

1-17-2012

The Prospector, January 17, 2012

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WHAT TO WATCH FOR



Photo by Bob Corral / The Prospector

Students struggle with financial burden

As debt mounts, grad school seems to be a distant option

BY JASMINE AGUILERA

The Prospector

According to the Project on Student Debt, two-thirds of college graduates take out student loans and have an average of \$25,000 worth of debt. Oftentimes, students do not qualify for free financial aid from the government because their parents make more than the specified income level, but at the same time, they do not have the resources to pay for school and must take out student loans or find other means.

“My step dad earns about a \$100,000 a year, so I don’t qualify for free financial aid,” said Zuzim De Leon, junior biology major. “But it’s not like we keep it all. There are bills to pay. He’s still in debt from what he was paying for his sons’ cars so a lot of what he earns goes towards that. Also, the house payment is huge, not to mention credit cards and our cars.”

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) does not take into

consideration credit card, mortgage or car payments or any other debt when awarding financial aid.

“Last semester, we paid for my classes with my mom’s credit card,” De Leon said. “That seems bad, but at least this way we’ll pay it off little by little. It was taken out of my mother’s credit card because she didn’t want it to affect me. I’m guessing by the time I graduate, I’ll be about \$20,000 in debt, but it depends because I plan on getting a part-time job to help at least a little bit.”

De Leon originally wanted to become a doctor, but because of her financial situation she has decided to change her plans.

“Because of the money, I switched to nursing,” she said. “It takes so much less time to graduate than going straight for a Ph.D.”

De Leon plans to graduate next year and hopes to start working right away so that she can save money and then go back to school and become a doctor.

“It’s quite upsetting when I meet someone who gets everything paid for but slacks off and doesn’t appreciate it,” De Leon said. “There are plenty of other people that actually want a future for themselves that would gladly use that money on their education.”

Roxan Hernandez, sophomore pre-nursing major, is also in a similar situation.

“I didn’t get free financial aid because my dad made about \$250 more than he usually did year round,” Hernandez said. “So I had to take two loans to pay for school and then I still had to pay another \$650 out of pocket because the loan wasn’t enough. For the academic year, I ended up taking out about \$18,500 in both subsidized and unsubsidized loans and this just has to continue for another two years until I finish my requirements.”

Hernandez said the financial burden will be a deciding factor in

see FINANCIAL on page 4

Government

Despite indefinite halt, SOPA still a concern over internet censorship

BY HENRY ARRAMBIDE

The Prospector

Recently shelved in the U.S. House of Representatives, the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) stirred up controversy throughout the Internet. As of Jan. 13, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA) has made a promise to House Oversight Chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) that the house will not be voting on the controversial bill until a consensus is reached.

“While I remain concerned about Senate action on the Protect IP Act, I am confident that flawed legislation will not be taken up by this House,” Issa said in a statement. “Majority Leader Cantor has assured me that we will continue to work to address outstanding concerns and work to build consensus prior to any anti-piracy

legislation coming before the House for a vote.”

Proposed October 26, 2011, by representative Lamar Smith (R-TX), SOPA would have allowed the Department of Justice to seek court orders against websites outside of U.S. jurisdiction accused of breaking copyright law.

“There is a vast virtual market online run by criminals who steal products and profits that rightly belong to American innovators,” said Smith in a statement. “These foreign rogue websites not only steal movies and music, they offer counterfeit medicine, automobile parts and even baby food, which harm American industries and put American lives at risk.”

Once the orders had been delivered, the U.S. Attorney General would be able to demand U.S. Internet service

providers (ISPs) and advertisers to stop doing business with whatever sites become blacklisted. Search engines such as Bing or Google would also be forced to block links to sites that were found to be in violation of the act.

“It’s an act that wants to start cracking down on what they call Internet piracy,” said Barbara Evans, junior dance major. “However, I don’t see it that way. I see it as a way for Hollywood and other bigwig executives to control what goes through the Internet and how we share things.”

SOPA’s biggest supporters included various large and traditional media organizations such as the Motion Picture Association of America, Recording Industry Associa-



see CENSORSHIP on page 3

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Memorial

In memory of Elsa Aguilar

Elsa Aguilar, former Minero Magazine editor-in-chief (2004-2005) and Spanish copy editor of The Prospector (2005-2006), passed away unexpectedly Jan. 12 at the age of 32. She graduated with a master of linguistics from UTEP in May 2006. Visitation will be from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Jan. 17 at Hillcrest Funeral Home, located at 1060 Carolina Dr., with a vigil service at 7 p.m. The mass of Christian Burial will be at 9:30 a.m. Jan. 18 at San Antonio de Padua Catholic Church with the rite of committal to follow at Mount Carmel Cemetery. Aguilar is survived by her parents Jose Alfredo and Maria del Refugio, sisters Sarah and Irais, and her maternal grandmother Guadalupe.

Column

Dropping the Pickaxe

BY JUSTIN STENE
The Prospector



It's New Year's Eve in El Paso and where are you? You're either at a bar, your grandmother's house or at home watching

other people have fun. It seems as if there is nothing to do.

Year after year millions of people flock to Time Square in New York City Dec. 31 where one of the largest New Year's Eve celebrations is held. The celebration plays host to some of today's greatest artists such as Lady Gaga who put on the performance leading up to midnight. The event bans alcohol due to New York's public drinking laws that prohibit it.

However, if you're like most of the people who make their way into New York City, you are more interested in watching the Waterford Crystal Ball drop which descends from 77 feet starting at 11:59pm and concludes its journey to the bottom of the flagpole at the stroke of midnight bringing in the New Year with a burst of fireworks, loved ones sharing a kiss and confetti raining down over the revelers.

There are also other notable dropings which include the "Big Cheese" in Plymouth, Wisconsin where live music and family-oriented events lead up to the dropping of an 80 pound cheese wedge. At the dropping of the peach in Atlanta, Georgia, similar events are held and crowds close to 200,000 people come to watch annually.

These events are free to the public and offer live performances and entertainment. Big events like UTEP's own Minerpalooza can be costly to put together, but they also bring back money to the community. Miner-

palooza is used to kick off another school year and is a pep rally for the first football game of the season. This event is used to fundraise for the different departments at UTEP and offers a great deal of fun for students and families who attend. During Minerpalooza, thousands gather around to listen to live music by local artist, eat cuisine from different restaurants and even get "married" at the marriage both.

On New Year's Eve, the Sun Bowl game is held and thousands of people come to attend the only game in the Sun Bowl, which allows the purchase of alcohol by fans. The Sun Bowl Association fundraises all year long and is separate from the university.

Yet there is not a big celebration to bring in the New Year here in El Paso. Why not start a new tradition after the Sun Bowl game and have a block party similar to Minerpalooza where thousands of people come out to listen to live music, fund raise and even have a drink in a beer garden.

We can even start this new tradition with the lowering of a pick axe with orange and blue confetti. This would be the perfect moment for those people who are tired of the same old routine of going to a bar, grandma's house or watching people in Time Square have all the fun.

New York has their crystal ball, Plymouth has their cheese, Atlanta has their peach, but El Paso has nothing. The city and university are missing out on a huge opportunity that could bring in thousands of dollars and create a family-oriented event for El Pasoans.

Instead, we are stuck with the same old routine of bring in the New Year in a lack-luster celebration. Why not bring excitement to the El Paso and UTEP communities by bringing in the New Year with huge celebration and a dropping of the Pickaxe at the stroke of midnight?

Justin Stene may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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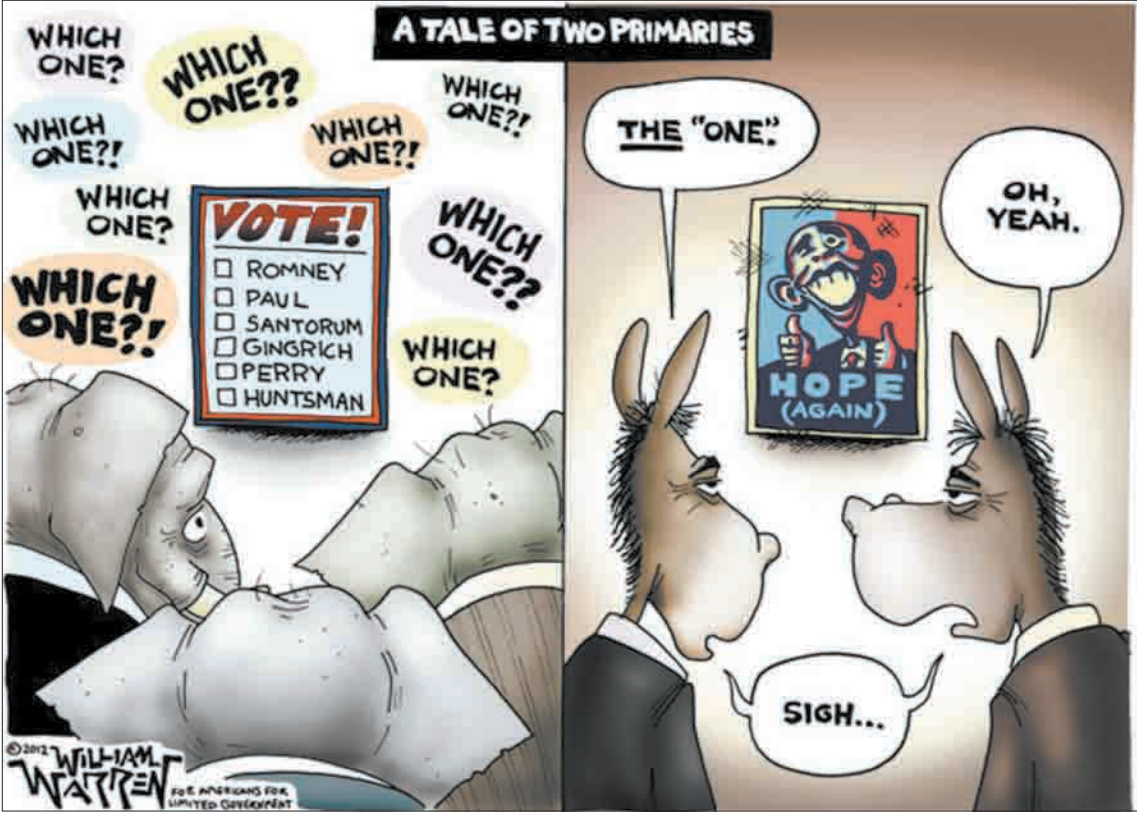


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The Prospector (USPS 448-020) is published by the Student Publications Board, 105 E. Union, 500 W. University Ave., El Paso, TX 79968. During Fall & Spring semester The Prospector is published twice weekly: Tuesdays and Thursdays, except holidays and when classes are not in session, once a week on Wednesday during the summer session. Subscription rates: \$20 per year; \$4 taken from fees to pay for student copies. Periodicals postage paid at El Paso, TX. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Prospector, 105 E. Union, El Paso, Texas 79968-0622.

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CENSORSHIP from page 1

tion of America, Viacom, ABC, CBS, Comcast/NBC Universal, Marvel and Warner entertainment.

"Because the U.S. produces the most intellectual property, our nation has the most to lose if we fail to address the problem of rogue sites. The Stop Online Piracy Act stops foreign rogue websites from taking jobs and profits away from America's innovators," Smith said. "The bill's broad bipartisan support shows Congress's commitment to combating rogue sites and ensuring that profits go to American innovators, not criminals who steal our products and damage our economy."

There were many big companies that opposed the act, mainly Internet companies such as Google, Facebook, Twitter, eBay, Reddit, Yahoo!, LinkedIn and the Mozilla corporation, sites which allow users to share and spread content in manners outside of the traditional media model.

"It's been said that there's good things to this bill, like reducing piracy," said Tyler Bier, junior linguistics major. "But it's really like taking a wrecking ball to a piece of 2x4 when all you really want to do is hammer a nail into a piece of wood. The proposed measures are too powerful and it could lead to a lot of really unnecessary site closures and resources being blacked out because they're thought to be breaking some kind of copyright."

Critics of SOPA feel that its ability to block domain names of websites would have created a system in the U.S. similar to China's great firewall. SOPA's opponents claim the act would stifle creativity and kill the next YouTube or Twitter.

"As a media production student, I feel it would affect my potential ca-

“This treads the line of censorship and it’s almost like a big brother type of control thing.”

- Jaime Lupercio, sophomore cellular and molecular biochemistry major

reer choices in the near future," said Ryan Venegas, senior digital media production major. "I turn to social media to put my name and work out there. If SOPA goes into play, it will definitely dwindle the job market in my field. I think people need to wake up and realize the government isn't always working in our best interest."

Reddit planned on taking its site down for a whole day Jan. 18 as part of an Internet blackout in protest of SOPA. Following suite gaming giant Destructoid, 50-site comedy network Cheezburger and Major League Gaming would be joining in on the blackout. Jimmy Wales, founder of Wikipedia, had been active on the Wikipedia discussion pages trying to coordinate similar anti-SOPA action for Jan. 18.

"There's stopping online piracy, and making sure people get the money they deserve for their art," said Jaime Lupercio, sophomore cellular and molecular biochemistry major. "This treads the line of censorship and it's almost like a big brother type of control thing. It's better to leave things as they are. What we have, it's been working."

The public outcry was not ignored with Smith announcing Jan. 13 that he would be pulling the DNS-blocking provisions from the bill.

"After consultation with industry groups across the country, I feel we should remove Domain Name System blocking from the Stop Online Piracy Act so that the Committee can

further examine the issues surrounding this provision," Smith said. "We will continue to look for ways to ensure that foreign websites cannot sell and distribute illegal content to U.S. consumers."

In the senate, six GOP senators, including Senator John Cornyn (R-TX), wrote to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev) asking to postpone the vote on the Protect Intellectual Property Act (PIPA), the senate version of SOPA) after hearing from their constituents over the winter recess.

"I'm hoping that it gets struck down, that more people become aware of it and write their senators and representatives to say they don't want this," Evans said. "It completely thwarts the ideas of creativity and the idea of education, especially education distribution through the Internet, which is what I think the Internet is supposed to be used for."

Henry Arrambide may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

Stop Online Piracy Act

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Campus

Students start program to monitor UTEP’s energy efficiency

BY JASMINE AGUILERA
The Prospecter

In a meeting that took place November of last year, three engineering students presented a plan titled the “UTEP Energy Dashboard System.” The plan involved setting up dashboards on each building across campus that would monitor energy consumption.

The plan will now take effect this year with the help of UTEP’s Green Fund, which provided the students with a grant worth approximately \$30,000.

There is already a prototype in place on the University Library. Students can read the amount of energy consumption through the energy dashboard website, energydashboard.utep.edu. The site will show a graph that displays how much energy is used each day at different times of the day.

The project began with electrical engineering graduate students Stephan Hempel, Ryan Price and Pablo Rangel.

“Since we were all electrical engineering majors, we found this idea feasible,” Hempel said. “The university does not have a project like this yet and we felt we could apply all of our research.”

Price said that this project gives students a chance to put the knowledge they gained in class to work.

“Most students don’t actually get to practice what they learn until they



Electrical engineering graduate students Stephan Hempel, Ryan Price and Pablo Rangel helped create the “UTEP Energy Dashboard System” to monitor the university’s energy efficiency.

start working,” Price said. “But we had the lucky opportunity to gain experience while we were still in school.”

Hempel, the project manager and systems engineer, along with Price and Rangel as research assistants began the proposal for the Green Fund in the summer of 2011. The Green Fund Grant Making Committee approved and awarded them the grant.

“It was everything the GF had in mind,” said Kris Johnson, Green Fund founder. “This is our first official project from the GF so we want this to be a success and we have every hope that it will.”

The Green Fund raises up to \$40,000 a year through a fee that charges each student \$3 per semester as part of their tuition. The money is

then awarded to students who create proposals for environmental innovations on campus.

“I think it is so great that students now have the opportunity to put their ideas to practice,” said Ricardo Pineda, faculty advisor and director of the Systems Engineering Program.

Theresa Provencio, systems engineering graduate student, hopes this

project will encourage the UTEP community to be conscience of the amount of energy they use on campus. “I think this idea is really great,” Provencio said. “This will keep people accountable for the amount of energy they use and maybe it could be an incentive for them to cut back.”

Jasmine Aguilera may be reached at prospecter@utep.edu.



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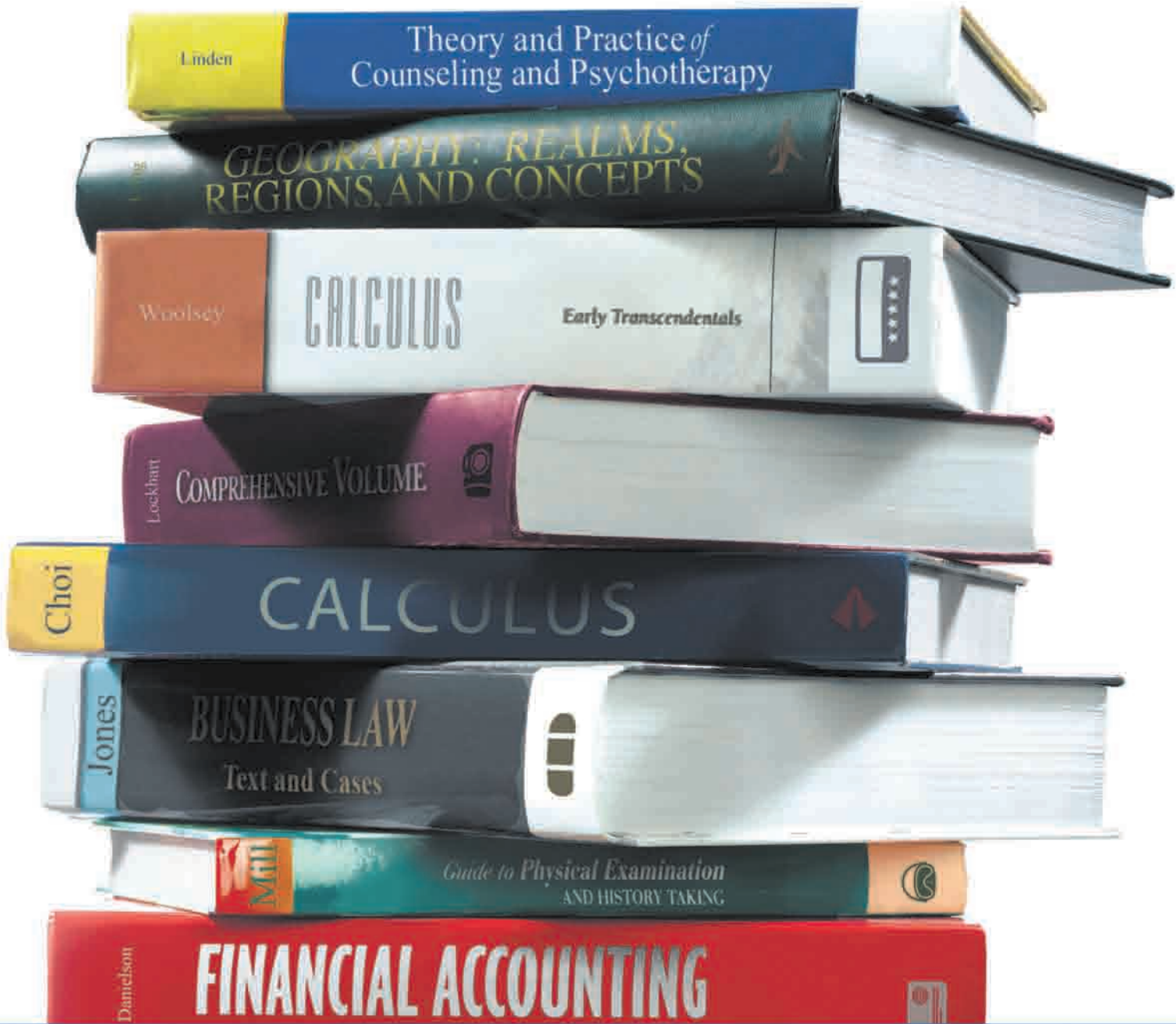
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Question of the week

What are your goals this semester?

Photos by Justin Stene

**MARIA ESQUINCA**Sophomore biology major
"To be the best version of myself."**KEVIN SCARBORO**Freshmen political science major
"My goal this semester is to become a millionaire."**TANIA MOREN**Senior psychology major
"Win the lottery."**JASON ORTEGON**Sophomore nursing major
"Don't die my first day of ROTC."**SHAKEISHA HAYNE**Sophomore music performance major
"My goals this semester are to get better grades and have more fun."


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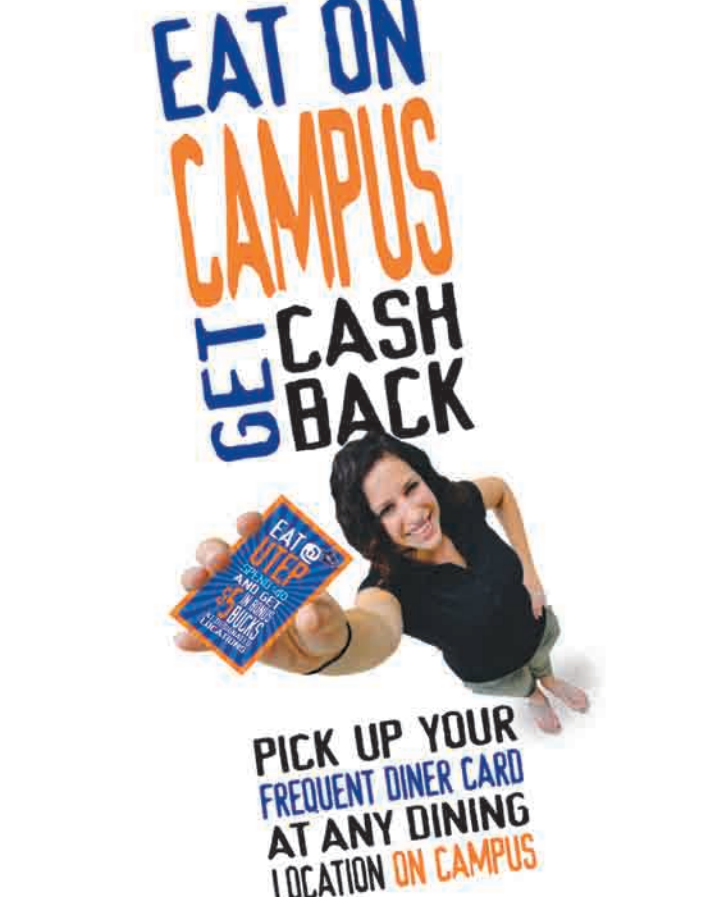


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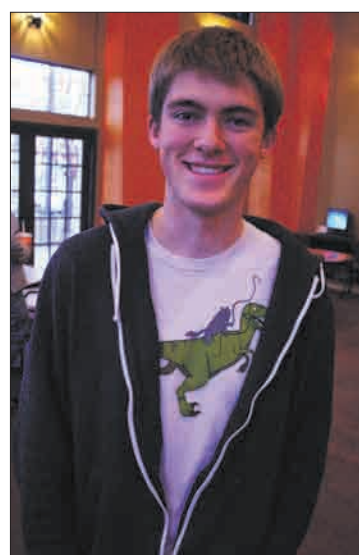
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"To get straight A's and find an internship for the summer."**AVA REY**Junior communication major
"My goals for this semester are to make a 3.75 in my classes and to become more involved in campus organizations."**MARIO SIMENTAL**Senior literature major
"Keep raising my GPA, see what UTEP has to offer as far as study abroad, grad school, internships and meeting new interesting people."**OMAR HERNANDEZ**Sophomore nursing major
"To find a job here at UTEP and look for summer internships."TOP GOLDEN GLOBE WINNERS: "THE ARTIST" & "DESCENDANT"
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January 17, 2012
entertainment editor
Krystal Oblinger, 747-7442



GREG CASTILLO / The Prospector

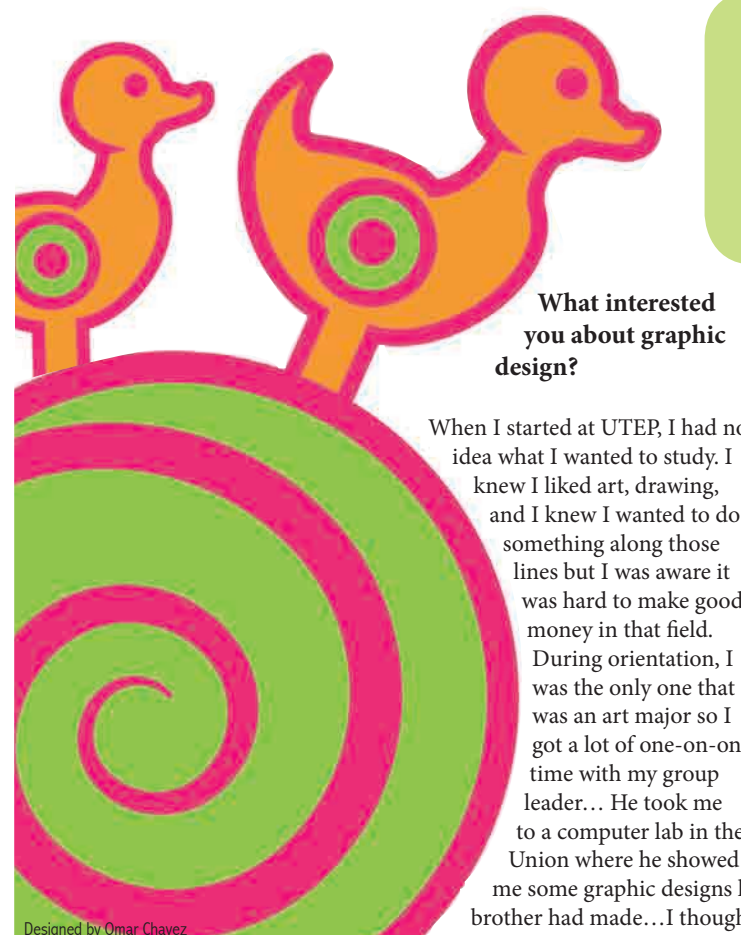
Carnival inspired ducks help student win Orbit gum's competition

BY KRISTAL OBLINGER

The Prospector

Omar Chavez, senior graphic design major, can now chew on \$5,000 thanks to the carnival inspired Orbit's gum packaging design he completed for the company's competition last summer. He sat down with The Prospector to discuss how his time here at UTEP has helped him for the professional world and his future.

To see the complete interview visit www.utepprospector.edu



What interested you about graphic design?

When I started at UTEP, I had no idea what I wanted to study. I knew I liked art, drawing, and I knew I wanted to do something along those lines but I was aware it was hard to make good money in that field. During orientation, I was the only one that was an art major so I got a lot of one-on-one time with my group leader... He took me to a computer lab in the Union where he showed me some graphic designs his brother had made... I thought

they were really impressive and my group leader said he was making a good living doing that.

What do you like about design?

The visual part of it. I'm a very visual person and that is really what drove me to graphic design in the first place. Just the visual aspect of it and how just one simple photograph with typography on top of it can really catch someone's attention.

Why did you sign up for the Orbit's competition?

I believe all the graphic design professors e-mailed the information out to all the art students in order to encourage them to try and submit. I was limited to three colors so, as

simple as it sounds, there was some serious difficulty to the assignment. I didn't expect to win when I first entered it but I told myself 'it never hurts to try.'

What was your reaction when you found out?

It was a bit funny. I was on my way to go work out at the YMCA. I got a call from a number with an area code I didn't recognize. At first, I thought it was a telemarketer so I considered not answering it. It was some lady, I guess from the company, and she told me I had won. I was shocked. I stopped there because I was so in shock; I couldn't even move or work out. I ran home to tell my parents, brother and sister.

Krystal Oblinger may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

Poster promotes Obama's 2012 campaign

BY KRISTOPHER RIVERA

The Prospector

Since kindergarten, Edgar Bonilla, junior graphic design and sculpture major, has had to cross the border from Ciudad Juárez to El Paso to study in the United States. Now, he sits in the student publications office as a graphic designer for Minero magazine and he is one of the winners of last year's "Obama For America" poster contest.

With his winning poster signed by President Barack Obama hanging on his wall, more opportunities open up to develop his passion for graphic designing. He stays busy by working a second job at the graphic design lab at the Fox Fine Arts Center and doing freelance work for small businesses.

"When I saw my poster with the 12 finalists, all I could notice was the names of the other competitors and where they were from," Bonilla said. "It was New York, Washington... and then El Paso; it was a pretty good feeling."

Anne Giangulio, associate professor of art and graphic design, had her class design posters for the contest that supported Obama's 2012 presidential campaign and his plan of creating American jobs.

"I'm just going to keep working and let my work take me wherever it's going to take me."

- Edgar Bonilla, graphic design major

This assignment gave students class credit, but also a similar experience of what they may deal with in a professional setting.

"In my opinion, a lot of them looked pretty good," Giangulio said. "They had nice aesthetics, but they didn't necessarily have the strong concept that I think Edgar had. So not only did Edgar's look good but it was strong conceptually."

Bonilla got to work right away and for one month shuffled through different concepts, sketches and prints. Two weeks before the deadline, his final section began to take shape. Soon after submission, Bonilla received an e-mail notifying him he was a finalist in the contest.

See **Obama** on page 10



GREG CASTILLO / The Prospector

Edgar Bonilla won this years "Obama For America" competition. His design was one of twelve finalists to make it to the last judging.

Column

Reuniting At The Drive-In



FEARLESS RECORDS / Special to The Prospector

BY KRISTAL OBLINGER

The Prospector



On Jan. 9, a roar rose from the bowels of At the Drive-In's twitter account. That roar caused floods of excited postings on social networks

and many entertainment news sites as if the second coming had crawled out of the dark crevasses of a long forgotten abyss.

After 11 years of silence, the El Paso-born band announced that they would be reuniting with what at first seemed to be just an ambiguous statement, "This station is...now...operational," but proved to be the start of a new future for the crew.

For many El Pasaons, the news sparked the nostalgic memory of our younger years, when many local bands had not yet hit big in the genre/ music business. It was a time when the smell of sweat packed into small bar rooms and venue filled many nostrils as the audience waited to see the underground-garage dreamers of the music scene. It was the early 90's and I wouldn't get on that wagon until the year before the band split.

In 1993, At the Drive-In started its journey with five members: singer Cedric Bixler-Zavala, guitar and keyboard Jim Ward, bass Omar Rodriguez-Lopez, bass Paul Hinojos and drums Tony Hajjar. The group toured and produced four albums before

see **REUNITING** on page 10



GREG CASTILLO / The Prospector
Bonilla said the hands shaking symbolize someone hiring another person for a job.

OBAMA from page 9
“My motivation was Fort Bliss and the military population we have here in El Paso,” Bonilla said. “Also, it was a tribute to my aunt because she’s in the navy.”
Bonilla wanted to create an image that bled more than just the colors red, white and blue. He presented a design that would resemble several different meanings.
“I tried to make the design like... putting two images into one,” Bonilla said. “The ranked patch and the clasped hands symbolized the shaking of the hands like when someone is given a job. It also signified Obama’s

promise that he was going to bring the troops back and that he was going to offer jobs to the veterans.”
Berenice Mendez, senior graphic design major and co-worker of Bonilla’s, appreciates the work ethic he implements and the great exploit he has given the university and the city.
“We’re not a big university and the art department is to some extent small,” Mendez said. “But having students like him that actually set their standards very high, as high as the top art colleges, serves as a very good example.”
Bonilla says his work ethic is a reflection of his parents, who had pushed him since his younger years

to get an education and hoped to give their children a better future.
“My family has been very humble, they have worked a lot and done a lot,” Bonilla said. “Every time I do something, like win the competition, their sacrifices pay off. It’s their goals too, they’re watching me thrive.”
Bonilla wants to continue studying and doing art with hopes to study abroad and get an internship that would fulfill his dreams.
“I don’t know where I’m going to end up,” Bonilla said. “I’m just going to keep working and let my work take me wherever it’s going to take me.”
Kristopher Rivera may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

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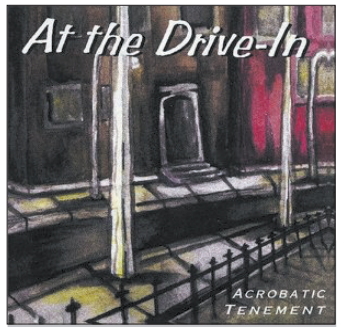
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Title: Acrobatic Tenement
Release 1996
Label: Flipside
The Debut Album



Title: In/Casino/Out
Release 1998
Label: Fearless Records



Title: Relationship of Command
Release Sept. 2000
Label: Fearless Records
Last album despite praise by critics

REUNITING from page 9
their break up in 2001, which many thought was the end. In many reports, Zavala claimed he was to blame for the band's split due to his interest outside of the post-hardcore sound of At the Drive-In's music. Whatever the case, the group split into two other iconic bands: The Mars Volta and Sparta. Even the group's original website under Fearless Records states the reverse of their reunion site: "This station is non-operational."
Fast forward to the present. It is now known that the group is scheduled to play at this year's Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival on April 15 and 22, but this does not tell the band's fans what they can expect in the near future. What it does perhaps suggest is that the band was in fact invited to perform and with a sudden act of excitement (much like the wild fire that spread over media outlets across the country about their reunion) the group came to the decision that it would be in their best interest to reunite for the performance.
This by no means promises a new album nor does it deny it. It simply means that if you were able to snag one of the \$300-\$665 tickets which have now sold out, found some form of travel, booked a hotel or are prepared to camp out, then you'll have the opportunity to relive a moment in time passed... unless future reports say otherwise.
Krystal Oblinger may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

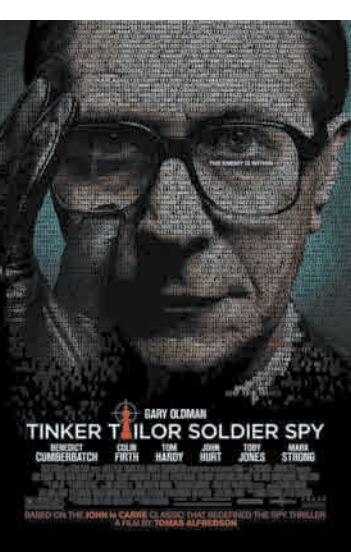
Tinker Tailor *Somber* Spy

Alfredson's spy-thriller confuses despite dynamic ending

BY ANDRES RODRIGUEZ
The Prospector

A film where tension mounts in the faces of smoking men, top spies played by British actors in a checkered room amid a foggy 1970s London, while all is lit and set with precision, has to be well produced and it is, in a puzzling sort of way.
Tomas Alfredson's chilling spy thriller, "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy," adapted from the 1974 John Le Carré novel of the same name, captures espionage at its most unglamorous. Alfredson does away with "007's" gloss and explosions and instead puts the characters in a quiet office-space espionage, which is a louder, slower bang.
Control (John Hurt), the head of the British secret service, or MI6, believes that a Soviet double agent lurks among the Circus, an intricate slew of paper pushing spies working under Control. The film opens with Jim Prideaux (Mark Strong) entering Control's smoky study to be given the assignment of delving deeper into Control's suspicion in a Hungary mission.
Here, the operation fails with Prideaux's shooting, calling for the forced retirement of Control and Smiley (Gary Oldman), Control's right hand man. Before forced retirement and death, Control discovers

that the agent could be Bill Haydon (Colin Firth), Toby Esterhase (David Denick), Roy Bland (Ciarian Hinds), Percy Alleline (Toby Jones) or George Smiley, the top dogs of the organization. Then, in a slow and complex crosscutting exposition, Smiley, called back from retirement, sets to uncover the mole.
Previously adapted in a 1979 BBC television movie, the newest take on the novel seems to cram its source material. Layer upon layer of mysterious new information is presented one after the other without real clarity, but in gorgeous and tense low-key scenery.
Jacqueline Durran, known for costume design in "Pride and Prejudice" and "Atonement," helps set the film in its 1970s roots with bell-bottoms, thick-rimmed glasses, awful haircuts and an orange-tint to the decor.
Set in the middle of the Cold War, international ties are on edge which Alfredson accomplishes to set the mood by creating an atmospheric tension of low angles, a composition of well composed music by Alberto Iglesias ("The Skin I Live" and "The Constant Gardener") and window-framed scenes.
As a worn Smiley looks for information along with Peter Guillam (Benedict Cumberbatch), they encounter Ricki Tarr (Tom Hardy), who brings



Special to The Prospector

one of the clearer love stories to the film along with crucial information about the mole. As they uncover details about the spy, more is revealed about secret international operations along with background details of the suspects' life and their interlacing friendships and secrets. Information is dispersed at a alarming rate, causing the acting to be meaningless and unabsorbed due to the amount of story one has to follow in just a second.
Oldman, in an understated performance, portrays Smiley with apparent ease. He conveys an aura of strength, a commanding presence in the limited conversations he holds. He does all this with an uneasy expression that indicates neither comfort nor disorientation. Considering the amount of actors in the film (contributing to the confusion) each one of them portrays the characters with perfect dead-beat drab only to make the brilliant moments of reveal the more emotive.
Worth mentioning is also Benedict Cumberbatch. As Smiley's sidekick, Cumberbatch plays it suave and faithful, afraid but driven. In one of the most stirring scenes, Cumberbatch portrays Peter's make-shift confidence and charm in an attempt to retract a key piece of information, all the while the audience, through hints of his unsettled expression, is aware of his fear of getting caught.
Julio Iglesias' "La Mer" plays the film onto the credits, a contrasting song compared to the otherwise atmospheric and suspenseful score by Alberto Iglesias. "La Mer," however serves as a sort of triumphant selection to cap a film that ends with the clear resolution of the mystery, but not a clear understanding of the overall concept.
Andres Rodriguez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

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Tech

CES debuts anticipated tech gear





BY JERRY ALDAZ
The Prospector

Hundreds of new gadgets and services flooded the floors of this year's Consumer Electronics Show (CES). From Samsung's "Smart Window" to the intuitive AR Drone 2.0, only few upcoming products are worthy of college students' frugality.

PSP Vita (February)

Welcoming in 2012, Sony's PSP Vita awaits gamers' sweaty, smelly palms. Loaded with a 5-inch OLED screen, touch functionality and dual cameras, Sony's handheld poses a considerable threat to Nintendo's underwhelming and often-criticized 3DS. Wielding dual analog sticks and jaw-dropping processing power, Vita's stylistic form factor and pragmatic aesthetics promises infinite entertainment possibilities.

Launching with franchises such as "Call of Duty," "Marvel vs. Capcom" and "LittleBigPlanet," not to mention fan-favorites "Uncharted" and "ModNation Racers," the ever-growing software library alongside the console's interactive versatility will redefine what it means to play on the go.

iPhone 5 / iPad 3 (Mid 2012)

A new year, a new i-duo. Representatives from Apple speculated on changes the company would be working on for their upcoming products. The company said the iPad 3 may be uncovering its glistening body, and prepared itself for consumers' smudgy fingers, by March or April. Improvements would include five to eight megapixel replacements for its subpar cameras and a higher resolution for its outpaced screen, "Retina Display," failing to arrive in iPad 2.

While the iPhone's release history is a bit sporadic, October marking the 4Ss one-year stretch, iPhone 5 is said to include the faster A6 processor, quad-core processor and 4G support. Cosmetically, the iPhone 5 is rumored to continue its yearly diet and strut a larger 4-inch screen.

to an already saturated market. Let us hope it fares better than Windows Phone 7.

Wii-U (Late 2012)

Stopping for a cameo appearance, Nintendo's next-generation console, the Wii-U, further teases faithful followers. Kindled by Shigeru Miyamoto's boundless imagination, future Wii-U owners can look towards colorful adventures (in full HD) alongside the ever-so-brave Link, charismatic Mario and panicky Luigi.

One to always reinvent the wheel, Nintendo's tablet-like apparatus features a 6.2-inch touch display, various mechanical sensors and dual cameras for unexplored forms of virtual interaction. Although Wii-U is speculated to launch in the final quarter of 2012, according to various online outlets, gamers ought to dust off their aging Wii and joyously relive Nintendo's current renaissance.

Jerry Aldaz may be reached at theprospector@utep.edu

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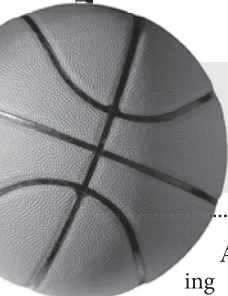
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January 17, 2012

sports


editor
William Vega, 747-7445




Can women's basketball continue its hot start?



4 BURNING QUESTIONS FOR SPRING 2012



Can softball rebound from its worst year since becoming a program?



What will become of the men's basketball team this year?

After opening the 2011-12 season with a school-record 10-0, head coach Keitha Adams' group looked like they could not be beat. When they finally showed their vulnerability and lost a game (and another), they broke off a five-game winning streak that ran into Conference-USA play. They won their first four games in league play, including victories against pre-season favorite Memphis and last year's tournament runner-up, Tulane.

UTEP has dominated as a unit overall, especially in their post play. Three forwards in particular, senior Gloria Brown, junior Kristine Vitola and sophomore Kayla Thornton, are contributing to 40 percent of the team's season average in points and half of the rebounds.

The Miners have answered one question, so far, in their defensive performance. So far, this year's team is giving up 52 points per game, the lowest total since Adams took over in 2001-02. Their 32.7 percent opponent shooting average is the lowest since the 2006-07 NCAA Tournament team allowed 32.1 percent.

The Miners now have 12 games remaining, including two contests against Rice and a pair of home games against Tulane and UCF. All three were picked to finish ahead of, or tied, with UTEP in the pre-season polls.

Then it hit the fan.

The 2011 C-USA Preseason Player of the year and senior catcher Camilla Carrera played just 12 games before re-injuring her back, 2009 C-USA Freshman of the Year, Chelsea Troupe, missed the final 14 games with multiple injuries (to say the least) and other injuries piled from there.

As a result, UTEP won just once in its last 26 games, including 15 in a row at one time, to finish 16-37-1 and 1-22-1 in league play. The Miners were also run-ruled (losing by at least eight after five innings) 11 times during that span and 15 times throughout the season.

Pitching, despite not having to deal with injuries, was still a major concern all year. Of the three pitchers returning, sophomore Megan Atchison had the best ERA last season at 6.92. No pitcher had a winning record and the three returners combined for just 108 strikeouts all season.

Better days should be expected as both Carrera and Troupe are returning for their senior years. The Miners have attempted to bolster their pitching with the additions of two junior college transfers, as well, with sophomore Colleen Hohman and junior Cynthia Villastrigo.

When head coach Tim Floyd decided to conceal this year's team with inexperienced players (eight newcomers and six freshmen), it was rather imminent that a rebuilding year was in the works. The 2011-12 campaign has become more of a roller coaster ride than anything with the Miners sitting at a perfect 500, 9-9.

UTEP opened the season up with a pre-season loss to Eastern New Mexico, the team's first exhibition loss since 2006. They then dropped their regular season opener to UT-San Antonio and eventually held a 1-4 record.

During that fourth loss, the lone senior in forward Gabriel McCulley returned from injury Nov. 29 at Oregon, which sparked a slight turnaround. The Miners won four of their next five, including victories against NMSU and Clemson, and narrowly lost to now No. 22 Kansas State Dec. 23 at the Hawaiian Airlines Diamond Head Classic.


Two days later, UTEP got their retribution on former head coach Tony Barbee, when they defeated his Auburn squad to finish third in the same tournament.

Three wins and three losses later, the Miners are sitting at 2-2 in league play and are still searching for their first road win. Prior to their most recent game Jan. 15 against SMU, sophomore guard Michael Perez said he was tired of hearing that this year is a rebuilding year because he sees the potential in this team.

Unfortunately for him, that may be all this team is: a stepping-stone for 11 letter winners in the 2012-13 season.

Women's Basketball

Despite tough conference schedule, Miners stand at 4-0



BY DANIEL ORNELAS
The Prospector

After the Miners cruised to an 11-2 record in non-conference play behind a favorable schedule, UTEP showed they could beat even stiffer competition after opening league play 4-0.

The Miners' first four conference opponents were Jan. 5 at SMU, Memphis Jan. 8 and Tulsa Jan. 12, both at home, and at Tulane Jan. 15. The Tigers were the pre-season C-USA favorites and the Green Wave were picked tied for fourth with UTEP. The Mustangs finished one place higher than the Miners last year and were defeated by UTEP when they hosted the C-USA Tournament in 2011. Tulsa came in last place last year but are returning eight players to this year's team.

The Miners had to fight to win their opening games, despite averaging a seven-point margin of victory. They had to overcome a 19-point halftime deficit to Memphis to tie the largest comeback in school history. They then defeated Tulane in overtime and did not put away SMU and Tulsa until the wailing minutes.

Prior to their matchup with Tulane, head coach Keitha Adams felt confident the level of play could continue during the team's five-game winning streak and 4-0 start to league play.

"Tulane's really good, they beat LSU, they had big wins. I think it shows how competitive our conference is and they're well coached," said Adams prior to the game.

Adams and players alike have no complaints on the way the schedule was set up and are simply focused on the opponent at hand.

"I really don't put that much thought into it. With scheduling, we have no say in it. Whatever you get, that's what you have to go do," Adams said.

Senior guard Briana Green added that every C-USA opponent is tough

Junior forward Anete Steinberga lowers her shoulder against a Tulsa defender Jan. 12 at the Don Haskins Center. UTEP outscored the Golden Hurricane 28-22 in the paint during the game.

BOB CORRAL / The Prospector

see SCHEDULE on page 15

Men's Basketball

Reeling Pirates head to the Don



BOB CORRAL / The Prospector

Freshman forward Julian Washburn elevates to dunk the ball on a fast break against SMU Jan. 14 at the Don Haskins Center.

BY FRANKIE RODRIGUEZ
The Prospector

Hoping to capitalize once again at home, the Miners will host East Carolina Jan. 18 at the Don Haskins Center.

"I continue to tell people that we have to take care of home-court to have a chance at this conference and to have a chance at post season," senior forward Gabriel McCulley said.

The Pirates are in the midst of a 3-game losing streak sitting at 9-7 overall, 0-3 in Conference USA.

East Carolina is averaging 72.5 points per game with junior guard Miguel Paul leading the team in scoring, averaging 16 points per game. Senior forward Darrus Morrow is just behind at 13.6 points per game. East Carolina has struggled on the road this season, winning just one away game and another at a neutral site, while UTEP has won 19 of its last 20 conference home games.

"They are a good team as far as I know. They have always been a scrappy team," McCulley said. "I know they have the guy inside Morrow, one of the best big men in our conference. We are going to have to scrap because our conference right now is a dog fight, anybody can win any night."

The last outing the Miners had at home was against SMU when senior forward Robert Nyakundi silenced the crowd with his 3-pointer that initially won the game for the Mustangs. After officials reviewed the shot, which was taken with 0.5 seconds remaining, they ruled that the ball did not leave Nyakundi's hand in time.

"He scared me at the end and I thought it was game. In my eyes, he is something like a Reggie Miller. He has a quick shot like a quick rifle," McCulley said. "I was hoping he didn't get it off. I didn't want to foul him, but luckily he didn't get it off on time. I can thank the basketball gods for that one."

see PIRATES on page 15

Improved season coexisting with Latvian forward's year

BY RUSTY BURNS
The Prospector

With age comes experience, and with that experience, confidence builds. This could be said for junior forward Kristine Vitola and her improved play.

This season, the 6-foot 4-inch 21-year old athlete from Latvia is averaging career-highs with 5.8 points and 6.4 rebounds per game. She's also found herself consistently in the starting lineup, having started 14 of the team's 16 games so far.

"She's been a lot more aggressive," head coach Keitha Adams said. "She's had some big rebounding games and some big blocks. We look for her to score around the basket. She's a really good shooter and her experience shows and she's more confident."

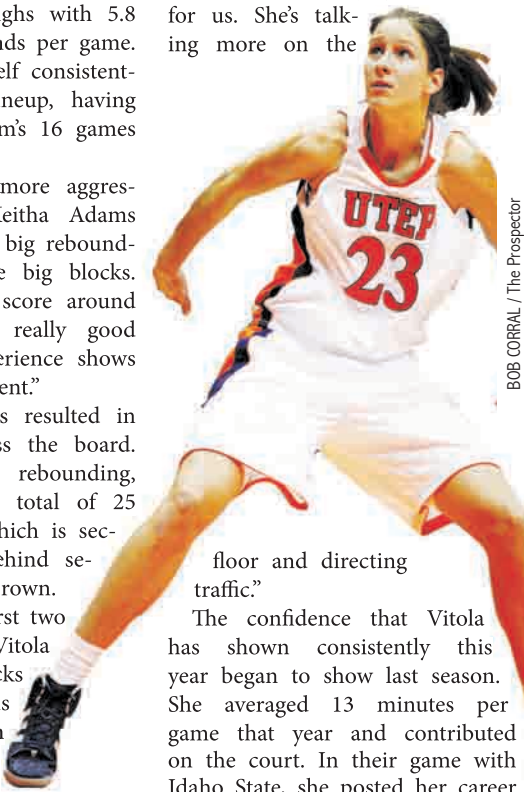
That confidence has resulted in statistical highs across the board. Besides scoring and rebounding, Vitola already has a total of 25 blocks this season, which is second on the team behind senior forward Gloria Brown.

Compared to her first two seasons at UTEP, Vitola already has more blocks than last year and is currently tied with her freshman and career-high. With those 25 blocks in her

first year, she ranked first on the team, and had the 11th most in Conference-USA.

Besides Vitola's confidence and aggressive playing, she's also taking on more of a leadership role.

"She's played with a lot of confidence, that's the biggest thing," assistant coach Ewa Laskowska said. "She's been a very good returner for us. She's talking more on the



BOB CORRAL / The Prospector

floor and directing traffic." The confidence that Vitola has shown consistently this year began to show last season. She averaged 13 minutes per game that year and contributed on the court. In their game with Idaho State, she posted her career

see LATVIAN on page 15

SCHEDULE from page 13

and the team simply has to keep focus and take it one game at time. "All (four) games have been tough, we've had to keep our composure. The home court has helped us win, we just have to keep rolling," Green said. "You never know, they are all good teams. On any day, it can go either way."

Even newcomers have took note of the level of competition in the early portion of the conference schedule, despite not playing any C-USA team before.

"I actually knew (Memphis) because I saw them play last year. I said, 'Tulane and Memphis are going to be pretty good when I come next year,'" freshman guard Jenzel Nash said. "I knew they would have some good players. Memphis has one of the best players in (junior guard) Brittany Carter."

Much of the team's success can be attributed to the play of senior forward Gloria Brown who leads the team in total rebounds, field goal percentage, steals, blocks and points.

UTEP leads its opponents in total rebounds by over 100, most notably in offensive boards edging the opposition by over 60.

"I think we've showed some positive things, obviously we've got a lot of areas where we can improve on," Adams said. "The kids are a team and that's a wonderful thing, the most important thing. They want to win."

UTEP, with the fifth weakest strength of schedule rating in the league as of Jan. 15, won its first 10 games of the 2011-12 season before suffering back-to-back losses in Dec. 21 against UC-Santa Barbara at home and Dec. 28 at Arizona State by a combined three points. Nine of those 13 games were at home.

Daniel Ornelas may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

LATVIAN from page 14

highs that year with 13 points and nine rebounds.

Part of Vitola's success this year came from her preparation during the offseason in the summer of 2011. Vitola not only practiced with the Miners, she also participated in games for the Latvian national team. She has played as part of the country's under-16, under-18 and under-20 teams. She was on the under-20 squad during the 2008 European Championships. She averaged 5.6 points and 5.5 rebounds during that competition.

"I did pretty well there. It comes with experience," Vitola said. "Coach (Adams) had been telling me to take my time and face up, and I'm just trying to listen and do my best out there."

Some of Vitola's more notable games this year have come in close contests, such as during a 56-53 loss Dec. 28 at Arizona State and a 64-53 victory Jan. 5 at SMU. Against the Sun Devils, she pulled down 11 boards and swatted two shots. She almost earned a double-double against SMU, scoring nine points and eight rebounds. She also had three blocks

during her 29 minutes of play. During the rematch against NMSU Dec. 10, she had 10 rebounds and two blocks.

Even in a more recent game, Vitola's impact was evident. During the Miners' home contest Jan. 12 against Tulsa, Brown was limited to just two minutes during the first half due to foul trouble. In need of another post player to step up, Vitola's impact while she was on the court was greater than some of the statistics showed. During the nine minutes she played, UTEP outscored the Golden Hurricane 21-7, 8-7 on the boards and forced six turnovers. Vitola finished the half and the game with three points and four rebounds.

While Vitola has made personal improvements to her game, it has been beneficial to the team as a whole. The Miners currently are 15-2, with a conference record of 4-0 against conference opponents.

"My confidence has come with the experience. I've been more focused (on the court)," Vitola said.

Rusty Burns may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

PIRATES from page 14

In overtime, the Miners took control when McCulley, who finished with 15 points and eight rebounds, drained a three and sophomore forward John Bohannon, who tied a career-high with 20 points and added eight rebounds, made two free throws to put the Miners up 58-53. UTEP never looked back and was able to secure the 70-64 victory.

"I just felt like I didn't want to lose this game at home. The thing that was going through my mind the whole game was trying to find a way to win," McCulley said. "Overall, I think we could have done better the first half. Their offense is not an easy offense to guard. They use a lot of back-cuts so you have to stay disciplined."

The Miners had three players finish in double digits, including sophomore guard Michael Perez, who had 16 points.

"I was trying to stay within the rhythm of the game. We wanted to

take our opportunities in the open floor," Perez said. "We felt like it is easier to play that way than to let them keep switching man-to-man, zone defenses so we ran our man offense against it."

The first half of the game was a different story. The Miners only made 42.9 percent of their shots attempted in the first half compared to 52.2 in the second half. They also capitalized on points off turnovers in the second half with a total of 20 when they only had three points off turnovers to begin the second half. UTEP trailed 27-23 at the half.

"We had envisioned a game like this. They guarded us exceedingly well and I think that was one of our lowest half-point totals," Floyd said. "What helped change the game for us were the picks and steals by Perez and (freshman forward) Julian Washburn that lead to easy transition baskets."

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

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- 98% Passing Rate
- Unending Support
- Hands-on Training
- Individualized Assistance

Teacher Preparation & Certification Program
Education Service Center - Region 19
(915) 780-5056 • www.ESC19.net

SNEAK PEAK INTO SPRING!

REGISTER AND SAVE 10% OFF*!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28TH FROM 10AM - 1PM

KELLY HALL ROOM 103

Sneak Peak Into Spring is a great opportunity to meet instructors and sample some of our Community Enrichment (Adult & Youth) and Expanded Language Courses.

Register for classes (get 10% off*), Meet instructors, Ask Questions, Enjoy Activities, Have a great time!

Professional and Public Programs
102 Kelly Hall
915.747.5142
ppp.utep.edu

EXPLORE. ENRICH. EVOLVE.

* Discount only applies towards in-person registrations made at the event on January 28, 2012 for Community Enrichment and Expanded Language Courses.

STAY IN SHAPE AT THE STUDENT RECREATION CENTER

- Indoor Soccer Arena • Extensive Weight Equipment • State-of-the-Art Cardio Theater • Climbing Tower & Bouldering Walls
 - Indoor Running Track (1/8 Mile in Length) • Separate Free Weight Area • 2 Regulation Size Basketball Courts • Racquetball Facility*
 - Sand Volleyball Courts* • 3 Fitness Studios with Boxing Area* • Competitive Pool & Recreational Pool*
- * Available Late Spring 2012*

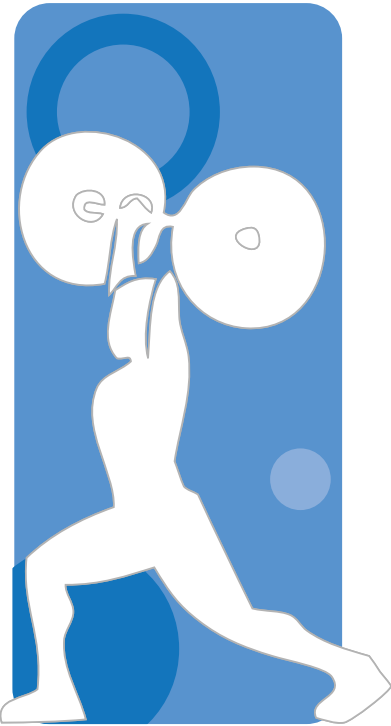


Spring 2012 Fitness Programs

January 17th to April 30th - No Classes (March 12-17) Spring Break Week

	PROGRAM	TIME	LOCATION	INSTRUCTOR
MONDAY & WEDNESDAY	WEIGHT TRAINING	6:00-7:00 am (MWF)	Cardio Gym	David
	CONDITIONING (12 limit)	11:30-12:15 pm (MWF)	Basketball Ct.	Leo
	SPINNING (20 limit)	12:30-1:30 pm	Mac Ct.	Christina
	CONDITIONING	2:00-3:00 pm	Cardio Area	Christina
	CIRCUIT TRAINING (12 limit)	4:15-5:10 pm	MacCt.	Zara
	ZUMBA	5:20-6:15 pm	Mac Ct.	Maria
TUESDAY & THURSDAY	BODY SCULPTING	6:15-7:15 pm	Basketball Ct.	Javier
	SPINNING (20 limit)	6:00-7:00 am	Basketball Ct.	Kevin
	SPINNING (20 limit)	7:15-8:15 am	Basketball Ct.	Kevin
	PILATES	9:00-10:00 am	Mac Ct.	Rosa
	ULTIMATE ABS	10:10-11:00 am	Mac Ct.	Rosa
	CLIMB FIT	10:00-11:00 am	Climb Gym	Ana
	VINYASA YOGA	12:30-1:30 pm	Mac Ct.	Jane
	HATHA YOGA	3:00-4:00 pm	Mac Ct.	Megan
	ZUMBA	4:15-5:10 pm	Mac Ct.	Zara
	KARDIO KICKBOXING	5:15-6:15 pm	Mac Ct.	Nellie
SATURDAY FREE	YOGA	12:00-1:00 pm	Mac Gym	Julie
	ZUMBA	1:15-2:15 pm	Mac Gym	Julie

All registration fees are \$25. Additional Classes: \$15
(Must be a member of the Student Recreation Center)
Saturday classes FREE for current student, faculty & staff SRC MEMBERS.



Exercise Room Orientation Spring Semester

Monday, January 23: 6:30-7:30 pm
Wednesday, February 1: 3-4 pm
Tuesday, February 7: 4 -5 pm
Friday, February 10: 9-10 am

Outdoor Adventure Program Spring 2012

January 28 - Ski Apache Trip
February 4 - Ski Apache Trip
February 11 - Ski Apache Trip
March 10-16 - Goose Island State Park Trip
April 14 - Dog Canyon Trip
April 20-22 - White Sands Women’s Trip
May 18-20 - Taos Box Trip



Intramurals Spring 2012**

EVENT	DEADLINE	START DATE
Basketball	Jan. 25	Jan. 30
Bowling	Feb. 8	Feb. 8
Free Throws	Feb. 15	Feb. 15
3-Point Shoot Out	Feb. 22	Feb. 22
Indoor Soccer	Feb. 29	March 5
Miniature Golf	Feb. 29	March 1
March Madness Free Throws	March 1	March 1
March Madness Free Throws	March 2	March 2
March Madness 3-on-3	March 5	March 5
March Madness 3-on-3	March 6	March 6
Racquetball	March 7	March 8
Indoor Mini Biathlon (Bike, Run)	March 21	March 22
Softball	March 26	April 2
Indoor Soccer Obstacle Course	March 26	March 26
March Madness 3-on-3	March 28	March 28
March Madness 3-on-3	March 30	March 30
Table Tennis	April 4	April 4
Dodgeball	April 9	Apri 11
Sand Volleyball	April 18	Apri23
Ultimate Frisbee	April 25	Apri25

**Participation in intramural activities held inside the Student Recreation Center.
Requires membership at the Student Recreation Center.



Climbing Gym

OPEN CLIMB	
Tuesdays & Wednesdays	11:00 am-2:00 pm
Monday - Friday	4:00 pm-7:00 pm
Saturday	Noon-1:00 pm
Sunday	Closed
BELAY SCHOOL	
Friday	2:00 am-4:00 pm
Saturday	10:00 am 2:00 pm
EQUIPMENT RENTAL	
Mon,Tue,Thu & Fri	2:00 pm-6:00 pm
Sat	10:00 am-1:00 pm
Wed & Sun	Closed
CLIMB FIT	
Tuesday & Thursday	10:00-11:00 am



BUILDING HOURS

SPRING/FALL		SUMMER		INTER-SESSION HOURS	
M-Thu	5:30 am - 10:00 pm	M-Thu	5:30 am – 9:00 pm	Mon - Fri	5:30 am - 7:00 pm
Fri	5:30 am - 8:00 pm	Fri	5:30 am – 7:00 pm	Sat	8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sat	8:00 am - 5:00 pm	Sat	8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Sun	Noon - 5:00 pm
Sun	Noon – 5:00 pm	Sun	Noon – 5:00 pm		

Recreational Sports Department
3450 Sun Bowl Drive
El Paso, Texas 79902
(915) 747-5103
FAX: (915) 747-5121
Email: recsports@utep.edu
Web: <http://www.utep.edu/rsd>