

2-7-2013

The Prospector, February 7, 2013

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DRINKING PENALIZED

*Students face consequences
for alcohol consumption
on school grounds*

“It’s the discretion of the hearing officer to determine, based on policies, the level of offense and to render some sort of sanction. That sanction can be anything from a warning on up.”

- Gary Edens,
vice president of Student Affairs.

BY SABRINA NUÑEZ

The Prospector

It was past midnight and as music pulsed through the air, there was a banging at the door followed by instant quiet. The worried silence of partygoers stems from the arrival of campus police investigating a noise complaint.

“The police came in, they saw the alcohol and they separated the party into two groups: over 21 and under 21,” said Alan Garcia, junior electrical and computer engineering major. “I believe they made the (apartment’s) residents throw away the alcohol. They also took down the information of everyone. After that, they released all the 21 year olds.”

On Dec. 29, 2012, Garcia was invited to a party at Miner Heights where alcohol was provided. According to a police report, officers found approximately 13 individuals (both UTEP students and visitors) inside an apartment. The party was shut down and the two residents, under the age of 21, were issued Class C citations for possession of alcohol by a minor.

Incidents involving students and alcohol use on campus property are reported to the conduct office. The student meets with a conduct officer, who explains the allegations, finds out the details of the situation and begins an investigation.

“It’s the discretion of the hearing officer to determine, based on policies, the level of offense and to render some sort of sanction. That sanction can be anything from

a warning on up,” said Gary Edens, vice president of student affairs.

Policy 1.2.15 under Student Conduct and Discipline in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures states, “The University enforces all state and federal laws or regulations which regulate and control the sale or use of alcohol on campus, including those pertaining to the possession of alcohol by minors...residents of University Housing are authorized to possess and consume beer and wine in the privacy of their living quarters, if they are of legal age under State law. Students in violation of these policies will be subject to University discipline in addition to possible criminal prosecution by civil authorities.”

see DRINK on page 3

WHAT DO you think?

This week's poll question:

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Column

Will I still receive my Netflix on time?

BY ALEJANDRO ALBA

The Prospector



The United States Postal Service announced on Feb. 6 that it would stop delivering letters and other mail on Saturdays. The end of six-day delivery is meant to save the Postal Service about \$2 billion annually.

Upon hearing this I immediately thought, "will my Netflix delivery be affected?" I know that is such a first-world problem, but it is a problem—one of the most minimal to come.

By cutting back on mail delivery days, there will also be a cut back on jobs.

There is an estimated 22,500 jobs that will be affected, according to Patrick Donahoe, CEO of the U.S. Postal Service.

Unions are already gathering and speculating the effect of the cut back. According to Cliff Guffey, president of the American Postal Workers Union, the decision will not alleviate the postal service; it will only make the financial crisis worse.

Although the USPS may see cutting Saturdays as an efficient cost cut, it will simply serve as a Band-Aid. Many experts, like associate professor in the department of policy analysis and management at Cornell University, Rick Geddes, have mentioned how the cut will not help the postal service pay back debt, and the only way is to de-monopolize and follow the examples of other countries that have already been successful by privatizing.

If the USPS were to learn from other countries such as Germany, which privatized their postal service in 2005, they would be able to become a leading global mailer. By de-monopolizing, the postal service can also find

ways to work with courier companies and create profit.

We are no longer in the era in which we travel by horse, so the postal service should catch up, focus less on snail mail and learn how to succeed in the Internet era. If they were to focus on packages instead of first-class mail, their profit would increase. Everyone shops online nowadays, might as well take advantage.

Print media will also be affected. As if the Internet has not affected print media enough, they will now take another hit as production and delivery gets held back.

Many magazines and newspapers that deliver first-class mail on Saturdays are now thinking of hiring a private delivery system. Chris Huckle, publisher of the Cadillac News, is one of them.

Time Magazine will also be looking into alternatives as they have been anticipating the change, but they will continue to get their magazine delivered on time to subscribers.

Now, back to the Netflix issue. My DVDs will still come and go based on when I send them, but I will be making Netflix more profitable since I will be receiving and seeing fewer DVDs for the same monthly price.

The change in delivery won't go into effect until Aug. 10, 2013. Until then, print companies have six months to find an alternative, postal service employees have six months to find other potential jobs and I have six months to cram in as many DVDs per month while paying a worthy fee.

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



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WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU UP TO NOW? SCRAPING ICE FROM THE FREEZER TO MAKE SNOW-CONES. YEAH, BUT WE NEED MORE ICE. TA-DAAAAA?

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vol. 98, no. 26

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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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Reform

Citizenship main topic at first immigration hearing

BY JASMINE AGUILERA
SHFWire

WASHINGTON—A pathway to citizenship was the main topic of discussion Feb. 5 at a House hearing, the first to take place since proposals for immigration reform were introduced in the new Congress.

San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro pushed for citizenship for undocumented immigrants currently in the United States.

“I believe that is the best way and it is in our nation’s best interest,” Castro said. “We’re a nation of immigrants. We’ve progressed because we are pragmatic. Complete citizenship is in our national interest, our economic interest.”

Several committee members opposed Castro’s view, including Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., who said full-fledged citizenship was not a form of compromise and that immigrants with criminal backgrounds should not be granted full citizenship.

Neither the committee members nor witnesses defined what partial citizenship would entail.

Castro said that allowing for partial citizenship would create a second-class of non-citizens and would lead to discrimination.

Midway through the hearing a group of DREAMers, young people who were brought to the U.S. illegally by their parents, interrupted and

marched out of the building chanting “undocumented and unafraid.”

Committee members and witnesses seemed to agree that immigrants with expertise in science, technology, engineering and mathematics should be granted citizenship after they graduate from an American university.

Puneet Arora, vice president of Immigration Voice, a non-profit, fits into that category. He was born in India and moved to the U.S. for a post-graduate medical residency at the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. He lives in the Minneapolis area and has a visa that allows him to work.

“We create opportunities for employment and invent valuable products for U.S. companies to sell in America and around the world,” Arora said. “We are not asking for thanks. We simply want a real place in America.”

Some committee members said immigration reform has to be strict with employers who knowingly hire undocumented immigrants, including a change in the E-Verify system, which allows employers to check the status of prospective employees.

Julie Myers Wood, former assistant secretary for Immigration and Customs Enforcement said it should be the government’s responsibility to

see IMMIGRATION on page 4



JASMINE AGUILERA / SHFWire
San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro, right, pushes for full-fledged citizenship for undocumented immigrants at a House committee hearing on immigration reform.

DRINK from page 1

When a call is made to the UTEP Police Department regarding alcohol consumption, they go to the scene to assess the situation.

“UTEP PD responds to these types of calls from a public-safety perspective and takes the appropriate action(s) in accordance with the Texas Alcohol Beverage Code, Texas Penal Code and Texas Code of Criminal Procedures to include university rules and policies,” said Clifton Walsh, UTEP police chief.

Although Garcia is 21, he received an appointment with the Office of Student Life to discuss his involvement in the matter.

“I went to student life and they explained to me that even though I was under my full legal right to consume alcoholic beverages, I was still on campus property and...there were (minors) at the party,” Garcia said. “Not that I provided the alcohol, but since there were people that were under 21 years old, it was still my responsibility to not be there. My involvement was just that, being in the wrong place at the wrong time.”

Edens said UTEP follows state laws that apply to alcohol consumption under the age of 21 and include incidents on campus residencies.

“If you have a party at your house and you have a bunch of underage people drinking, you’re going to be in trouble and it’s the same here at the university. Depending on what we find out is happening, there would be some sort of investigation at the housing level,” Edens said. “There’s rules and regulations associated with drinking in the residence halls, so the student might be found in violation of those. There’s a whole range of sanctions that could be imposed.”

Walsh agrees that minors should adhere to state laws while on campus and said that UTEP PD enforces Texas Alcohol Beverage Code laws, which include minor in possession of alcohol, minor consuming alcohol, public intoxication and other related laws.

Because Garcia was only present at the party and did not provide any of

the alcohol, he will face disciplinary probation until May 25, along with the other 13 students who were at the party. Garcia said this was the first time he received any type of disciplinary probation.

“(I’m) on probation and if I make a mistake, where I do something bad, the next time that I infringe on the school code of conduct, I will get a higher sanction than previously, depending on the situation,” Garcia said. “What they told me is in that type of situation where you know that there’s just one minor, just turn around. And even though you’re not providing everything, if you were just invited, you’re not really related to any of the situation, it’s still your responsibility as a 21 year old.”

According to Edens, the percentage of commuter students versus on-campus students gives UTEP fewer housing-related problems, compared to other universities. However, the upcoming increase in student housing will impact the situation.

“With the new housing, you’re going to increase the number of potential problems. We’re preparing our staff to be able to handle those situations. (To) better orient students when they come into the residence halls about the rules and policies,” Edens said. “We now have live-in staff members at each of the sites, we never had that before, so we’re trying to provide not only oversight, but also educational opportunities for students to understand this is what you can do, this is what you can’t do, so that they are fully aware of their rights, but also their responsibilities.”

Although he did not know the policy on drinking while in the presence of minors, Garcia said he did know the policy regarding underage drinking, therefore he believes his punishment is fair.

“I knew a lot of the people were under 21 and even though I did not know that it was my responsibility, I was still aware of the situation and something didn’t feel right,” Garcia said. “It was a good warning of what my rights were and (that I) need to respect campus property.”

Sabrina Nuñez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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Campus

UTEP lags behind with recycling in UT System

BY SABRINA NUÑEZ
The Prospector

Compared to other UT schools, UTEP lags behind in their recycling efforts, however, some believe that a student-driven program could fulfill the campus' recycling needs.

"The recycling program here at UTEP could be much better, much more robust, but it's going to take a lot of student participation," said Jorge Villalobos, director of Facilities Services at UTEP. "The really successful recycling programs I've seen are driven by students."

According to Villalobos, Facilities Services is planning to create an organization in which students run the operations of a recycling plant. Students would try to maximize the profits of the plant, get more people involved in the operations, diversify and market the product, just like they do at other universities.

"That would be a very interesting way of handling this, because as an educational institution we want to create opportunities for students to learn some cool stuff," Villalobos said.

The program would have students think about commodities fluctuating, how they sell and when they sell, creating an opportunity for people to watch the markets and see how to maximize profits, using the money as an organization fund to try to help more green initiatives.

UTEP currently operates on a single-stream system, utilizing recycling bins for paper, aluminum cans and plastic bottles.

The university also collects and stores cardboard, which generates a revenue of \$300 each time it is

picked up by a recycling company, Villalobos said.

"The 18-wheelers you see on the road, it takes us a month and a half to literally fill them up from the front, all the way to the back, to the top," said Jenny Fraire-Varela, assistant director of Facilities Services. "We flatten all the boxes and then we stack them all the way up. Once that truck is full, (a recycling company) comes and hauls it off, weighs it and then they send us a check."

The UT Austin recycling program is larger and handles paper, cardboard, aluminum, plastics (except bags), electronics and they take surplus office products or furniture.

According to Karen Blaney, Sustainability Operations assistant manager at UT Austin, the university uses two models of recycling bins across campus: one model used in public areas is silver with color-coded stickers that have shaped lids corresponding to the items each bin accepts, the other is bright blue and used within buildings.

UT Austin also began an e-waste campaign on Feb. 4, which will provide e-waste recycling at the front desks of every dorm.

"(We're) trying to make it really easy for students in the dorms to get rid of e-waste, which means their personal computers, cell phones and any plugs, chargers, keyboards, mice," Blaney said. "It's a partnership between the housing and food division and a student group."

At UT Arlington, the academic buildings have recycling containers that handle plastic and aluminum, while the residence halls have single-stream recycling. The university also

holds collections for printer cartridges and batteries.

"(Recycling on campus) is pretty successful because we've been doing it since 1995, so people are aware of it and used to it," said Becky Valentich, recycling coordinator and safety specialist at UT Arlington. "We have bins inside and outside, always there for students to see, so we just try to keep (them) visible for everyone."

UTEP joined the recycling project in 1998 and currently processes 40,000 pounds of paper products monthly. Despite UTEP's success in recycling paper, Villalobos said other trash is still a problem for UTEP.

"You'd be surprised how many bags I find from Albertson's and McDonald's. Every single day, the wind will bring it to one of our little nooks or crannies," Villalobos said. "On the outside, we have folks that have to go around making sure they're picking up the trash every day and keep the campus going. We keep it as pristine as possible."

Both UT Austin and the University of North Texas are participants in Recyclemania, an eight-week national competition for colleges and universities within the country. Schools take weekly measurements of their campus' recycled material, trash and compost if applicable, and post their results. The results are compared between participants.

UT Arlington also participates in Recyclemania, but takes a different approach due to issues with weighing and the placement of recycling containers,

The small size of UTEP's recycling program keeps the university from participating in Recyclemania, Fraire-Varela said

"The opportunities are there, we're working towards trying to capitalize on them."

- Jorge Villalobos, director of Facilities Services

"Right now, our recycling program is manned by one full-time person and four students. If we were to participate in Recyclemania, unfortunately, there's a good chance that we won't be able to keep up with the amount of recycling that's brought in," Fraire-Varela said. "Students will be very enthusiastic (and) they'll bring their recycling from home. We can barely meet the demands on campus now, but we really are working on it. If we get this entrepreneurship going, and we have a really well-established program, there's no reason we won't be able to participate at that point."

For student housing, bins are provided inside each residence hall and have to be taken to a centralized location that is then transported to the Physical Plant.

"A couple years ago, there was a big push at Miner Village to do more recycling because Miner Village is in charge of paying their own waste, so they have to pay a company to come haul off all their waste," Fraire-Varela said. "They thought, 'If we can decrease the amount of waste, our cost will go down,' (which) is true. There was a huge push to do that and there

was a lot of recycling and it's continued ever since."

Villalobos said the future of recycling at UTEP could be impacted by focusing on transitioning from single-stream to separate bins for plastic, paper and aluminum, as well as finding other sources of waste within the campus.

"We have capacity to get better (and) that's what we always want to do. There's just a lot of opportunities we're missing," Villalobos said. "We have equipment needs in (the form) of compactors if we want to manage the waste a little bit better. But at the end of the day, everything, even a trash can, costs a lot of money, at least when you're talking about outfitting an entire university. The opportunities are there, we're working towards trying to capitalize on them."

Sabrina Nuñez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.



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IMMIGRATION from page 3

verify the status of employees. Wood is now president of a consulting firm.

"It's unfair to place that burden on employers," Wood said. "That burden should be on government officials and experts who have the time to look for fraud."


Rep. Bob Goodlatte, R-Va., the committee chair, said the hearing was the beginning of what will be "a momentous debate on immigration."

He promised a thorough review and more hearings.

"Immigration reform must honor both our foundation of the rule of law and our history as a nation of immigrants. This issue is too complex and too important to not examine each piece in detail," he said.

Jasmine Aguilera is a multimedia journalism student at the University of Texas at El Paso. She is currently interning at Scripps Howard Foundation's Semester in Washington program. She may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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MARKET OFFERS MIX OF LOCAL ARTWORK

BY OSCAR GARZA
The Prospector

The Downtown Artist Market has become a unique venue for local artists to sell their work in a relaxing atmosphere every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Union Plaza District on Anthony Street.

Rebecca Muñoz, coordinator of the Downtown Artist Market, was an artist and a vendor at the market prior to applying for the position. She said that the market has grown and celebrated its one-year anniversary last October.

"In terms of artists and potential vendors, it's one of the only markets in the region that's open year round," Muñoz said. "Our spaces are relatively affordable. It's \$2 to set up every weekend for people who want to sell at the market."

Muñoz explained that as 2013 progresses, the market will develop some new changes and feature all new material in preparation of the market's evolving format.

"As we move along into this new year, we're going to be having more programming at the market," Muñoz said.

Audiences can see local handmade products that are original and unique at the market. They also have activities for the kids every weekend, including a children's booth with crafts.

"It's a chance for local residents and tourists to come down and see a performance in the community and see different kinds of bands, and nonprofit organizations too, that offer something to everybody," Muñoz said.

"It offers citizens, residents and tourists the opportunity to invest in the local economy and to strengthen our art market here in El Paso."

- Rebecca Muñoz, coordinator of the Downtown Artist Market

One of the remarkable things about the Downtown Artist Market is how different the art can be.

Joseph Peterson, junior psychology major, has set up his own section where customers can look and purchase his art, propelled paint and airbrushing.

"This is my fourth week and it's been pretty popular," Peterson said. "Once you're out here by 10:30 (a.m.) it feels great; people start coming out and we have a good turnout."

Peterson, who spray painted on the curbside at Chalk the Block, was given the opportunity to paint a mural by Bowie Bakery, near Cotton and 4th Street.

"I'm going to be here every weekend and this is just like a good hobby, it's cathartic, it's therapy almost, it's passion," Peterson said. "Kind of like

how a basketball player likes to play basketball, I like to do that too, but nothing bad can come with time invested in what I like."

One of the many vendors that are part of the Downtown Artist Market is Patty Rust, who has been attending since the market began.

"I paint and my husband sells leather goods," Rust said. "When we were retired and traveling, these ladies were painting on rocks and said to come try it. I did and liked it, so my husband said you need to take lessons. I've been doing this for four years and I do it because I paint from my photographs and pictures that I've taken."

One of the things that the market presents is a sense of community and friendliness that all of the vendors display.

"It's nice because all the vendors are friendly, we all get along and it's just nice to get out and talk to people," Rust said. "It's a nice venue but we need more people down here; I like getting out and meeting people."

Muñoz said the market is more than just a place to buy and support locally handcrafted art, it is also a way to have some fun time and see what the art market offers.

"It offers citizens, residents and tourists the opportunity to invest in the local economy and to strengthen our art market here in El Paso," Muñoz said.

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



OCIRIS ALVAREZ / The Prospector

(TOP) The Downtown Artist Market provides a wide range of handmade items to be viewed and bought. **(MIDDLE)** Local vendor creates spray painted artwork in front of onlookers. **(BOTTOM)** Peter Zenker plays music from his hand-crafted flute.

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Campus

Art student tallies ticking time

BY OSCAR GARZA
The Prospector

Time is one of those human mysteries that is fascinating to examine and to contemplate. Counting seconds became the theme Laura Turon, senior studio major, showcased in her exhibition, “Tempo-An Explortion of Time and Space.”

The Glass Gallery, which housed Turon’s exhibit through Jan. 31, provided an intimate and calm space for audiences to meditate on the perception of time.

“It’s a materialization of making every second count, it can be interpreted many ways: spending time efficiently, spending time with loved ones or achieving our goals,” Turon said.

Turon’s piece explored the idea that seconds count. She counted them by using a metronome and for every second, she made a mark on the wall. Turon’s total number was 311,563 marks, which serve as a physical manifestation of time.

“I use the metronome as a counting system. With it, a beat marks time, so in a way the walls are positioned in the shape of a metronome,” Turon said. “So if a person walks in and looks around, it’s up to them if they decide if this is going to make an impression on them. Make every second count, maybe they will start thinking about something else or maybe not.”

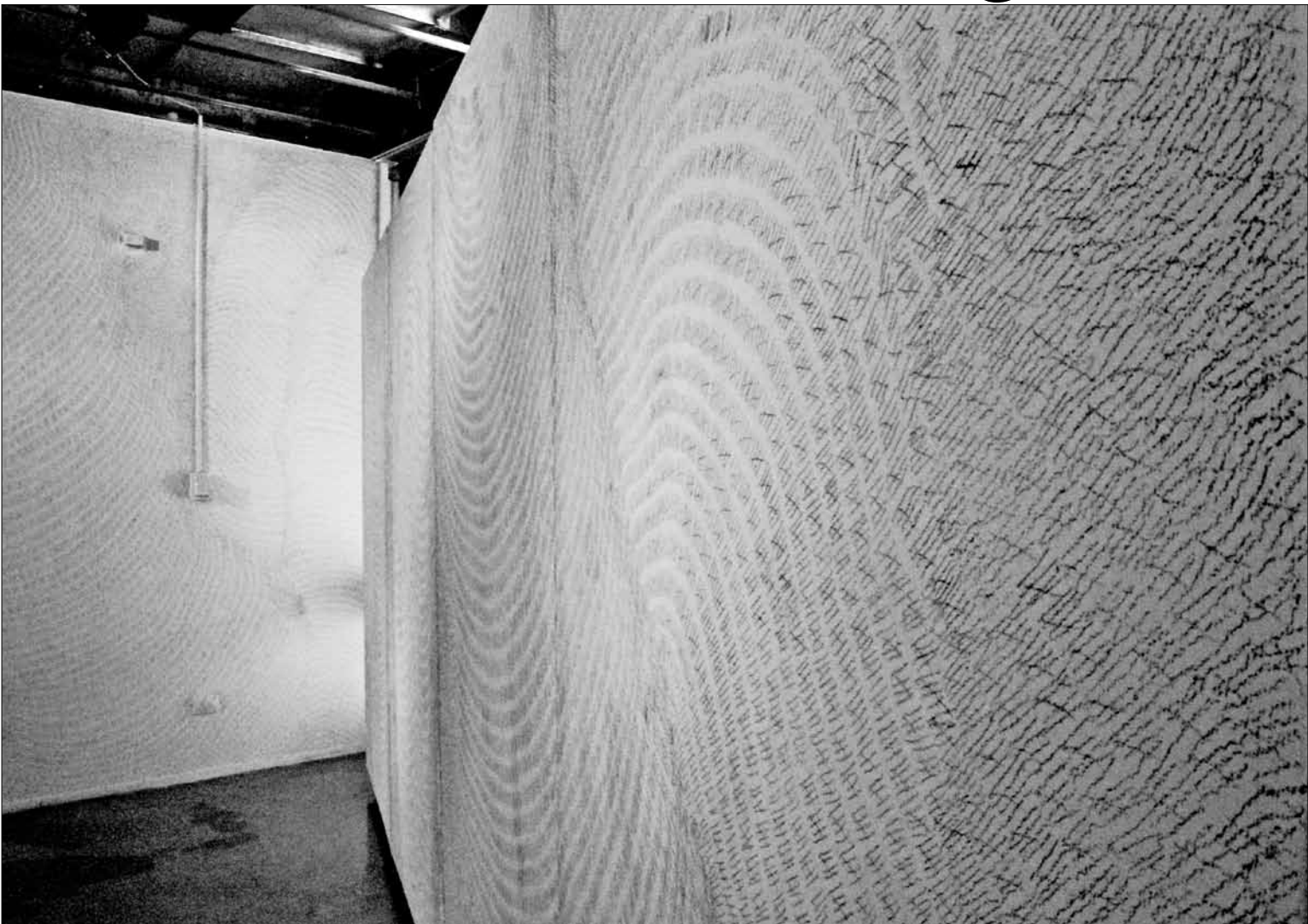
Having the audience participate in a place where seconds are counted and where they can meditate on time is something that Turon wanted to achieve.

“I created some sort of an environment, kind of like being inside of time, inside the seconds that count or not, because all those seconds were counted,” Turon said.

Doing this type of exhibition and demonstration is what Turon calls her commitment as an artist.

Turon said that the Glass Gallery experience has been great and it gives students the chance to have the responsibility of taking care of their own exhibition.

Phillip Ladd, senior studio art drawing major and assistant preparator for the Glass Gallery, said



Art student, Laura Turon, tallied seconds on walls that were exhibited in the Glass Gallery.

that students should visit the space to see what other UTEP students have been working on.

“The idea is that space was for the students and they can exhibit and it’s kind of the accumulation of all their hard work here in the exhibit,” Ladd said. “Laura did this both as an exhibit and as an individual project, and so her concept and her piece, she wanted something large scale.”

Ladd also said the space contributes to the type of art that students are being taught, and allows them to showcase it.

“This one allowed her to take time prior to the beginning of the semester

to produce the project, it allowed her that whole month to use the space,” Ladd said.

Therese Bauer, art lecturer, said that Turon showed a lot of initiative for being the first show of the year, and by using it in different ways.

“It was nice because it took advantage of the actual space of the gallery, the architecture, the way the walls can be manipulated,” Bauer said. “It was more of an all-inclusive, more physical use of the space.”

Bauer also said that Turon’s art showed a great deal of commitment and, because of the more abstract na-

ture, it makes the audience question time and how they spend it.

“She’s really kind of doing it for the experience more than anything,” Bauer said. “It shows this incredible

“It’s a materialization of making every second count... spending time with loved ones or achieving our goals.”

- Laura Turon, senior studio major

amount of passion for what she is doing and I think real thoughtfulness.”

Bauer said that the exhibit shows that Turon has the principles to commit and also the ideals as an artist to stand by her work.

“She didn’t talk herself out of it. I think the best artists, that’s what they do, you’re going to hit roadblocks,” Bauer said. “It’s about her work and she showed that she has the work ethic and the commitment to do it. To me, it shows that she’s really got what it takes to be an artist.”

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

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BRAIN ZONE

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

7	6	1	5	4	2	9	8	3
8	9	5	7	3	1	4	2	6
3	4	2	6	8	9	5	7	1
4	2	6	8	7	3	1	5	9
5	1	7	2	9	6	8	3	4
9	3	8	4	1	5	7	6	2
6	5	4	1	2	8	3	9	7
2	7	3	9	5	4	6	1	8
1	8	9	3	6	7	2	4	5

Answers to 02-05-12

BRAIN ZONE

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Houston
acronym
5 Sternward
8 Streetcar
12 Winged
13 — goo gai
pan
14 Like a
moray
15 End of an
illness
17 Perform-
ances
18 Sycophants
19 Implant
21 Help
22 Entrance
23 Melody
26 Allow
28 Wild West
show

31 “Star —”
33 Flop
35 Ginormous
36 Unspoken
38 Wager
40 Decay
41 Rhyming
tributes
43 Airport over-
seer (Abbr.)
45 Move up and
down
47 Busy
51 Gumbo need
52 Flinched
54 Nasty stinger
55 Cistern
56 Journalist
Lisa
57 Caustic

chemicals
58 Acapulco
gold
59 London
gallery name
9 Flute’s
cousin
10 Sax range
11 1990s video
game
16 Bride’s cover
20 Neither
partner
23 Lawyer
(Abbr.)
24 Playwright
Levin
25 Source of
help
27 Bathroom
fixture
29 Id counter-
part

DOWN
1 — a soul
(nobody)
2 Sheltered
3 Pouches
4 Scent
5 Rewrote the
Constitution
6 Supportive
of
7 Monkeyed
(with)
8 Quaint

30 Morsel for
Dobbin
32 Abducts
34 Actually
37 Sleuth, for
short
39 Mexican
entree
42 Electronic
control
system,
briefly
44 At an angle
45 Cheek by —
46 Fine
48 Hip bones
49 Outlet
50 Advantage
53 Listener

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New recruits revealed on National Signing Day



KRISTOPHER RIVERA / The Prospector

Head coach Sean Kugler talks to the press about his new recruits. A total of 18 student-athletes have been signed.

BY EDWIN DELGADO
The Prospector

New football head coach Sean Kugler, was able to recruit a class of 18 players on national signing day, Feb. 6.

Among the new faces for the Miners are 14 players coming out of high school and four more out of junior colleges. Kugler said that he intends to stop recruiting out of junior col-

leges in the near future to focus solely on high school prospects.

“We are excited for the entire class, I like the balance we have between high school and junior college players,” Kugler said. “We want to be balanced for the future, we are not doing this for a one-year wonder and just try to win right now, we’re building this thing for the long haul.”

Four of the new recruits are local players. Derek Elmendorff an of-

fensive lineman from Franklin High School, Ryan Metz quarterback out of Andress, and twin brothers athlete Aaron and safety Alvin Jones from Burges. Coach Kugler showed enthusiasm about the Jones brothers committing to UTEP.

“The thing that attracts me about these two young men is that they compete in everything they do. They hate losing you can see it. They refuse to lose and that is a great quality when

you are looking for in college players,” Kugler said. “Ultimately we want to focus our initial recruiting in the city of El Paso. We really feel we targeted the top four players in El Paso, we got every single one of them, and we want to do that year-in and year-out, whether that takes us to four or six players, that doesn’t matter to us.”

For Kruger, what he likes the most about this recruiting class is that all of them are play makers. He said all of them proved their worth during their high school careers and is hoping that translates into the college level.

“This is not all based on potential, these guys are great football players,” Kugler said. “These guys were productive high school players and ultimately that is what we are looking for, guys who produce in high school who will also produce in college.”

Among the other recruits is quarterback Mack Leftwich, son of the offensive line coach Spencer Leftwich. Kugler said that as soon as he got the job, the very first thing he did was offer him a scholarship, which he immediately accepted.

Kugler let his coaching staff play a big role in recruiting and is very pleased with the results.

“I tip my hat to my entire coaching staff, which had a short turnaround putting this all together, especially our three coaches that were retained,” Kugler said. “Brian Natkin who is our recruiting coordinator, Robert

Rodriguez, who recruited a lot of the kids from here in El Paso and Gabe Franklin who brought kids from the Houston and Dallas areas.”

The Miners added depth to a secondary that lost all of its starters from a season ago. Six of the recruits came in to fill those openings, two quarterbacks, two offensive linemen, four defensive linemen, one athlete, one tight end and one wide receiver also filled those openings.

Kugler admitted that he prefers to red-shirt most of the freshman, and he will rely more on the junior college transfers to have an immediate impact.

Despite the hectic process of recruiting, Kugler is glad to be part of it.

“I love the game of football, I love everything about it-love the recruiting, going to the weight room with these guys, going into the field with these guys, it’s part of the process and it’s something that I really enjoy. It’s a challenge but in the end I think we got the best kids that fit our class the best.”

Edwin Delgado may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

Softball

Miners start season with tournament at Fresno State

BY KRISTOPHER RIVERA
The Prospector

The UTEP softball team is preparing for the start of this year’s season, Feb. 8, at the Fresno State kick-off tournament. The Miners will play a total of five games in a span of three days.

“Five games in a weekend is a lot,” said head coach Kathleen Rodriguez. “The first few weeks of ball are all tournaments. It’s good because it’s kind of giving us an opportunity to see where we’re at, what we need to work on and what we need to iron out before conference comes in.”

This tournament will give the Miners a preview of where they stand, coming from a losing season in 2012. The team had an overall record of 16-37, and 3-21 in conference.

“Well we all had our hearts broken last year because we were trying so hard, but couldn’t put all the pieces together,” said junior utility Kayla Black. “This year we feel like we have every piece of the puzzle and we’re going to complete it. We all have our minds in the right place this year so it’s really going to put us on the right track to winning some games.”

This season the Miners will be adjusting to playing without two All-Americans, Camilla Carrera and Chelsea Troupe-both graduated last year.

“Anybody in the nation would miss 32 home runs, I think between the two of them it was 51 home runs and

“It’s definitely going to challenge us mentally...”

- Kayla Black, junior utility

that’s a lot of home runs,” Rodriguez said. “You lose two quality women at the same time. Am I going to miss them? Absolutely, but that’s what happens, that’s the nature of the beast.”

Rodriguez said this season her coaching has gone back to basics, making sure every base is covered.

“They’ve been working hard, they’re excited,” Rodriguez said. “The approach is different, we worked on fundamentals and breaking down everything...almost to the point of beginning-athlete and trying to make sure that we’re perfect that way.”

Rodriguez said it has been a bit of a transition for her older players, as far as not being able to jump in right away. The team is working on getting to know each other, after the addition of three transfers.



KRISTOPHER RIVERA / The Prospector

The UTEP softball team practices for their weekend tournament at Fresno State. They will play five games in a three day span..

Senior catcher/utility, Kayleigh Walts, said the team is building great chemistry.

“I’m so excited for this season,” Walts said. “I think it’s going to... basically blow the last two (seasons) out of the water.”

Walts is looking forward to see what the results of the team will be at the end of the tournament.

“I’m actually very excited, I’ve never been to that part of California,” Walts said. “But I think it’s going to be very exciting, we’re playing some very

good teams. We’ll really be able to see how ready we are for our season.”

One of the team’s biggest challenges at the tournament will be Fresno State, which Rodriguez said has been a powerhouse since the program began.

Although Fresno State’s hall of fame coach retired last year, Rodriguez said they have a fresh, new and strong coaching staff.

“It’s a good group of teams that we’re going to be jumping into right away. We’re going to have to hit the ground running,” Rodriguez said.

Besides Fresno State, the Miners will compete against Sacramento State, UC Riverside and UC Davis.

The team is fairly young and growing. Black said this tournament is going to be a mental challenge.

“It’s definitely going to challenge us mentally,” Black said. “That was one of our issues last year, we had mental blockage so this year if we can get past this first tournament, it’s all downhill from there.”

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

Student life

Miner Maniacs fighting along side men's basketball team



(RIGHT) The Miner Maniacs cheer on the men's basketball team at the Don Haskins, Feb. 6 in their game against Rice. (LEFT) sophomore forward/guard Julian Washburn goes up for a dunk against Rice, Feb. 6.

BY KRISTOPHER RIVERA AND PAUL REYNOSO
The Prospector

The Miner Maniacs fan group, a club for fans of miner athletics, is easy to spot as the rowdiest area in the student section of the Don Haskins during men's basketball games.

"We really get into the player's heads," former UTEP student Chris Ybarra said. "We've had opposing coaches that we've talked to after the game say that we do indeed get into the players head's and really do make a difference."

Ybarra is one of the members in charge of getting the student section pumped up for each home game.

"We made the Big Heads about a year or two years ago," Ybarra said.

The student section is active on twitter and goes by the name "Miner Nation."

"We asked the people who follow us, about what kind of things they would like to see," Ybarra said.

"Whether it is cheers or trash talking the other team."

The student section is a stone throw away from the opponent's side of the court. This gives them a frontline battle with UTEP's opponent, mentally.

"We've had a player kicked off the team before. It was the NMSU game," senior kinesiology major and Miner Maniac member, Mike Gallegos said.

A player from the opposing team air-balled two shots and the fans took that opportunity to get under his skin.

"We just kept chanting 'air-ball'... this happened for the whole first half," Gallegos said. "In the second half, he finally hit a shot and when he hit the shot he grabbed his junk towards the student section."

Gallegos said the opposing player kept on "grabbing his junk" and began to build up anger throughout the game.

"At the end of the game, when they went to the team bus, (the opposing player) was waiting for a UTEP player

to fight him," Gallegos said. "He ended up getting suspended for that, and he ended up leaving the team."

Gallegos said they do a lot of research on their own to use against opponents.

"We go and Google all the players and find out what they've done, if they've had an arrest record...any kind of bad history," Gallegos said.

Junior center John Bohannon said student participation is an essential part in motivation before each home game, especially when it comes to the student section.

"I think they take a lot of time into what they do," Bohannon said. "As a player who tries to put in a lot of work in the gym, to see our fans putting in a lot of work to what they say to the other guys is pretty entertaining to me and I respect that."

Bohannon said they have the best fans in the state of Texas and a national contender among other fan clubs.

"Nationally we are up there too, as far as the Miner Maniacs and all that they do," Bohannon said. "It's an important part not only to UTEP but to the city of El Paso."

The students in Miner Maniacs and the basketball team have created a tight bond.

"We've had several players, such as Cedric Lang, tell us his appreciation for the fans," Ybarra said. "It gives them energy and a reason to

play harder with so many people in the stands."

Gallegos has optimistic expectations for the men's basketball team this season.

"I can see them winning conference this year, the conference tournament for sure, but it all depends on how we play on the road to finish out this season," Gallegos said. "This team has a lot of potential."

Kristopher Rivera and Paul Reynoso may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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