / The Prospector

The Miners practice tip drills with each other at a practice in Memorial gym. The team is off to their best start in head coach Ken Murphy's tenure at UTEP.

"Lamar is a lot like UT-Arlington which we played a couple weeks ago," Murphy said. "They are good on defense, and pretty good at playing the game. I think it'll be really important to take advantage of our athleticism."

Whittaker added 10 kills to the sets against Louisiana-Lafayette but quickly fell behind two sets. Lamar managed to win the third 25-22 but was unable to keep their composure and lost their fourth set 25-23 despite Lamar's lead during the fourth set.

"A lot of it depends on using our strength because when we try to fig-

ure out an opponent, we get lost," junior outside hitter Bridget Logan said. "What we need to do in order to beat all these teams is play our game and play it at a high level."

UTEP will end its stay in Beaumont, Texas Sept. 10 against the Mississippi State Bulldogs at 3:30 p.m. Already six matches in, Mississippi has a record of 2-4 and racked up a .243 hitting average during their match with Army Sept. 3. The Bulldogs won that match in the Community Bankers Classic 3-1.

"Mississippi State is going to be a really big team, and we are going to need to be a better volleyball team that day," Murphy said. "We are going to have to play the game better, use better skills and stay organized in our systems a little more to try and beat them."

Mississippi State did not fare well in the invitational as the University of the Pacific and Duquesne University swept them Sept. 2-3.

As for the Miners, they are off to their best start in Murphy's tenure as head coach and are just one win away

from tying the school record for consecutive wins in a season. The next best start for UTEP came in the 2007 season when they went 7-1 before going on a 13-game losing streak.

"Our biggest enemy this weekend is going to be ourselves," Figueroa said. "We cannot get too confident and not gain a mentality that since we are on this winning streak they are not going to give it to us, we need to earn it."

Krystal Oblinger may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

MATURITY from page 11

In the 2011 season opener versus Stony Brook Sept. 3, Obi had one tackle, assisting with one tackle for a loss.

Defensive coordinator Andre Patterson said Obi offers a lot to the team in terms of ability and talent.

"As a football player, he brings speed, physicality, tenacity and he is a very cerebral player...he is very smart," Patterson said. "Bernard is the leader of the defensive line, saying the right words to keep the guys going and does a great job of keeping these guys focused."

Obi's teammates believe in his ability on the field, and appreciate the leadership qualities he possesses off the field.

"Oh man, he is a leader on and off the field," senior cornerback Travaun Nixon said. "In the weight room, he is one of the strongest guys and he is making sure people are doing stuff right. Off the field, he's just like a big brother."

His aspiration is to reach the NFL level, but he is not limiting himself to just that.

"I want to have a chance to go to the NFL," Obi said. "If I don't make it there, I want to finish my degree, which I should in May (2012) to become a sports broadcaster, go into sports journalism somewhere or become a coach."

Nixon said that people should not let Obi's stalwart build frighten them and that underneath the brawn is a pleasant person.

"He looks big and swollen, but talks very soft," Nixon said. "He's not that quiet, but he is a little different than what he portrays as a person. I thought he was going to be all big

and mean since he's on the d-line, but he's a cool dude."

As for Patterson, he said he admires Obi for his personal qualities.

"He is a great guy. He is the kind of guy that I hope my son would grow up to be," Patterson said. "He treats people with respect and that is why I like the guy so much."

Obi said he has become accustomed to the serene and tranquil lifestyle El Paso offers.

"It's been great, the people here are really nice. At first I didn't think I would like it. It's my senior year and now I love it here," Obi said. "It's a quiet laid-back city and I've gotten used to the lifestyle out here. I really like it a lot."

His father is a doctor, but Obi said there is no pressure from his parents to pursue that level of education. Instead they support him in every way possible.

"They are just proud of me for being able to play football and having a good education," Obi said. "They want me to do the best I can in whatever I want to do, but there is no pressure from them to be a doctor or anything like that."

Being Obi's senior year at UTEP, he reflects back on why he chose El Paso in the first place.

"They were my only serious offer coming out of high school about letting me play for them," Obi said. "So I decided UTEP was the best place for me."

Frankie Rodriguez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

thursday, sept. 22
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

friday, sept. 23
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

don haskins center

career expo
september 22 - 23
2011

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