

4-24-2012

# The Prospector, April 24, 2012

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Column

Hungry for maturity

BY HENRY ARRAMBIDE  
The Prospector



After reigning at the top spot for four weeks, Lionsgate Entertainment’s “The Hunger Games” was finally knocked down to third place at the box office with a total current gross nearing \$500 million. While extremely successful, I am glad that such an immature handling of what has been critically hailed as a mature material is finally dying down.

On the small screen, HBO’s “Game of Thrones” has entered its second season, breaking viewership records with 8.3 million tuning in to watch, ensuring the show will see a third season. Additionally, the DVD sales of season one broke records for HBO.

Now, besides both using “Games” in their title, both being adaptations of popular book series and being some of the most popular and lucrative items in their respective mediums, what can the two have in common?

The answer is their handling of what can be considered mature content.

“The Hunger Games” are young-adult novels set in a dystopic future in which children must fight to the death tournament-style for the entertainment of The Capitol, the cruel overlords of the story’s universe. “Game of Thrones” is fantasy-fare in which Kings fight a war over which of them has a right to rule the land of Westeros—as dragons, snow demons and other monsters loom in the background, scheming to eventually wreck destruction on mankind.

Now, of those two, “Hunger Games” sounds as if it offers the opportunity to tell a more compelling story. The potential for complex characters and human drama in a world where these kids must face the realities of death and mature under - harsh conditions while exploring moral grey zones should by all means sound more appealing than make-believe kings bickering over some fictional throne.

“The Hunger Games” fails to do so. Instead, we are offered a girl put into these intense situations not to explore

some deeper theme of morality or humanity and offer compelling drama, but to be awesome. Katniss is going to be fine. Those stereotypically evil and flat kids from the other districts? They’re going to die. There won’t be ethical or moral dilemmas for our heroine.

Kevin Fallon of The Atlantic argues that the movie is best picture material for addressing complex social issues. Critics say the movie is mature in some sense, yet I feel the handling of ideas in the film was superficial at best. There is no complex exploration of why the games are held, no reason or logic behind why competitors are chosen, no exploration of how society came to this point. Handling such a potentially complex story by simplifying things into a black-and-white, Katniss is good and The Capitol is bad rhetoric is extremely immature.

“Game of Thrones,” on the other hand, takes those dragons and direwolves and princesses and kings and gives them character. There is war in Westeros, yet the kings in conflict are all people with wants and needs and motives, none are clearly evil. While there is sex and violence, they are not the main focus of the show.

If you were to move off-screen what socially is labeled as the mature content from “Thrones,” the sex, violence and cussing, what would remain are strong characters and geopolitical intrigue, it would be similar to a play – the writing still saves it. Remove the action from “The Hunger Games” and what remains is Woody Harrelson reading off a cue card.

Good writing is good writing, regardless of arbitrary labels of seriousness or maturity. This is why, for instance, a show such as “My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic” has gathered such a large audience of bronies (bro-ponies, older adult fans of the cartoon). As I sat watching “The Hunger Games,” all I could do is wonder when the movie was going to stop trying so hard to be edgy and serious, and just grow up.

Henry Arrambide may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).

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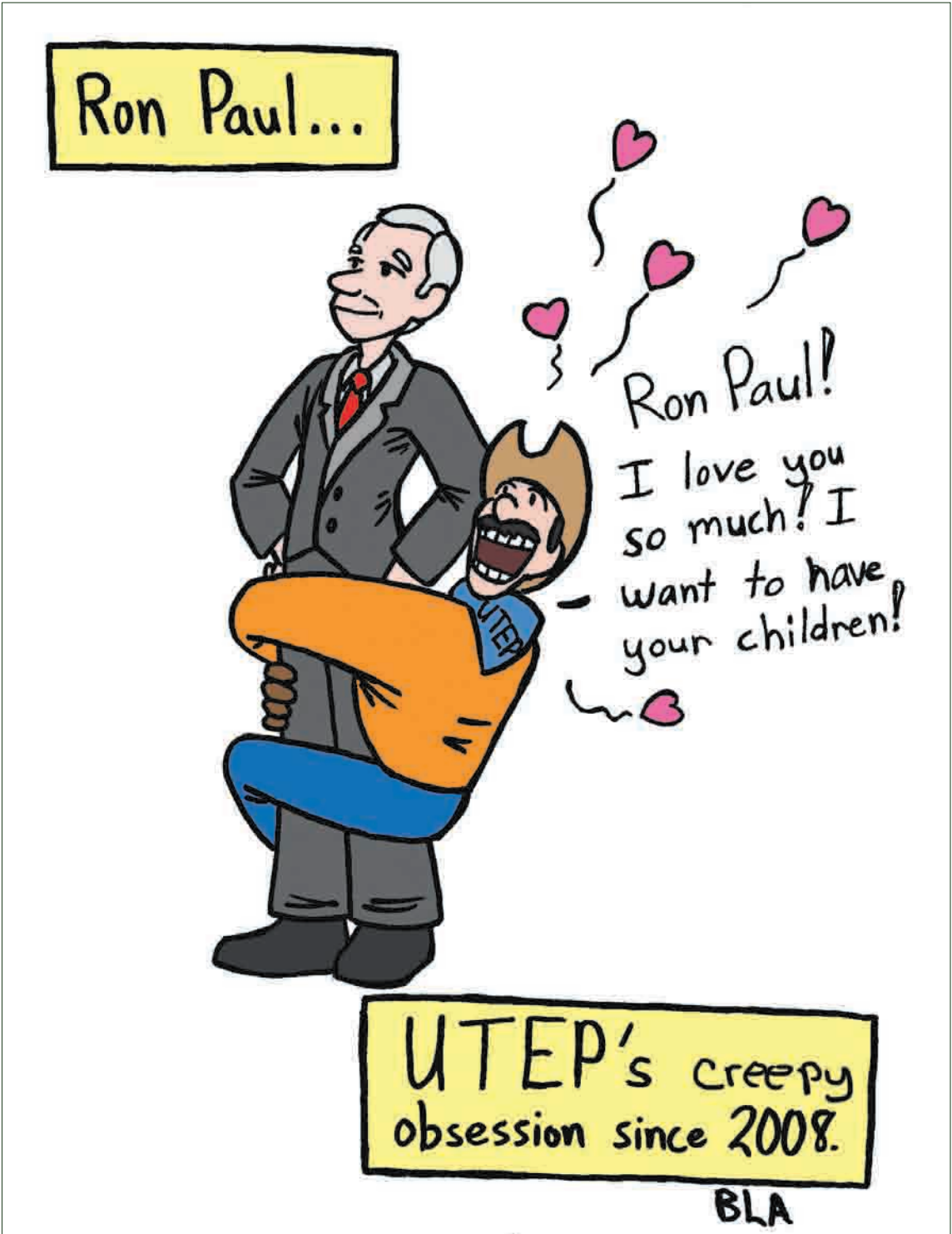
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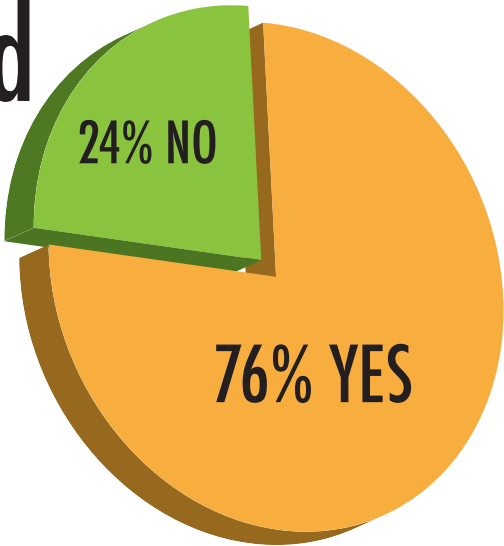
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Internet

# Browsing the web for the memeing of life

BY HENRY ARRAMBIDE  
The Prospector

Rarely discussed offline — but uttered back and forth between students — mimetic phrases such as “epic fail” and images such as the trollface are picking up momentum and becoming iconic outside of the realm of Internet culture.

“The beauty of memes lies in their ability to make us laugh while joking about something almost anyone can relate to,” said Josh Morris, junior physics major and co-founder of the UTEP memes Facebook page. “When you combine that with the fact that anyone can contribute to them and help them grow, it makes them the quintessential online community activity.”

A meme, defined originally by British evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins, is an idea, behavior or style that spreads from person to person within a culture. In our contemporary Internet age, popular memes take the form of pictures with bold impact, which include ironic or sarcastic statements in regard to that image.

Other forms include pictures of felines with misspelled captions, called lolcats, or rage comics, crudely drawn sequences that illustrate frustrating or amusing situations.

“My favorite memes are those that are hilariously true,” said Omar Khalik, freshman computer science major and co-founder of the UTEP memes Facebook page. “Sure, memes like The Game, All Your Base and You Mad Bro are fun, but in my opinion, the best ones are ones with real-life implications.”

The power of these mimetic devices to convey shared feelings or comedic situations across something as large as the Internet is why they are able to spread so fast, and they are spreading faster than ever before, according to senior computer science major Anuar Jauregui.

“It’s amazing how new memes are popping out from everywhere nowadays,” Jauregui said. “Before, memes were just the ‘rage faces,’ which include all of the comic-like MS paint-drawn caricatures, but now with all the real-life people memes like the Success Kid, Annoying Facebook

Girl and nowadays, Ridiculously Photogenic Guy, everyone can make their own memes or become a meme themselves.”

With the ease of access to technology to produce and distribute images, sites like memegenerator.net allow virtually anyone to make a meme out of anything. Image-based sites 4chan.org, 9gag.com and fukung.net or web-aggregates such as Reddit.com are some of the biggest places for user-made content to be submitted and spread amongst audiences. As the dedicated UTEP memes Facebook page demonstrates, things are only growing.

“I hear that college meme sites are everywhere, but I haven’t been to any except UTEP’s,” said Jerusalem Benavides, education graduate student. “I didn’t even know what a meme was until I joined the UTEP memes page on Facebook.”

According to Khalik and Morris, the two were familiar with Internet memes due to a history of encounters with people who used memes over Xbox live and watching machinima (videos produced using pre-existing

videogame engines) productions over the Internet.

Aside from exposure via these fringe mediums, sites such as 4chan and Reddit had been host to early examples of memes that were accessible to the Internet-savvy. With time, the memes began to spread, and the two discovered that college campuses were creating their own dedicated pages.

“I followed the UT-Austin one because I knew quite a bit about the campus, so some of the things were funny,” Morris said. “Eventually, Omar and I got motivated to start our

own memes page for UTEP because we knew there had to be others out there who would enjoy and contribute to a memes page.”

Currently, the UTEP memes page has 208 followers and is showing steady growth since its creation March 23. Khalik and Morris encourage fan-generated content and submissions, as that community has been what has driven these mimetic devices from obscurity to the Internet mainstream — 9gag alone having 67 million unique visitors in the past month.


see MEME on page 12


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Music

# Lyrics influence, inspire through generations

BY AMBER WATTS  
The Prospector

From the primitive, pieced-together gourd and wood guitars of Africa and Mesopotamia, to the sophisticated modern instruments people employ

today — music’s beginnings for the purpose of celebration, escape and community have not changed even with the passing of time. Add vocals and lyrics to a composition and the influence of a song can be even more impressive.

“I think from generation-to-generation and era-to-era, you find that lyrics will either function as a means of escape or as a means of realism, and forming opinions about social issues,” said John Siqueiros, assistant professor of music.

Siqueiros said that although lyrics through time have been used in this way, particularly in American popular music, lyrics have also been used as a tool for rallying a generation to action.

“For example, during the ‘40s, those were rough times and people had enough reality to keep them occupied, so the songs tended to be escapist kind of songs, to talk about blue skies or talk about sentimental things and things to take your mind off of the fact that we were at war and so on,” Siqueiros said.

In the ‘60s, The Beatles and Bob Dylan, according to Siqueiros, sang about things that were “real,” with the intent to get people to respond to the lyrics.

Siqueiros also said that lyrics have been added to music for expressions of happiness, protest or escapism, but another kind of writing in music has impacted American popular music in a way that actually altered the nation’s popular culture and perspective.

“(The double entendre) comes out of slave music. Originally, the double entendre was a way for slaves to insult the master without the master knowing, so the double meaning was that they would be talking about something else, but everybody knew that they were talking about the slave master,” Siqueiros said. “Later, after slavery in the 20th century, the blues’ entendre shifts subject; it’s no longer talking about the slave master—they’re talking about sex.”

Jerusalem Benavides, education administration graduate student, said that although lyric-less classical music inspired him to play piano, one of the most influential bands to him was Fleetwood Mac because of their lyrics.

“I think it’s because of the way that they write and tell a story with each song and it’s interesting in their substance behind what they’re talking about, like there’s cool melodies in the music and they know how to write poetry in songs,” Benavides said.

When it came down to pinpointing the kind of mood certain songs and lyrics created for Benavides, the most vivid example of a lyric amplifying a mood he was in, was in a song released this year, “Someone That I Used To Know” by Gotye.

“I was in a bad mood and I happened to hear it on the radio and I was like, ‘oh my God, that’s cool,’ so I listened to it a bunch of times the next day and was like, that’s depressing, so I think it just depends on the mood,” Benavides said.

Alejandra Juarez, a third-year pharmacy student, said that lyrics

see LYRICS on page 8

## Attention Graduating Seniors!!!



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Performance

# UTEP Improv starts with a Craigslist ad

BY OSCAR GARZA

The Prospector

Improvisation as an art form means to act on the spot based on a situation and/or someone else's actions.

This art form inspired Matthew Manriquez, junior metallurgical and materials engineering major, and Philip Munck, freshman music major, to found the UTEP Improv group with a goal to make people laugh.

"I thought of the improv group when I was in Houston for the summer and I attended some improv workshops," Manriquez said. "I always wanted to do improv in El Paso, but I never found a group. I was getting tired of the lack of entertainment at UTEP and how expensive shows can be, which rarely attract a college crowd."

Manriquez used the Internet to find people interested in improv and to his surprise he received an answer.

"I posted a listing on Craigslist looking for interested people and met this guy Philip Munck. He was from Virginia coming to UTEP to study for a year," Manriquez said.

Manriquez and Munck needed a sponsor to get rolling as a UTEP student group and after posting some flyers they found David Novick, professor of computer science, who had been an improv performer before.

"A lot of what we do actually has a lot in common with acting in the

regular theater. A lot of the exercises we do are similar; a lot of the sort of 'quest for truth' is similar, but we rely on our imaginations," Novick said. "Since I was running improv workshops already, I thought well this would be really great. So I contacted Matthew and volunteered to be the faculty advisor coach. And it turned out that's exactly what he needed and it's been really great."

Novick's role with UTEP Improv goes beyond being the coach of the group.

"I was a player with Comedy Sportz in Portland, Oregon, so I took my early improv with them and performed with them," Novick said. "I've been the coach for most of the workshops and sort of on the first show I served as the MC and referee."

Leonardo Steinhauser, junior psychology major, thinks the improv group is a great idea.

"I would like to see one of the shows for the creativity involved and for the entertainment aspect as well. But also I think that's why people attend these types of shows because of the entertainment value," Steinhauser said.

Manriquez said he hopes to go out with a last show for the semester, probably during the first week of May.

Overall, Novick hopes audiences will be able to get a lot out of this unique and talented student organization.

"First of all, I hope they laugh a lot. Second, I hope that they get inspired to try it themselves. A lot of what we do is not necessarily about being

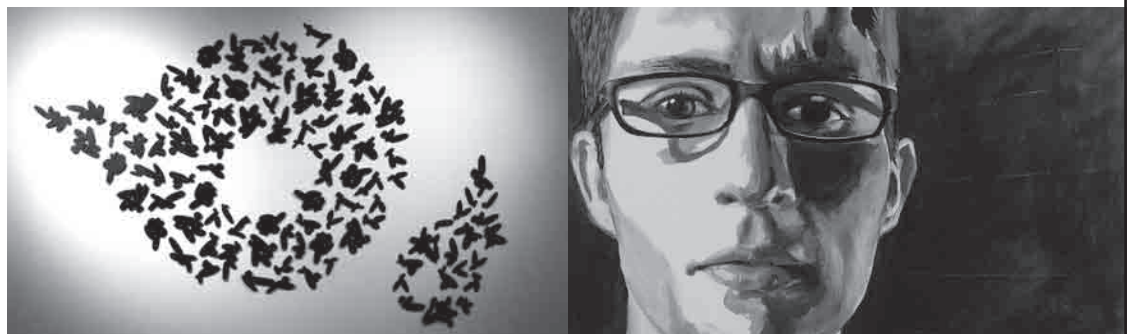
funny, but it's about being truthful," Novick said.

The student group hosts workshops at 6 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays at whatever vacant office they can find

on the second or third floors of the Liberal Arts Building. Manriquez said to look for a sign on the doorway to find them.

Oscar Garza may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).

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Eli Arenas, *Middle Ground #1*, aluminum and chalkboard paint, 2011.

Lionel Palma, *Lionel*, acrylic on wood.  
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# UTEP Food Services: Changing and growing with the UTEP Campus



More than a year ago, UTEP Food Services took on the task of finding out what UTEP students wanted and needed in regards to their food choices and dining venues. Students' opinions were gathered from the annual Student Satisfaction Survey and from various focus groups. The findings from both sources were analyzed and UTEP Food Services realized they had a big job ahead of them. New food venues and options were going to be brought to campus, which would involve the remodeling of one of the campus' main dining areas, the second floor of Union Building East.

The area, formerly known as the Mine Shaft, was completely re-fashioned. New flooring and carpet were installed along with specially designed furniture for UTEP. These new furnishings include ample orange booths, comfortable

chairs and tables with pop-art-style graphics; low couch-like seats and high tables with stools. This new area was designed to accommodate an open space for Pizza Hut, a new home for AFC Sushi, and a brand-new addition to the campus, Mein Bowl. These offerings were a result of students' expressed desire for a greater variety of food and healthier options, including vegetarian ones.

Other eateries, which remain in this area, are also undergoing changes or additions. The Freshens corner store, on the first floor of Union Building East, will be moved closer to the entrance of the breezeway and will house Jamba Juice. This franchise is the first in El Paso and specializes in healthy blended beverages, juices and healthy snacks. Coffee lovers do not despair, your favorite Starbucks coffees will still be sold at

this location as well.

Knowing that students cannot always go to the Union, UTEP Food Services focused on dining options at other locations on campus as well. The new Computer Science Building is home to a full-service Starbucks coffee store and the Health Sciences Building has its very own dining venue—Sandella's, which features grilled flatbreads, sandwiches, paninis, quesadillas and salads.

UTEP Food Services, in conjunction with the office of the Vice President for Business Affairs, are working together to make sure the students' dining needs are met. Together, they are engaged in a continuous effort to meet the student population's desire for a convenient and healthier lifestyle.

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LYRICS from page 4

really affect her the most when they are about heartbreak or about being upbeat and happy and in love, but that genres like rap do not appeal to her because of the vulgarity in them.

“Music doesn’t get me excited. I can relate to it sometimes if it’s a sad song about a heartbreak or about disappointment or just about being happy and in love, so yeah I listen to music I

can relate to. I guess that can cheer me up when I’m sad,” Juarez said.

Another student, Alex Fierro, sophomore civil engineering major, said genres like indie, alternative rock, punk and rap all lyrically and musically appeal to him for different reasons.

“I like indie music mainly because it has a good tempo, it can be gloomy or it can be bright, punk rock because it

has a lot of energy in it. Rap, I think, is kind of like a modern-day punk rock and is a lot more accessible in what people can make it and voice their opinions through it, make their troubles be known,” Fierro said.

Even with the various purposes of music and lyrics, students may not be getting the full intent of the message songwriters are trying to get across, Siqueiros said. Because people do not try to delve into the meanings of songs, Siqueiros said he has more reason to do so.

“I think in an age where there is this specific type of sound that people are looking for when they listen to music, and if they don’t hear that sound, then they turn it off or switch to something else, but they’re not listening to the lyrics,” Siqueiros said. “One of the reasons I analyze songs in class is to get people to start thinking, well what is the singer singing about?”

Siqueiros said in an age where things move quickly and younger generations are used to very short periods of entertainment, people forget or they do not bother to think about what the song means. This kind of half-attentive listening leads to the meaning of songs being lost on most people.

“First, I think that the music itself has to be powerful. People are not just going to listen to the lyrics if the music doesn’t sound good,” Siqueiros said.

Amber Watts may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).

# simplystated

## Ron Paul to speak at UTEP April 25

Republican presidential candidate Ron Paul will speak at 7 p.m. April 25 at the Memorial Gym for a town hall meeting.

The UTEP chapter of “Youth for Ron Paul” organized the event. Paul is one of the remaining candidates along with Newt Gingrich and Mitt Romney.

## CEO to speak at UTEP’s Opportunity Days conference

Woody Hunt, chairman and CEO of Hunt Companies Inc. will help create concepts that promote high-level jobs in El Paso to be executed through the next three years.

Hunt will participate at the Opportunity Days conference May 2 in which these concepts will be shared.

## UTEP receives grant from National Science Foundation

UTEP’s Student Mentoring to Achieve Retention: Triads in Science program received a \$578,162 grant from the National Science Foundation.

The grant will be used to improve science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields at the university. The SMARTS program will use the money to fund teams who will engage in STEM-related projects.

# 10 Songs for Inspiration

- Daniel Powter – “Bad Day”
- Sigur Ros – “Hoppipolla”
- The Beatles – “Fool on the Hill”
- U2 – “Love Rescue Me”
- Pearl Jam – “Amongst the Wave”
- The Protomen – “Light Up the Night”
- Van Halen – “Dreams”
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- Florence and The Machine - "Cosmic Love"
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## Poetry

# Word to the wise

## Lecturer goes from MC to campus classroom

BY LORAIN WATTERS

The Prospector

Roberto Santos, lecturer for the introductory creative writing classes and host for the Barbed Wire Open Mic Series, sat down for an interview about the ever-popular events that are currently held at the Percolator every last Saturday of the month.

The BWOMS events were started in 2007 by Verónica Guajardo and Trent Hudley, who were MFA creative writing students at UTEP. They wanted to fuse academics and a creative environment in order to give the El Paso community the opportunity to surpass their own barriers and voice their opinions to the public.

**Q: How did the BWOMS go from an idea to actuality?**

A: El Paso has little to no open mic venues for the community, aside from Verse & Harmony. They felt that poetry should have its place in the streets. BWOMS is now a BorderSenses event and through them has been funded by the Museums and Cultural Affairs Department.

**Q: What inspired you take on the task of hosting and become involved with BWOMS?**

A: I had an interest in performance poetry and wanted to learn how to perform and how to deliver my poetry to an audience in an interesting and exciting way. I also had interest in event organizing and in finding a way to bring people together in celebration of art and creation.

**Q: What experiences have you gained from being a part of BWOMS?**

A: I've learned lots about hosting a show, about organizing performers, stage management



**Robert Santos** was the Barbed Wire Open Mic Series host that takes place every last Saturday of the month. On April 30, he hosted the show at a packet house at The Percolator Cafe. He still attends the open mic and he continues to be involved with the before show free style.

and communication. I have also learned how to work with people that are very different from me. Aside from these things, I've also learned to appreciate a wide array of performance styles and forms.

**Q: Is there a part of it that is a particular favorite for you?**

A: My favorite part of organizing an open mic is seeing how important this is to the community. We have families that come to the show who are now able to see their loved ones shine on stage. These are people that have perhaps been led to believe that they have no voice, or that their

artistic perspectives and views of the world are of no importance. But this show reverses that, it gives the power back to the community and validates their right to participate in and access art in its manifold complexity completely free of charge.

**Q: Do you find yourself transitioning work from BWOMS into the classroom or vice versa?**

A: Yes, I apply what I learn at the BWOMS to what I do and how I teach in the classroom. I even give my students extra credit for going to poetry events – I think they like that.

**Q: Some students, for example, may feel apprehensive about sharing their work with the public. How does BWOMS help with that?**

A: Performing at the show can help students build their confidence because the crowd at the BWOMS is always kind and encouraging; we always support our own. This type of performance is also a great opportunity to get immediate direct feedback, something that is rare for writers to find.

**Q: How has lecturing students and/or BWOMS enhanced your personal writing?**

A: From seeing all of the amazing performers, I'm able to learn great techniques of expression and I am also able to avoid the techniques that I have seen as ineffective.

**Q: What are you trying to accomplish here at UTEP?**

A: I would love to inspire students like my professors inspired me, like Benjamín Alire Sáenz (professor of creative writing) and Daniel Chacón (associate professor of creative writing). I hope that I can encourage students to find their unique voices and help them craft work that will make a difference in their lives and in the lives of the people around them.

**Q: What is one piece of advice you would give to aspiring writers?**

A: Write from your heart, honor your ancestors and families, find art in your culture and in your everyday life. Art can be created by anyone with a vision and a voice, but it's something that we must be open to find in ourselves and our surroundings, on the bus or crossing the border. We can even find art in that dried up river that separates two countries and innumerable families. Just listen to yourself and the people around you. You can find art in every breath. I also recommend that aspiring writers study the greats, read the poetry of Nezahualcoyotl, Khalil Gibran, Rumi and Langston Hughes, read Borges and Kafka, read "One Hundred Years of Solitude" by Marquez, read works from around the world.

Lorain Watters may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).

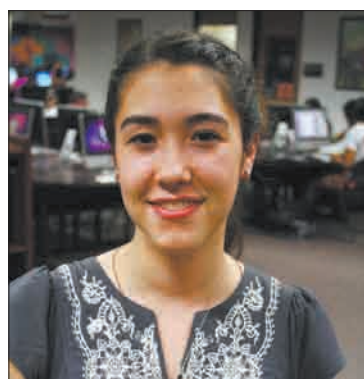




Question of the week

# What type of music inspires you?

Photos by Justin Stene and Greg Castillo



**ALEJANDRA HERNANDEZ**

Sophomore electric engineering major  
"It depends on my mood. I usually listen to house music and trance because it relaxes me and sometimes helps me concentrate on what I'm doing."



**IVAN REGALADO**

Freshman civil engineer major  
"House music, just the feeling I get out of it. I feel like I'm part of the music."



**SHARON MURILLO**

Sophomore philosophy major  
"I love to listen to Mozart. I just love that music and believe it's the only good music we have."



**GABRIEL VALLE**

Junior graphic design major  
"Electronic because it's the only form of music that brings everyone together without a problem."



**REYNA PUENTES**

Senior biomedical and psychology major  
"Electronic music because of the scene and environment pretty much the whole peace love feel it has to it."



**ANGEL PARRA**

Junior Criminal Justice major  
"Any up-beat music gets me pumped and motivated for the day."



**FRANCQUEE ACOSTA**

Freshman business major  
"Country music, because you can find a song for any mood you're in and every song tells a story."



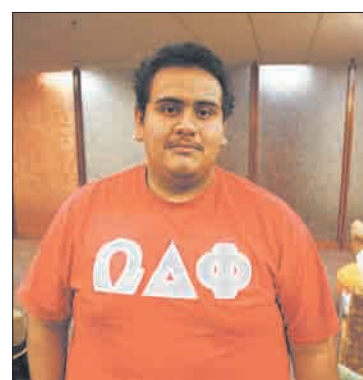
**GRISELDA RUBIO**

Junior mathematics major  
"I know that many people do not like country music but I find it really inspiring. Lady Antebellum is one of my favorites and I always listen to them when I'm feeling kind of down."



**LILI CUEZADA**

Senior criminal justice major  
"New age because it relaxes me and puts me in a good mood. The best part is that it doesn't have lyrics so I can interpret it any way I want."



**ADRIAN DOMINGUEZ**

Sophomore psychology major  
"Rock inspires me to write because a lot of the lyrics are emotional and have meaning to what's going on."



**MICHELLE CAMPOS**

Freshman general studies major  
"I listen to all kinds of music but it mainly depends on how I'm feeling at the moment. The music of Beyonce really inspires me and helps me start my day in the morning."



**ANAKAREN NARRO**

Junior mathematics major  
"There's a specific song that inspires me, 'What Doesn't Kill You (Stronger)' by Kelly Clarkson. I find it really inspiring because I can relate a lot to the song and it makes me feel positive."



**CHRISTINA MA**

Biology graduate student  
"I really like classical music. It's not superficial and it helps me relax and concentrate."



**WILLIAM SAENZ**

Freshman communications major  
"Jazz really inspires me. I listen to it almost every morning. It really puts me in a good mood."



**ANDREA RAMIREZ**

Junior special education major  
"I listen to a lot of different music, but lately the music of Young the Giant and Lykke Li has been on my playlist. Although I like many other artists, it mainly depends on my mood."



**SARAI GARCIA**

Junior psychology major  
"I really like classical music, especially film soundtracks, they really inspire me. I like to listen to this music while I'm writing, it helps me clear my head."



**ARTURO SCHIAFFINO**

Freshman mechanical engineering major  
"Eminem's music really inspires me because he doesn't care what other people think about him and he never gives up despite all the hardships he's been through."



**PAULINA GARCIA**

Junior education major  
"Instrumental music really inspires me. I feel like this music is inspiring because people are open to different interpretations of the songs since they have no lyrics."



**JASON ORTEGON**

Sophomore nursing major  
"Soft rock or anything with guitar really because the sound of the guitar moves me."



**INDIRA ORTEGA**

Sophomore business administration major  
"I find reggaeton music really inspiring. It's really upbeat and it always gets me in a good mood."



# UP Coming Springtime events

Photos special to The Prospector

## Tuesday



The band Givers will be performing 8:30 p.m. April 24 at Lowbrow Palace. The show is an 18 and up show and tickets are \$13 day of show. Givers will be performing with The D.A.

## Thursday



mARTket: Bring It Downtown will be a place for any artist wanting to sell their art or network. Event is at 7:00 p.m. April 26 at Loft Light Studio. Cover is \$5 at the door and is BYOB.

## Friday



Battle of the Bands: Spanish Rock is at 6:30 p.m. April 27 at The Percolator Cafe. Winners win a \$400 cash prize and will be selected by the audience.

## Friday, April 27



- Speaking Rock's summer music series presents Godsmack April 27.
- Show is free to the public and is an all ages show.



**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Avoid having someone else take credit for the project you started by finishing it yourself. Then it will be you lovely Lambs who will be wearing those well-deserved laurels.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) The facts about a new opportunity are still emerging. Wait until they're all out in the open, and then use your keen business sense to help make the right decision.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) You might feel confused, even hurt by a friend who suddenly puts distance between you. If she or he won't discuss it, don't push it. An explanation should come in time.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Your willingness to be part of the team opens doors that had been shut to you. Keep them open by keeping your promises even when your commitment seems to be wavering.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) Congratulations. You're really getting things done to purr-fection. And don't forget to take a catnap now and again to keep those energy levels up and bristling for action.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Your "plain-talking" honesty is admirable. But sometimes sharp words can leave painful scars. Be careful that what you say doesn't come back to hurt you.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) A stress-filled period takes a positive turn as you deal with the underlying problem. Act now to avoid a recurrence by changing some basic rules in your relationship.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Your rising energy levels make it easier for you to achieve some important objectives. This could lead to a big boost in how you're perceived, both at home and on the job.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) A changing picture begins to emerge as you learn more about an offer that seemed so right but could be so wrong. Look to a trusted adviser for guidance.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Spiritual aspects are strong. Take time to reflect on the path you're on and where you hope it will lead you. It's also a good time to reach out to loved ones.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) You could be assuming far too many responsibilities, whether it's at work or in personal matters. Be careful that you're not weighed down by them.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) You're getting closer to your goals. And since nothing succeeds like success (or the promise thereof), don't be surprised to find new supporters swimming alongside you.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** You are always the first to try new ventures and confront new challenges. You inspire others with your courage to follow your bold example.

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# WEEKEND NIGHTS



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YOUR BIRTHDAY  
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DOMESTIC BEER \$ 2 DLLS  
WHISKY/VODKA BOTTLE  
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### SATURDAY

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MEME from page 3

“Back in the day, I went on 4chan, and that’s where I began seeing the first memes being used or born,” Jauregui said. “Nowadays, I spend time on 9gag, which is brilliant—it allowed memes to go from some crude Internet joke that

only geeks used to the mainstream and now everyone from all aspects of life can use and enjoy them for getting a good laugh.”

You can visit the UTEP memes page at [www.facebook.com/UTEPMem.es](http://www.facebook.com/UTEPMem.es).

Henry Arrambide may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).

Review



‘Noises Off’ makes for a good laugh

BY KRYSTAL OBLINGER

The Prospector

“Sardines, Sardines, Sardines! Where are the bloody sardines?” They’re on stage with the hilarious cast of the meta-play “Noises Off,” being performed at the Wise Family Theatre.

The play, by English playwright Michael Frayn and directed by Diane Robinson, shines a light on what happens before the curtain rises on opening day for a play and what goes on behind the stage. Featuring sex, drinking and at least two incidents of people falling down the stairs; it leaves one wondering why Frayn didn’t murder someone on stage before the end of the production. The UTEP theater troupe takes this story and rides it straight into the train wreck that it is (in a positive way).

Director Lloyd Dallas (Adam Zarowski) is pushing to have a play “Nothing On” go off without a hitch. The cast of Dotty Otley (Samantha Michelle Nava), Garry Lejeune (Dalton Forrester Gorden), Selsdon Mowbray (David C. Rout), Brooke Ashton (Angelina Marie Castillo), Belinda Blair (Hannah Celeste Nevarez) and Frederick Fellowes (Abel Garcia) seem so confident until things slowly start to fall apart when late entrances begin during the technical/dress rehearsal. Receiving everyone’s wrath are stage managers Poppy Norton (Rebecca Escobedo) and Timothy Allgood (Orlando F. Rodriguez), who become more important in the second and third acts, when everything goes to heck.

Although it is difficult to explain what happens next without giving away too much, act one sets the stage for

what is to come. Small details, such as Brooke losing her contact while running around in her underwear, Frederick constantly getting nose bleeds and Blair attempting to coordinate everyone, come back in a big way in the second act.

What really comes out of the blue is the strange love triangle between Poppy, Brooke and Dallas. It is hinted at briefly in the first act, but when the audience gets the backstage view in the second act, it becomes more apparent with constant confusing scenes involving flowers and alcohol, which mimics the misplacement of sardines in the “Nothing On” play.

The play-within-a-play theme is never intrusive to the overall experience; everything connects through the recognition of problems and the UTEP troupe handles the material with ease.

The accents and costumes are spot on and believable and characterizes the individual actors in a way that helps the audience recognize everyone. Brooke’s sexy lingerie adds to her ditzzy blonde attitude, while alcohol-imbibing Selsdon’s disheveled pants keep falling down the more he drinks.

“Noises Off” works even though the play on stage has completely failed by the third act and reaches for laughs at all cost. The audience doesn’t have to see all of the problems to get a feel for what is funny and literally, everything is hilarious.

It all starts with the sardines.

Krystal Oblinger may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu)

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**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL:** ACCORDING TO HEAD COACH KEITHA ADAMS, FORWARD GLORIA BROWN HAS SIGNED WITH AN AGENT AND HAS TRIED OUT FOR NUMEROUS WNBA TEAMS EARLIER THIS MONTH IN DENVER .

April 24, 2011

**sports** editor  
William Vega, 747-7445

Hobbies



PHOTOS BY BOB CORRAL / The Prospector

# Players make time to showcase their artistic abilities

BY KRISTOPHER RIVERA  
The Prospector

During the 2012 NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament, an NCAA commercial stated that more than 400,000 NCAA student-athletes will be going pro in something other than sports once they graduate.

Student-athletes are recognized for their performances on the court or field, often overshadowing their personal interests, especially their creative, artistic ones.

A bat is not the only thing senior outfielder Courtney Ware swings. Ware, a painting major set to graduate this May, spent her four years at UTEP with a paintbrush, swinging it gently at a canvas.

“In high school, I took my first art class as a junior and I really, really liked it. I’ve always been kind of artistic and loved doing creative stuff,” Ware said. “When I went into college, it was something I did on the side. I

like painting stools and chairs, stuff like that, things made out of wood.”

After two years into her college courses, Ware decided her true calling was in art and abandoned the idea of majoring in any other field.

“I actually came into school as an environmental science major, then I switched to biology, then psychology and that stuff just did not work out,” Ware said. “Through all that, art was kind of constant, so I decided to pursue that as my major.”

Although Ware struggled to find time with an overwhelming softball schedule, plus additional courses she was taking at the time, she found ways to get things done. Whether getting her projects completed in her traveling studio when she was on the road or her home studio, Ware found time in between the cracks to get creative.

“I would really love to work behind the scenes in movies or theater. I would like to paint sets for theaters, like on Broadway, but I hear it’s kind

of a dying business now with all the technology,” Ware said. “Everything is so digitized that there’s not much room for set painting, so I guess I really would love to just go behind the scenes and work on movie sets. Either building models, painting models, designing models or miniatures, stuff like that.”

Ware said that the spring semester has been more difficult than the fall, as it normally is during softball season.

She said that last fall, she was able to balance her classes much easier, when she received all As. This semester has been different, she said, especially with it being her last semester.

Terr’l Mark, senior defensive back, is another student-athlete with intentions to work in the entertainment business. Mark, a graphic design major, was hooked his senior year in high school after taking a class related to graphic design.

“Once I graduate, I would like it to lead me in the direction of architecture or graphic film in movies, video games,” Mark said. “As far as business overall, I would like to work with Disney animation and film production or architecture.”

Mark stays optimistic, even with the challenge of keeping a balance between school and sports.

“It is very hectic to balance these classes as well as participate in football,” Mark said. “But overall, it’s a blessing because it helps me be more of a responsible man, which is very helpful.”

Another student-athlete who has made time to practice her artistic ability is Anete Steinberga, junior forward on the women’s basketball team. Steinberga is a psychology major but is minoring in drawing.

“It’s probably been my hobby since I was six-years old and then my grandmother was really into art. She used to love art but she never had an op-

portunity to get a degree in it,” Steinberga said.

As a young child, Steinberga spent some time studying art back home in Latvia.

“I did all kinds of different stuff with metals, sculpting, paintings, drawings but what I’m now learning is understanding the human figure and body, and my favorite tool to draw with is charcoal,” Steinberga said.

Steinberga shares her work with family and friends when she returns home. Steinberga may get into a career that links her two studies together, such as art therapy.

“I definitely want to tie art in my career after I’m done with basketball, so we’ll see maybe life will give me some chances to use my skills,” Steinberga said.

Kristopher Rivera may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).

## Softball Seniors lead the way in win during final home conference series



FILE PHOTO

**Sophomore outfielder Kayla Black** slides back to second base between two UCF fielders to avoid the tag April 6 at the Helen of Troy Softball Complex.

BY DANIEL ORNELAS  
The Prospector

The Miners entered their last Conference USA home series of the 2012 season against the second-best team in the league, the UAB Blazers, looking to keep their slim post-season hopes alive April 21-22 at the Helen of Troy Softball Complex.

UAB won the series 2-1, taking the first two contests before falling to UTEP on Senior Day. Co-head coaches Kathleen and James Rodriguez had their three seniors Courtney Ware, Camilla Carrera and Chelsea Troupe lead the batting order for the final game.

The call proved to be effective as Carrera and Troupe accounted for five of UTEP’s seven runs in the 7-0 win.

Carrera added to her nation-leading home run total by hitting her 28th of the season with two outs and a run-

ner on base to give UTEP a 2-0 lead in the third inning.

When asked if the batting order would remain the same for the remaining games, James Rodriguez said it’s a possibility since it’s been effective.

“We had Courtney Ware leading off, probably three or four games on the road,” James Rodriguez said. “She has a higher on-base percentage than a lot of the girls on the team, so we’re just trying to get somebody on base for our big hitters.”

The Miners still led 2-0 in the fifth, which, just like UAB in the first game, proved to be a productive inning for the Miners. It was then that Troupe extended the Miner lead to 7-0, hitting her 16th home run of the season with a three-run shot to center field, which brought in Ware and Carrera.

“It was awesome. I’m happy I was able to do it,” Carrera said. “It was mixed feelings. It felt like just another game, but then again, I knew it was

Senior Day so I wanted to make sure that we just went all out.”

The game ended after two scoreless innings, which was aided by junior pitcher Cynthia Villastrigo, who allowed only three hits in the shutout.

James Rodriguez said after the first two losses to the Blazers that the hope was to simply get a complete game from their pitchers, whether it was one or several of them playing.

“That first game, we played really well into the fifth inning and it just got away from us,” James said. “The second game, we hit the ball a lot better, we just couldn’t put any runs across.”

In the first of the three-game series, the Miners held a 3-1 lead after four innings. Sophomore pitcher Colleen Hohman had only allowed two hits and struck out five batters at that point. It was in the fifth inning that the game turned in UAB’s favor.



our view<sup>April 24, 2011</sup>  
editor  
Justin Stene, 747-7446



PHOTOS BY BOB CORRAL / The Prospector  
**UTEP Athletics held** a pep rally at 6 a.m. April 23 at the Sun Bowl for the media as the Miners began a competition to win a chance to host ESPN's College Gameday. The university, along with 120 other Division-1 schools, are asking their fans to vote for them by visiting [www.gamedayvote.com](http://www.gamedayvote.com) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/collegegameday](http://www.facebook.com/collegegameday). Voting began at 10 a.m. April 23 and will run until May 2. Fans are allowed one vote each day.



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Answers to 4-17-12

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  
each small 9-box square contains all of the  
numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★**

★ Moderate    ★★ Challenging  
★★★ HOO BOY!

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Softball  
Pitching struggles highlight  
2012 despite explosive offense

BY DANIEL ORNELAS  
The Prospector

The 2012 season was supposed to be a payback tour of sorts for co-head coaches Kathleen and James Rodriguez. After a 16-37-1 record during the 2011 season, the Miners looked to improve on their previous struggles.

Kathleen Rodriguez said prior to the season that it was personal to her and wanted to use what the team went through the past season as motivation. UTEP currently holds a 14-33 record and are in last place in C-USA with a mark of 3-18.

The team did start the season winning their first three contests but then fell into a slump losing 11 consecutive games.

UTEP headed into C-USA play holding a 9-13 record and would win their first two games before dropping 13 straight, going an entire month without a win.

The team welcomed two junior transfer pitchers in Cynthia Villastrigo and Colleen Hohman and only had two returning in junior Joanna Krienitz and sophomore Laura Ramos.

Ramos started 41 of 47 games she played in during 2011, while Krienitz had a combined 18 starts in the past two seasons. The inexperience at the position hurt the Miners in 2012.

"We had high expectations because our pitchers were doing really well, but they're new," James Rodriguez said. "Pitching at the division-1 level for the first time is a bit challenging for them."

The team did get solid play from a couple of seniors: Chelsea Troupe and Camilla Carrera.

Carrera currently leads the nation with 28 home runs, accounting for 61 RBIs while Troupe has hit 16 home runs of her own with 37 RBIs.

When asked what her experience at UTEP was like, Troupe said she enjoyed her career despite the struggles.

"I loved it here, coaches are great... family always," Troupe said. "That's probably one of the most important things and I'm going to have 17 sisters from four different years and that's just great for me."

James Rodriguez was also pleased with how seniors responded to the highs and lows of the season.

"They played great, they stayed positive through the losses that we had and I thought they played really well," James Rodriguez said.

Carrera received a medical red-shirt during the 2011 season due to a back injury. She also said her return was well worth it regardless of how the team performed.

"It's hard just because I know that as a team we struggled, but I wouldn't change it for the world right now," Carrera said. "I love my team, I couldn't ask for a better team in my senior year."

The Miners will travel to Tulsa April 28 and end the regular season May 1-2 at home against New Mexico.

Senior Courtney Ware added that the team could use a few more wins to have a chance at making the C-USA tournament May 10 in Birmingham, Alabama, but no matter the outcome, she'll have fond memories of the season.

"It was really fun. This was one of the best teams I played on talent wise. All the girls got really close this year. It's been a bit of a struggle during season, but we came out of it today (April 22 in a win against UAB)," Ware said. "We're going to take this momentum and just go through these next four games."

Daniel Ornelas may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).

Awards



WEBFIRST

BOB CORRAL / The Prospector

**State Reps.** Dee Margo, R-El Paso, and Marisa Marquez, D-El Paso, recognize both the women's basketball and rifle teams for making the NCAA Championships in their respective sports.

Women's basketball, rifle gain state recognition

BY DANIEL ORNELAS  
The Prospector

The UTEP women's basketball and rifle programs received recognition for their success during the 2011-12 season from the Texas House of Representatives April 18 in the Foster Stevens Basketball Center.

State Reps. Dee Margo, R-El Paso and Marisa Marquez, D-El Paso from House District 78 and 77 respectively, were on hand to present the Miners with the accolades.

"UTEP doesn't get quite the recognition sometimes we think they're deserving of, both academically and athletically," Margo said. "We just want to take advantage of the opportunity to recognize them in a more public way—with what the legislature allows us to do, with these resolutions."

Women's basketball coach Keitha Adams was recognized for leading

the team to its second NCAA tournament appearance in the past five years and in program history.

The team garnered a 29-4 record, which tops both the men's and women's single-season win total in school history.

"What's unique about El Paso is that UTEP is the pulse of the city and obviously us winning the two championships and going to the tournament reflects that it's meant a lot to the people in the community," Adams said. "I've had a lot of nice things said to me. People in this city are very proud and I think they feel really good about what our team accomplished this year."

The Miners won both the regular and conference titles before falling to Penn State in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

Rifle head coach George Benzovich led the team to a fifth-place finish in the NCAA Championships for the

first time since 2005. Benzovich also received NCAA Coach of the Year for the 2012 campaign.

When asked how the team reacted, Benzovich said the team rose to the occasion.

"The schools we competed with face-to-face, for example West Virginia, they were expected to win and they came in eighth. It was a good championship," Benzovich said. "It's been a great year – There was a comment from the NCAA representatives that they were the most poised and most focused team there."

Senior Andrea Palafox was named first-team All-American for the fourth-consecutive year, only the second shooter to ever accomplish that in UTEP history.

Daniel Ornelas may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).

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FILE PHOTO

**Junior infielder Ashley Collazo (10)** watches sophomore outfielder Kayla Black (20) slide home during the Miners' game April 6 against UCF at the Helen of Troy Softball Complex.



simplystated

Men’s basketball  
has one scholarship  
opening after Perez,  
Campbell departure

The losses of guards D’Von Campbell and Michael Perez leaves UTEP with 12 players on scholarship for the 2012-13 season, one under the NCAA maximum with the spring-signing period in full swing.

College teams can sign players through May 16. “We have a scholarship, and we will only utilize that scholarship on a guy that we feel has a chance to be a first-team all-league type player,” head coach Tim Floyd said April 20. “If not, we will go with the roster that we have. We have identified a young man who we feel can be a first-team all-league guy, and if we can bring him in, absolutely we’ll sign him.” UTEP’s 2012-13 scholarship situation looks like this: seniors Malcolm Moore and Jacques Streeter; junior John Bohannon; sophomores C.J. Cooper, Cedrick

Lang, McKenzie Moore, Jalen Ragland and Julian Washburn; redshirt freshman Hooper Vint; and incoming freshmen Twymond Howard, Chris Washburn Jr. and Dustin Watts. The 6-foot 6-inch Howard led Pearl High School (Mississippi) to a 27-4 record this past season, averaging 25.0 points, 11.7 rebounds, 3.9 assists, 1.8 steals and 1.4 blocks. McKenzie Moore, a 6-foot 6-inch combo guard, enrolled at UTEP for the spring semester. He initially verbally committed to Saint Mary’s before re-opening his recruiting following a standout

prep campaign at College Park High School in Pleasant Hill, California. Because he joined the team at mid-year, Moore won’t be eligible to play for the Miners until this coming season. The Washburn brothers – Julian, who made the Conference USA All-Freshman Team this season, and Chris, who helped South Grand Prairie (Texas) High School to a 35-3 record his final year as a prep – will be reunited at UTEP this coming season. Floyd called Watts an explosive guard out of Stoneridge Prep in Simi Valley, California.

**SENIORS** from page 13  
Second baseman junior Lauren Webster hit a three-run homer to left field to put the Blazers up 4-3. After Hohman allowed three more runs, sophomore Laura Ramos replaced her to try and put an end to the Blazers’ surge, but Ramos gave up four runs of her own, forcing both coaches to again make a switch at pitcher by sending Villastrigo in with two outs in the fifth inning. Villastrigo managed to end the inning allowing no runs, but it also put an end to the first game due to the mercy rule, which gives the team leading by eight or more runs after five innings the win. Game two went no different for the Miners as UAB continued their hot streak, winning a second five-inning game, shutting out UTEP 8-0. UTEP is in last place in C-USA riding a 14-33 overall record and 3-18 in conference play. The Blazers hold a 30-17 overall record with a 13-4 mark in conference and are currently tied for first place with Tulsa. The Miners currently trail Southern Miss for the final spot in the C-USA Tournament. UTEP holds the tie breaker when they defeated them twice in a three-game series March 10-11. Despite having two more series to play against Tulsa and New Mexico, seniors took UAB as more than just another game. “I had more of a championship game mentality, now we just need one or two more and we’re in the tournament,” Ware said. “Today had a lot of high emotions running, but not enough to cry.” Daniel Ornelas may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).

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