

3-27-2012

The Prospector, March 27, 2012

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MUTANT vs. ALIENS

UTEP ALUMNUS PROMOTES
BOYCOTT OF TURTLE'S REBOOT

Movie

BY OSCAR GARZA
The Prospector

The “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles” are no longer from earth, or at least that is what Michael Bay, producer of the ninja turtles film, sets to do in his live action reboot of the classic television show scheduled to be released in 2013.

During the Nickelodeon Upfront presentation that took place March 12-16 in New York City, Bay — famous for directing “The Rock” and the “Transformers” trilogy — revealed that in his remake, the turtles wouldn’t be the victims of a toxic spill but rather, characters from an alien race.

Fans such as Michael Huante, UTEP alumnus and Tuff Productions organizer, were outraged.

“Yeah I’m actually looking forward to a live-action reboot. I’m a fan of the original three that had come out, but when I heard about Michael Bay wanting to do a reboot, I was kind of iffy about it,” Huante said.

Huante recently started a boycott group on Facebook in hopes to stop, if not deter, Bay from gaining anything for ruining his and other’s childhood memories.

“The fact that Michael Bay mentioned that they were some kind of alien race kind of got me upset,” Huante said. “You can’t turn mutant ninja turtles into alien ninja turtles. If Michael Bay turns it into something where the ninja turtles actually come from another planet to Earth, then he is changing the whole story and he is ruining the origins of something that I cherished in my childhood.”

Bay fired back at the fans’ reaction on his website saying they need to take a breath and chill.

“They have not read the script. Our team is working closely with one of the original creators of the ninja turtles to help expand and give a more complex back story,” Bay said. “Relax, we are including everything that made you become fans in the first place. We are just building a richer world.”

Bay has produced remakes of classic horror films like “A Nightmare on Elm Street” and “The Texas Chainsaw Massacre.”

ILLUSTRATION BY DIEGO BURCIAGA / The Prospector

see TMNT on page 5



ILLUSTRATION BY DIEGO BURCIAGA / The Prospector

UTEP community remembers civil rights leader

BY HENRY ARRAMBIDE
The Prospector

Being one of the largest Hispanic-majority universities in the United States in one of the largest border cities in the country, celebrating Cesar Chavez is a major event for UTEP’s Chicano Studies program, as shown by their three-month series of events dedicated to the occasion.

“The goals of the event are to raise consciousness about the status and condition of the agricultural workers that put food on our table,” said Dennis Bixler-Marquez, professor and director of the Chicano Studies program. “Also to instill in our university, com-

munity and the greater El Paso area, an appreciation of the legacy of Cesar Chavez as a civil rights leader and an advocate for human rights.”

Chavez, a Mexican-American farm worker, labor leader and civil rights activist, co-founded the National Farm Workers Association, now known as the United Farm Workers (UFW) in 1966. Chavez and his unionist non-violent methods were popular with American labor activists. After his death in 1993, he became an icon for union laborers. Chavez’s birthday, March 31, has been made a state holiday in Texas and California, and is an optional holiday in Arizona and Colorado.

“I do think Cesar Chavez Day is an important event for our culture so we know who we are and where we came from,” said Sergio Seley, sophomore history major. “It’s not just a day off. I think it’s important for younger generations to know who he was, what he did and how we should help him with his dream of giving rights to immigrant workers and help with their families who went through all that.”

To celebrate Chavez, the Chicano Studies program has helped in organizing a series of events that will run until May. Bixler-Marquez organizes the UTEP portion of the calendar. Various student organizations such

see CHAVEZ on page 4

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Editorial

Now that’s what you call on-campus parking



Pablo Padilla, Student Government Association president, was caught parking his vehicle on the sidewalk in front of Union Building East. A parking and transportation officer drove by without citing the vehicle for illegally parking.

This guy wants to close the campus to vehicular traffic—and now we can see why. Around 1 p.m. March 26, Pablo Padilla, Student Government Association president and senior microbiology major, decided it would be a good idea to park his jeep on top of the northeast sidewalk at the end of the parking lot at Union Building East when he could not find a parking space. This was after he had apparently received a visitor’s pass to park on campus. During the time he was parked, parking and transportation officers drove by his Jeep in their pickup and did not stop to cite the illegally parked vehicle. At 1:44 p.m., Padilla walked back to his car and drove off.

At a recent student panel, Padilla stressed his agreement to the university’s future master plan to close the campus to vehicular traffic because it would make the area safer for students. How can we listen to

someone who is a student leader, but breaks simple parking rules and how can we trust him to tell us what is right for us?

We reported on parking issues in the Sept. 26, 2011 issue when Jose Ornelas, sophomore kinesiology major, received a boot on his car for having several outstanding tickets. In the article, UTEP parking authorities stated that enforcing proper parking was a big issue for them, but apparently this is not the case when it involves the SGA president.

What we want to know is why parking and transportation chose to ignore such an obvious transgression? Are we going to believe that some people receive special privileges over others? Apparently, it seems like we should.

you think?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

This week's poll question:

Are you upset over the Michael Bay remake of “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles?”

vote at WWW.UTEPSPROPECTOR.COM



we asked,
you answered

POLL FINAL RESULTS

Do you prefer beer or wine?

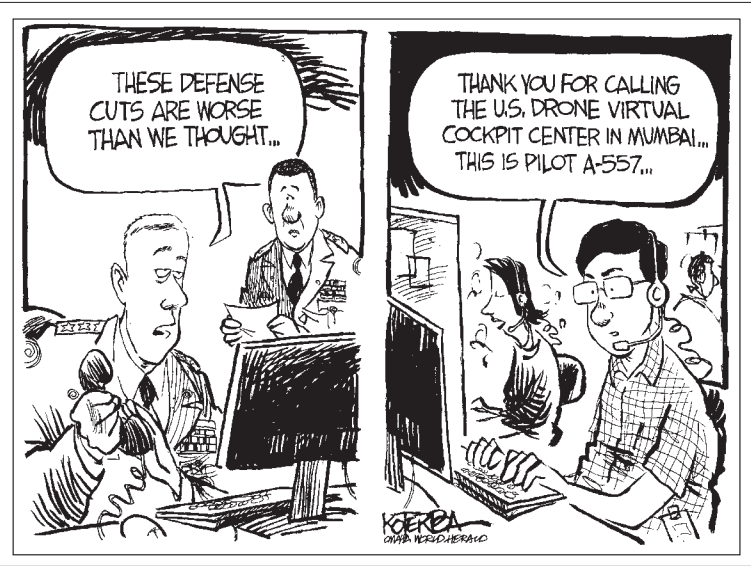
45% BEER

55% WINE

ACCURACY WATCH

In the March 22 issue of The Prospector, Federico Corral, sophomore nursing major and guitarist for Terror Eyes, said:
“I was studying music, but my mom wanted me do something more productive so I chose nursing. It really has nothing to do with my music. I was a music major when I started college, but I switched to nursing because I wanted to study something easier that paid more...considering my focus is on my music and we do need money to survive.”

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the prospector

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vol. 97, no. 38

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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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Calendar
2012 Cesar Chavez Month celebration

March 27-April 20

Sock Drive on behalf of the region’s farm workers at the Centro de Trabajadores Agrícolas.

Deliver your new sock donation to the drop-off boxes located at Chicano Studies in Graham Hall 104, Student Development Center, Union Building West 106. Sponsored by the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano/a de Aztlán, the Cultural Artists United for Social Change and the UTEP chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens.
Contact: 915-747-5462

March 30

“Celebrating César Chávez: Its Message and Impact”

Time: TBA / Location: UTEP Today monitors in Liberal Arts building and Union East building. Sponsored by Chicano Studies.
Contact: 915-747-5462

March 31

César Chávez Marcha

Time: 8 a.m. (March will begin at 10 a.m.)
Location: Centro de Trabajadores Agrícolas Fronterizos, 201 E. Ninth Ave.
Sponsored by the Centro de Trabajadores Agrícolas Fronterizos (CTAF).
Contact: 915-532-0921

March 31

“César Chávez Celebration”

Time: 3-8 PM / Location: 721 S. Ochoa St.
Sponsored by Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe.
Contact: 915-545-7190, lafe-ep.org

April 17

International Peasant's Day of Struggle
They will have a food sovereignty call to action rally
Time: TBA / Location: Centro de Trabajadores Agrícolas Fronterizos, 201 E. Ninth Ave.
Sponsored by the Centro de Trabajadores Agrícolas Fronterizos (CTAF).
Contact: 915-532-0921

April 23

Ceremony in Memory of César Chávez
Time: TBA / Location: Centro de Trabajadores Agrícolas Fronterizos, 201 E. Ninth Ave.
Sponsored by the Centro de Trabajadores Agrícolas Fronterizos
Contact: 915-532-0921

May 17-20

Convention: “UFW 50th Anniversary Convention”
Location: Rabobank Arena, Theatre and Convention Center, Bakersfield, CA
Sponsored by the United Farm Workers.
Contact: Marichel Mejía, 763-443-2336

National
Verizon, Comcast defend partnership to Senate

BY ROBIN SITENESKI

Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

WASHINGTON – The Verizon-Comcast deal could either restrict competition and raise prices or improve competition and allow customers to get one bill for their cell phones, Internet and cable television services.

That contradiction was before the Senate Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights subcommittee at a March 21 hearing.

Verizon plans to pay \$3.4 billion to Comcast, Time Warner and Bright House Networks for cell phone airwaves the three cable companies don't use. The deal also includes a cooperative marketing agreement that some fear would curb competition and innovation.

Sen. Herb Kohl, D-Wis., the subcommittee chair, said the Telecommunications Act of 1996 envisioned “that cable companies and phone companies would enter each other's markets and compete.”

He said he hopes the Federal Communications Commission and the Department of Justice use testimony from the hearing in their ongoing investigations of the proposed deal.

“We urge the regulators to ensure that nothing in these deals reverse the historic gains in competition,” Kohl said.

Timothy Wu, professor at Columbia Law School, said, “Over the last decade, Verizon has been the clearest and strongest competitor to the cable industry, and what we face here is a prospect of the elimination of that competition.”

He said Verizon's 4G LTE technology has been pointed out as a likely replacement for cable.

“It is not clear how selling a cable replacement can be consistent with promoting cable products at the same time,” Wu said.

Joel Kelsey, a policy adviser for Free Press, a nonprofit media reform group, said the deal would affect the competitive structure of the industry and could raise prices for consumers. He said the FCC predicts consumers will have no other option but cable companies for next-generation Internet access.

“If regulators are serious about protecting the public interest, they must act to preserve the limited amount of competition in the wireless market that exists today,” Kelsey said.

Randal Milch, Verizon Communications executive vice-president, said Verizon would continue to compete vigorously with cable companies.

“There's no rationale for saying that we're going to go halfway,” he said.

Milch said because the deal is between the cable companies and Verizon Wireless it would not affect the parts of Verizon that provide Fiber Optic Service or FiOS, which includes telephone, television and Internet.

David Cohen, Comcast executive vice president, said those who say competition would be affected because of the deal “ignore clear market reality.” He said Verizon announced two years ago it didn't intend to expand its cable service, and the cable companies have made a business decision not to build a wireless network.

He said the deal wouldn't break any antitrust laws. It also wouldn't keep



ROBIN SITENESKI / SHFWire

Randal Milch, Verizon Communications vice-president, says the company needs additional spectrum from cable companies to keep up with the growing demand for wireless data in the next few years.

competitors from being able to fight for market share.

“What they are really concerned about is that our agreements will increase competition and compel them to respond accordingly,” Cohen said.

Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., asked Cohen if the cable companies have offered AT&T the spectrum. Cohen said they talked to “virtually everyone.”

Kohl was concerned about whether the cable companies and Verizon services could compete if they are all sold at the same stores.

Cohen said the stores would become “additional battleground for FiOS to compete against cable.”

Milch said Verizon will push “as hard as we can” to approve the deal.

Robin Siteneski is a journalism student at Universidade de Caxias do Sul. He doing an internship at the Scripps Howard Foundation Wire. He may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.



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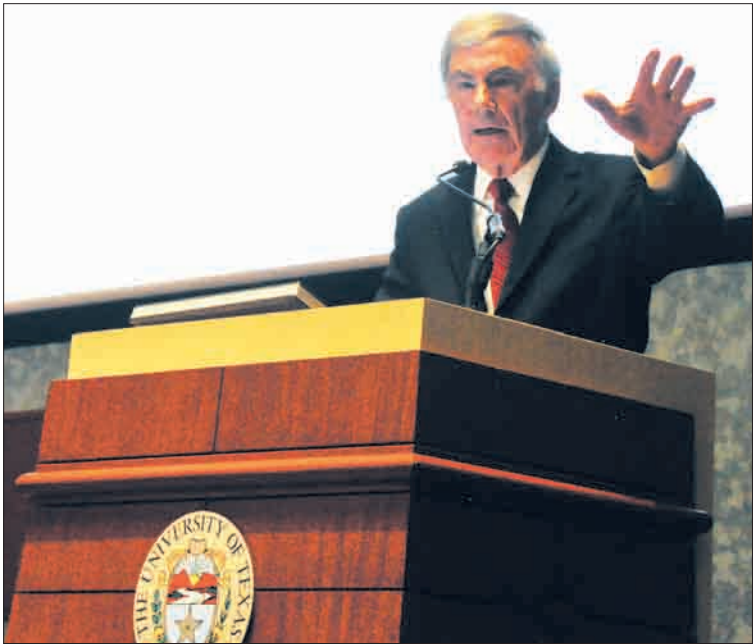
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GREG CASTILLO / The Prospector

UTEP Distinguished Alumnus Samuel Donaldson spoke March 26 at the UGLC as part of the University’s Centennial Lecture Series. His speech titled “Donaldson Here: A Conversation About Politics with Sam Donaldson” drew a large crowd. In his speech, Donaldson predicted that the Republican nominee would be Mitt Romney and if gas prices dropped slightly come election time Barack Obama would win a second term. Donaldson graduated from UTEP in 1955 and worked as the White House Correspondent for ABC News, anchor of “Politics Live” on ABC News Now and was also the co-anchor with Diane Sawyer on “Prime Time Live.”



CHAVEZ from page 1

as MEChA and multiple community organizations such as the Centro de Trabajadores Agrícolas Fronterizos, Mercado Mayapan, St. Pius X Parish and a variety of local public and private schools are hosting events and fundraisers.

Events that have already occurred include a car show at Riverside High School, a lecture from Carlos M. Montes of the Southern California Immigration Coalition, a screening of the documentary “Precious Knowledge,” which addresses current civil rights tensions in Arizona, and a farm workers mass at St. Pius, among others.

“The Librotráfico stop in El Paso was most successful and it placed El Paso in the national spotlight,” said Bixler-Marquez. “It featured a caravan of authors and students delivering banned books to Tucson, and it featured local authors, like UTEP’s Ben Saenz, and it involved several UTEP students and alumni at the evening reading at Café Mayapán.”

On March 26, Amnesty International screened the Frontline special “Lost in Detention,” which explores the Obama administration’s controversial choices when it comes to immigration policy. After the film screening, a panel consisting of members from the American Civil Liberties Union, the Border Network of Human Rights, MEChA and former city council member and congressional candidate Beto O’Rourke, answered questions and discussed immigration myths, facts and potential solutions.



JUSTIN STENE / The Prospector

Former city council member and congressional candidate Beto O’Rourke took in a panel to discuss immigration myths, facts and potential solutions.

“It was a panel where we had an opportunity, and I think the operative word is opportunity, to meet Beto O’Rourke and ask questions in an open environment in a university setting,” said Patrick Rabb, senior double major in Chicano studies and political science. “There were also student organizations represented like MEChA, Los Americas, the LGBT organizations as well, and so it seemed like something you’d want to be a part of because you had more opportunities than you would in a class where you’re just listening to a lecture.”

Rabb, who came to El Paso a year ago from South Carolina, said he walked away from the event with a clearer picture of both O’Rourke and border issues. Rabb came to study in El Paso because he believes that all the issues the country has to confront in the near future can be found here in El Paso.

Upcoming events to continue the celebration include the screening of the program “Celebrating Cesar Chavez: Its Message and Impact” March 30 on the monitors of the Liberal Arts and Union East buildings, a march for Chavez March 31 at the Centro de Trabajadores Agrícolas Fronterizos as well as a rally for the International Peasant’s Day of Struggle April 17.

“I believe these events are important because they galvanize various persons and entities at UTEP to support a very worthy cause,” said Bixler-Marquez. “It enables Chicano Studies to pass on the legacy of Cesar Chavez to the current generation of students; and it successfully promotes a positive image of UTEP as a socially engaged community.”

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

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Movie



Special to The Prospector

‘The Hunger Games’ kills box office

BY ANDRES RODRIGUEZ

The Prospector

As the games begin in Gary Ross’ adaptation of Suzanne Collins’ “The Hunger Games,” 24 kids take towards stacks of battle supplies in a frantic run. These are kids ages 12-18 fighting for their lives. We learn early on that 23 will die: a disturbing thought that speaks more of desensitized audiences than the filmmakers intent to gloss it over and make good thrilling popcorn fun.

Moral conundrum? Yes, a really well-paced and well-acted one.

The first installment of the three-part series, “The Hunger Games” doesn’t always work as the anti-totalitarian epic it seemingly sets out to be, but its depiction of a tense and thrilling, however disturbing, post-apocalyptic world makes for a better-than-usual young adult book-to-film adaptation.

The film remains fairly faithful to its best-selling source material. Twelve districts and the Capitol make up Panem, a state formed after war, famine, drought and fire destroyed North America. Every year, the Capitol sets up the games, a televised reality entertainment event where a young man and women (the tributes) are chosen from each district to compete against each other to death. There can only be one victor.

Opening the film is the preparation for the reaping, the ceremony where the children are chosen to participate in the games. After her sister is called,

Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence), a 16-year old from District 12, volunteers as tribute. Peeta Mellark (Josh Hutcherson) is also selected. Katniss is immediately set out to be a tough girl with a troubled past, but lovingly fights to keep her family alive. Lawrence, Oscar nominated for her performance in “Winter’s Bone,” is equally haunting in here. She carries the strength of her character with real emotion while embodying a true rough and tumble, bow and arrow type of girl.

The rest of the cast is also spot on. Elizabeth Banks plays a flamboyant Effie, Katniss and Peeta’s District 12 escort. Hutcherson plays Peeta, Katniss’ underdeveloped love interest, with clumsy, but charismatic fervor. Liam Hemsworth (without enough screen-time), Stanley Tucci, Woody Harrelson and Lenny Kravitz also play their parts well. Unfortunately, there isn’t much character development to grab on to.

In fact, there isn’t much of any development to grab on to but the racing plot.

Why the games are held or why this type of kid-on-kid death match violence is so popular among the Capitol’s audience is glossed over and largely implied. One could assume that the games are a way to further subjugate the poor districts, providing the winner’s district with more food than the others, or that it finds an audience in the upper class by reassuring them of their safety and better-

off state. But Ross fails to explain this with any real depth.

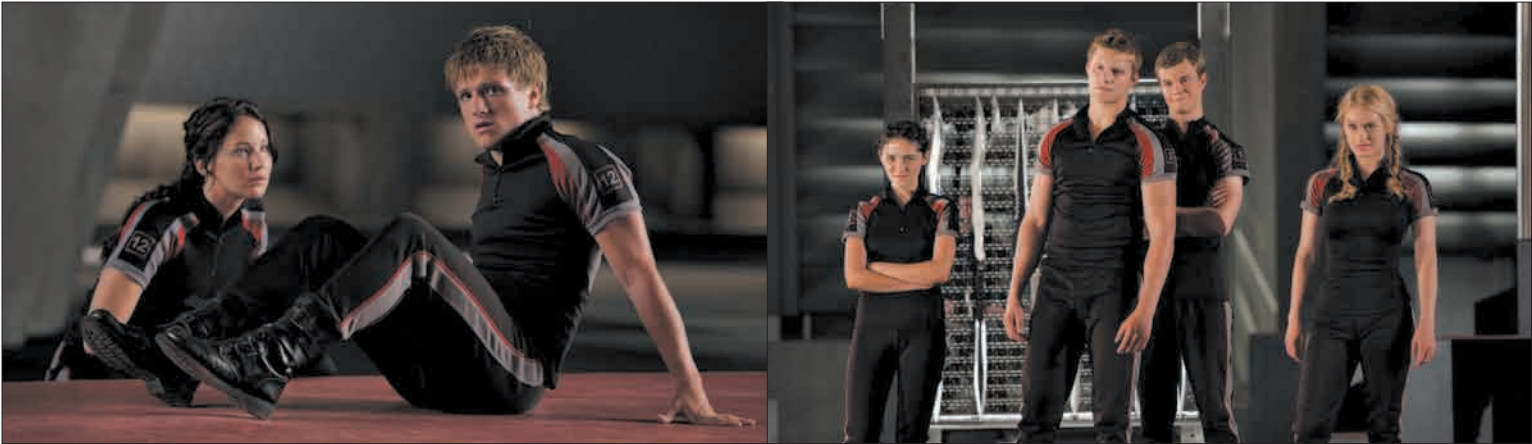
Collins, a television veteran (“Clarissa Explains it All”), might have set off to comment on popular media culture. The film borrows from contemporary television models like broadcasting advertising campaigns and playing to the emotions of viewers for ratings/sponsorship. The film succeeds in making such a statement. Before the games, in a sort of press junket, scenes play out similarly to an episode of “American Idol,” Tucci playing an over-the-top Ryan Seacrest while the contestants are interviewed on a brightly-lit stage.

Much of the kid-on-kid violence is overlooked thanks to shaky camera work, which is probably how it earned its PG-13 rating. Not only is the violence out of focus and blurry, so is everything else. The shaky camera and the extreme use of close-ups many times prevents the viewer from fully appreciating this futuristic world we are thrown into. It is an interesting world, but merits a broader look.

Nonetheless, “The Hunger Games” delivers on its tenacity in speed. It is a 142 minute film that never feels that long. With sufficient thrills and a fierce heroine, the film will likely leave fans and newcomers alike satisfied and hungry for more.

TTT

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



Photos special to The Prospector

TMNT from page 1

Roberto Avant-Mier, associate professor of the communication department, said that the current trend of remakes is getting worse thanks to the studios demand for money and what’s popular.

“What they’re doing is trying to capitalize on pre-existing media and moving it across other media,” Avant-Mier said. “What they want is to capitalize on a franchise trend. The remake of the old movie functions just like remaking a movie as a sequel.”

The original ninja turtles started out as a comic book created in 1984 by Kevin Eastman and Peter Laird under the Mirage Studios brand.

Once the comic became popular, three TV cartoon adaptations were created, including the original 1980s cartoon, another one that aired through 2003-2009 and a third adaptation set to premiere this year on Nickelodeon.

During their heyday, “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles” was seen everywhere from cartoons, toys, video games and even a trilogy of live-action films during the ‘90s.

Avant-Mier said that Hollywood is doing this to profit off the nostalgia that this story brings.

“If you’re an adult, you’re going to have nostalgic feelings about that old movie and they assume you’ll

be excited about the remake,” Avant-Mier said. “Second, there is an intertextual kind of reference factor for young people. (Producers) probably assume that young people will be attracted to this because they want to catch up and be familiar with the older text.”

Despite the series constant remakes and now upcoming reboot, Ryan Hatch, junior digital media production major, said that considering Bay’s past projects, his approach to ninja’s material might not be the best choice.

“The ‘Transformers’ films are the perfect example of all style and no substance,” Hatch said. “While the films may look nice and bolster impressive special effects, they suffer from juvenile humor and enormous plot holes.”

Hatch said that the idea to recreate “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles” is a good idea, but not with Bay on the project.

“I think bringing back the Ninja Turtles into the spotlight is a fantastic idea. Like ‘The Muppets,’ these are characters that many of us have grown to love,” Hatch said. “With that being said, I do not think that Michael Bay is the right person for the job. Sure, he does know how to make a profit, but ultimately makes bad films in the process.”

Alejandra Vargas, junior electrical engineering major, has a different opinion. She thinks Bay made a good choice on the ninja’s project.

“I liked the effects of ‘Transformers,’” Vargas said. “Since ‘Transformers’ was such a huge hit, it’s not a bad idea for him to produce a film about the ninja turtles. His name is very relevant to people who like movies with special effects.”

The film will be directed by Jonathan Liebesman, director of “Battle: Los Angeles” and the upcoming “Wrath of the Titans,” and the screenplay was written by Josh Appelbaum and André Nemec. Both worked on “Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol” and the 2001 TV show “Alias.”

Peter Laird, co-creator of the ninja turtles defended Bay’s decision and wrote a statement on his blog trying to ease the wounds caused by Bay’s changes.

“I would actually encourage TMNT fans to swallow the ‘chill pill’ Mr. Bay recently suggested they take, and wait and see what might come out of this seemingly ill-conceived plan,” Laird said. “It’s possible that with enough truly creative brainpower applied to this idea, it might actually work. I’m not saying it’s probable, or even somewhat likely... but it is possible.”

Oscar Garza may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Keep an open mind about a suggestion you see as unworkable. Give it a chance to prove itself one way or another. The results could surprise both supporters and detractors.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) News about an upcoming venture causes you to make some last-minute adjustments in your plans. But the extra work will pay off, as you come to learn more about the potential benefits opening up.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A more positive aspect grows out of your determination to reach your immediate goals. Continue to keep your focus sharp and on target by steering clear of petty quarrels and other pesky problems.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) By acting as a voice of reason, you can avoid adding to an already turbulent situation. You might have to shout over the tumult, but your words ultimately will be heard and heeded.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) The possibility of a new acquisition always makes those Leonine eyes light up. But be careful that what you see is what you want. Appearances can often be deceiving.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) No matter how much you might feel that you’re in the right, resist saying anything that could reignite a still-unresolved situation. Let the matter drop, and move on.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Help with a personal problem comes from an unexpected source. You also find workplace pressures easing. Use this period of calm to restore your spent energies.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You might have to share the credit for that project you’re working on. But there’ll be enough credit to go around, and your efforts will be recognized and rewarded.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Details need to be dealt with before you can move on to another area. Make sure you don’t leave any loose ends that could later cause everything to unravel.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) News about a change in the workplace carries with it a challenge you could find difficult to resist. Check it out. It could be what you’ve been waiting for.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Allowing your artistic nature full expression will help restore your spirits and will put you in the mood to take on that new career challenge. A Libra creates excitement.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Expect to happily plunge right into a hectic social whirl starting at week’s end. Your aspects favor new friendships as well as the strengthening of old relationships. BORN THIS WEEK: Like St. Patrick (who was also born this week), your spiritual strength is an inspiration to others.

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— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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Answers to 3-22-12

BRAIN ZONE

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way
that each row across, each column down and
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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

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UTEP/TEXAS WESTERN REMAIN TOP IN TEXAS
BASKETBALL: AFTER BAYLOR LOST TO KENTUCKY IN THE ELITE EIGHT MARCH 25, THE MINERS REMAIN AS THE ONLY TEXAS SCHOOL IN DIVISION-1 MEN’S BASKETBALL TO WIN AN NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP.

March 27, 2012
sports editor
William Vega, 747-7445

Football

Spring healing

Injuries plague early start to preseason drills

BY WILLIAM VEGA
The Prospector

The injury bug has hit UTEP early. And as the Miners near the end of spring practices, the players have found a silver lining, hoping to get the injuries out of the way now and have a healthy team in the fall.

“We’re just getting them taken care of and in the fall we’ll be rolling,” sophomore running back Nathan Jeffery said. “We’re starting to get used (to the injuries). Every other day there’s somebody out so it’s more reps for one of us running backs.”

The Miners have not participated at 100 percent this spring, missing some key players over the past three weeks. It started with UTEP’s lone returning running back, Jeffery, who missed the first seven practices with a sore knee. He returned March 20 and played in the team’s latest scrimmage two days later, although he said he was not at 100 percent.

Then it was senior wide receiver Mike Edwards, the team’s leading receiver from last year, who has been limited all spring and did not play in the March 24 scrimmage. He is suffering two pulled groins, which has allowed some younger wide receivers to see significant time with the first-team offense.

“There’s a lot of opportunities to compete, anytime you have that opportunity, what more could you ask for,” freshman WR Felix Neboh said. “You have to just go out there, compete and everything else will fall into place.”

Neboh, also suffering a hip injury during the scrimmage and said he was not at full health. Without any returning players, Neboh said Edwards has still played the role as a leader from the sideline.

“Edwards is a big part of the receivers but without him, lots of other guys have the chance to step up and make plays,” Neboh said. “If we make a mistake, he’s the first guy to come over and maneuver us.”

Coronado High School product and grayshirt freshman WR Cole Freytag is also out for the remainder of spring drills with a foot injury after shining during the first practices. The Miners are also short one other receiver due to the indefinite suspension of senior Lavorick Williams.

“Guys are just going hard and people are just hitting each other hard. People are going to get injured, it’s football,” sophomore tight end Eric Tomlinson said. “It’s best to get all the injuries out of the way before the season, have time to rehab.”

Possibly the biggest loss for UTEP has been the offensive line, as three possible starters for this year have been sitting out. Senior center Eloy Atkinson, last year’s snapper, James Nelson and junior Brander Craighead have all been out for the entire spring and their return is unsure.

Freshman A.C. Patterson and senior Paul Santillan also missed some practices, both with the flu, including March 22. Santillan was the only player to return for the March 24 scrimmage. The center-quarterback exchange took a hit that day, as freshman Paulo Melendez, sophomore

Kyle Brown and Santillan snapped for the first time in their collegiate career. Price said he is anticipating Atkinson to be back and said he’s using this time to solidify his alternate during the season.

“We’re trying to find a backup center and we’re having a horrible time snapping the ball right now and they’re trying hard but it’s ruining the timing of the quarterbacks,” Price said. “We just have to work through it.”

But even with the thin depth and experience in the trenches, the defensive side said they were not taking the offense for granted and wanted to challenge them to improve at the same time.

“Every time we step out on the field, we take it as, hey, it’s a pass we rush to the quarterback,” junior defensive lineman Germard Reed said. “If those guys are not the starters, we want to help those guys get better in everything we do so we want to come off, give them a good look and just help improve our game, as well.”

The defense has not dealt with any major injuries and was short just

one starter as senior defensive back Richard Spencer sat for the scrimmage. He’s likely out for the remainder of spring drills with a labrum surgery.

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



BOB CORRAL / The Prospector
SO RB NATHAN JEFFERY



BOB CORRAL / The Prospector

Sophomore running back Nathan Jeffery goes through drills during practice March 20 at the Sun Bowl. Jeffery returned to action after missing the first seven sessions due to a knee injury.

Softball Carrera breaks C-USA home run record in three-game sweep

BY FRANKIE RODRIGUEZ
The Prospector

UTEP’s trip to East Carolina started off sweet, but ended bitter. Senior catcher Camilla Carrera hit her 20th home run to break the Conference USA regular season home run mark, then the series turned sour.

The Miners (12-20, 2-6 C-USA) could not avoid another series sweep in C-USA play, falling to East Carolina (12-17, 1-3 C-USA) in a three-game series March 24-25.

In the first contest, the Pirates eased their way to victory as their offense spurred up in a 12-4 win in five innings and an 11-10 victory in the second game. ECU scored 23 runs in the doubleheader March 24, which marked the most in the program in any C-USA 2-game span.

In the opener of the doubleheader, Carrera slugged her NCAA-leading 20th home run of the season to break the conference mark, putting the Miners up quickly 1-0. Carrera is ranked third in the nation in batting average with .484 and fourth in on-base percentage at .605.

Senior outfielder Suzanne Riggs and sophomore outfielder Jordan Lewis turned up the offense for the Pirates, combining to drive in four runs and score five between the two. Freshman pitcher Sarah Christian pitched all five innings and only gave up eight hits and struck out three with no walks.

The Miners were one-run down in the top of the fifth, but Christian ended the frame with two quick groundouts. ECU answered UTEP’s rally with seven runs in the bottom of the inning to end the game due to the eight-run rule.

In the second contest, ECU jumped on top 4-0 at the bottom of the second but the Miners evened out the score in the top of the fourth inning. UTEP’s sophomore utility Kayla Black hit a grand slam to put the Miners up 8-6, while UTEP led going into the bottom of the sixth 9-8.

ECU intentionally walked Carrera and junior infielder Ashley Collazo hit a single down the right field adding another score for UTEP, making it 10-8. At the bottom of the seventh, ECU countered with three runs for a walk-off victory.

The Pirate pitchers dominated the last contest when they topped the Miners in a 5-1 victory for the series sweep. ECU’s Christian pitched a complete game only allowing six hits, tying her career-high five strikeouts, while she did not give up a walk. UTEP junior Cynthia Villastrigo (5-8) pitched all six innings and allowed five runs, four earned, on seven hits and five walks along with a strikeout.

The only run UTEP scored was similar to game one with the single run to take the lead, but this time it

Football

Tight ends shine in second scrimmage

BY DANIEL ORNELAS
The Prospector

The Miners’ second scrimmage of the spring March 24 at Glory Field was by no means a traditional one. Featuring a variation of big plays and many failed snaps during shotgun and field goal formations, the scrimmage still ended in a manner that was sure to please the non-existent crowd: with a touchdown.

The scrimmage came to a close when junior quarterback Carson Meger hit sophomore tight end Eric Tomlinson in the middle of the field for a 40-yard catch and run into the end zone.

This could be a foreshadow of things to come, as head coach Mike Price said UTEP will rely heavily on their tight ends in 2012 due to the inexperience with the receivers. Tomlinson feels like the pressure is now on the tight ends to make the passing game work.

“They’re getting the ball to us a lot more. It’s much more fun out here being a part of the offense, the pressure is all on us,” Tomlinson said. “Nothing like ending it with a touchdown.”

One thing that stood out throughout the scrimmage was the center exchange from the shotgun. With senior Eloy Atkinson out due to injury, Price has been rotating redshirt freshman Paulo Melendez, sophomore

Kyle Brown and senior Paul Santillan, who’s only been playing center for two practices.

“They’re trying hard, but it ruins the timing for the quarterback,” Price said. “You just have to work through it and find the guy that can make the calls and snap the ball from the shotgun.”

Melendez added that it comes down to consistency and getting better in practice. The injury to Atkinson opened an opportunity for him and the other centers, but none have yet solidified the back up role.

“It’s just consistency. Snapping the ball with practice becomes a natural motion so after a while, it’s no longer thinking about it,” Melendez said.

All three centers remained after practice, working on their technique with multiple offensive coaches and Atkinson in attendance.

Things also got heated as referees had to break up players from fighting on separate occasions.

“It’s intense out there so you get into it every once in a while, but it’s all good and fun,” Tomlinson said.

Junior defensive tackle Germard Reed had a different take on the events, joking about the defensive unit having nicknames as intensity picks up all while keeping it fun.

“As a defense we have something that we kind of change our name from the boy dogs to straight violence swag,” Reed said. “When you’re in the trenches, there’s nothing soft about that, so we go out there and try and raise the intensity high. What we do is come out and try and have fun, but try and be mean as well. That’s what we do.”

Price has installed a wildcat package using redshirt freshman Blair Sullivan at quarterback and allowed him to exchange the red jersey, which disqualifies them from contact, for a blue jersey and go live for a series of plays. Price added that Sullivan’s play and

built reminded him of Hall of Fame quarterback Roger Staubach when he was playing for the Naval Academy in college.

“It was a lot of fun. I enjoyed getting hit a little bit, it’s a bit different for a quarterback, I mean we always get to wear these red jerseys,” Sullivan said. “I think the players respect it too if you go live.”

Sophomore running back Nathan Jeffery returned to action after nursing a knee injury and looked nearly 100 percent after breaking a run for 46 yards, nearly scoring on the play.

“I feel great. Offense is rolling pretty good, we’re coming together as a team with this new offense and everything is coming together,” Jeffery said. “I tried to score on that one, the knee is not all the way 100 percent, but it’s getting there. Next time I break it. I’ll make sure I score.”

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



Sophomore tight ends Craig Weinrick (left) and Eric Tomlinson (above) try to pick up extra yardage after making a catch during spring drills March 20 at the Sun Bowl.

BOB CORRAL / The Prospector

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CARRERA from page 7

was senior catcher Chelsea Troupe who hit her 13th home run of the season in the first inning to put the Miners up 1-0.

From there on out, it was all ECU. The Pirates took the lead 3-1 at the bottom of the third inning and had a chance to add to the score at the bottom of the fourth with the bases loaded but came up short. The Pi-

rates tacked on two insurance runs making the final score 5-1 in the bottom of the sixth.

UTEP will prepare to take on Marshall in a series at home starting with a doubleheader March 31, at the Helen of Troy Softball Complex.

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

simplystated
Nine Miners take gold at UTEP Springtime

Sophomore thrower Richard Olsson set a personal best at the 2012 UTEP Springtime meet as the Miners began the outdoor season March 24 at Kidd Field.

Olsson posted a mark of 71.58 meters in the javelin throw finishing first in the event. Olsson surpassed his mark of 69.26 meters posted at last year’s UTEP Invitational.

Junior jumper Donovan Grant took silver in the men’s high jump with a personal best of 2.03 meters.

Wrapping up the men’s field events was redshirt freshman Demetris Elia with the hammer throw, recording a mark of 58.21 meters taking first overall. El Pasoan and senior Matt Dudley registered a toss of 51.31 meters, finishing third in the discus.

The men’s 4-x-100-meter relay team (freshman Kristian Dillard, senior Curtis Kock, freshman Abiola Onakoya and junior

Anthony Wright) took gold with a time of 40.17 seconds.

Freshman sprinter A-Shawni Mitchell surpassed his personal best, recording a time of 46.38 seconds.

The distance team had a successful showing. Senior Justice Chirchir took first in the 1,500-meter race with a time of 3 minutes, 47.85 seconds, while freshman Anthony Rotich and sophomore Elkana Rotich took third and fourth clocking in times of 3:50.53 and 3:50.71, respectively.

For the women, senior Endurance Abinuwa finished first in the 100-meter dash, posting a time of 11.62 seconds. The All-American led the 4-x-100-meter relay team to a first-place finish as the squad recorded a time of 44.65 seconds.

Senior All-American Risper Kimaiyo took gold in the women’s 1,500-meter run, crossing the finish line with a time of 4:33.41, while junior Karina Garcia won the 5,000-meter race, posting a time of 17:50.43.

Senior Laura Macauley registered a personal best of 48.77-meters to win the women’s javelin throw.