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THE NETWORK

Entertainment P. 5



MOVIE REVIEW

Entertainment P. 6



TRACK FEATURE

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SOFTBALL'S LAST GAME

Sports p. 7



GATE ACCESSIBILITY

DISABLED STUDENTS FIND ALTERNATIVES ONTO CAMPUS



AARON MONTES / The Prospector

Access gates on University Avenue have limited the traffic flow onto campus, causing difficulties for disabled students.

BY SABRINA NUÑEZ

The Prospector

With the campus transformation underway, students with disabilities expect to be affected by the limited access to inner campus through the entry gates.

One service that caters to UTEP students with disabilities is Project Amistad, which currently tends to five students who are picked up from their homes and dropped off at specified drop-off zones on campus.

"I'm not quite sure how it's going to impact the agency and its ability to transport some of our clients, but if something does become apparent that will affect this, I'm sure we'll make some adjustments to make sure the people who are using the service are going to get to where they need to go without any problems," said Roy Ortega, community relations manager for Project Amistad.

Bill Dethlefs, director of the Center for Accommodations and Support Services, said the gate to the east side of University Avenue will close to thru-traffic around May 20. A gate will remain at the west-

"I'm not quite sure how it's going to impact the agency and its ability to transport some of our clients."

- Roy Ortega, Project Amistad

ern side of the University Avenue entrance and will continue to allow pedestrian traffic and bike traffic flow. Project Amistad and the Lift—a Sun Metro service—will also continue to have access to campus.

"As the various phases of the campus transformation proceed, it will change as to where they will go. In the near future, when they're going to start the excavation of University Avenue, Hawthorne will be dead-ended roughly where the Administration

Building is," Dethlefs said. "The plan is to construct a turn around for the Lift and Project Amistad, so that will be an inner-campus drop-off point and there will be several points along West University (Avenue) as well as Wiggins (Street) and Rim (Road)."

Project Amistad provides transportation to work, school and doctor appointments, along with other services.

"Without this service, it would be very, very difficult for a lot of people to get around town and that's why it's made available, that's why it's funded the way it is by the state and it is particularly critical for people who live in outlying areas of the county," Ortega said. "We have clients who need to be transported from places like Tornillo, Clint and Horizon City."

Although the traffic gates will allow services such as Lift and Project Amistad into the school for a designated drop-off zone, other students with disabilities believe it should be open to them as well.

Graduate student and history major, Daniel Romero said problems with parking on campus led him to approach state senators to create SB-

see GATES on page 3

Graduation honors LGBTQI

BY ANDREA ACOSTA

The Prospector

The Women's Studies Program will be having its sixth-annual Rainbow Graduation Reception on May 3, honoring lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex and straight-ally UTEP students who will be graduating in spring 2013.

According to Brenda Risch, director of the Women's Studies Program, the Rainbow Graduation creates a space for LGBTQI students to be recognized and celebrated for their accomplishments.

"This may be the graduation event that allows them to really be themselves and to invite the people they want to invite, to celebrate this important step in their lives."

- Melissa B. Austin, poet

"Some LGBTQI students unfortunately do not have supportive, accepting families. So it is crucial to provide a space for these students to be recognized for their academic achievement," Risch said. "It breaks my heart to think that a student would work so hard for four years and then not have a safe space to celebrate their graduation."

Elizabeth Polinsky, senior linguistics major and Rainbow Miner Initiative intern, said this type of celebration is often needed for LGBTQI students who have struggled with their academic careers due to the lack of support from their families.

"Having this reception allows this part of my family to celebrate my accomplishments and how important it is that I am actually graduating," Polinsky said. "As an LGBT student, you don't always have the same support system from your biological family, which is why it is important that we have this every year to recognize the struggle that it takes for some individuals to graduate."

see RAINBOW on page 4

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Column

The fascination of coming out

BY ANDRES RODRIGUEZ
The Prospector



On April 29, NBA center Jason Collins came out in an article on Sports Illustrated online and became the first openly gay male athlete active in a major American team sport. He said he wasn't looking for that distinction, but saw the need to come out because nobody else in a major American team sport would.

I applaud Collins' decision to come out, not so much the base for public reaction and large unanimous support of the athlete.

I've read responses that speak to Collins' courage, his difficult journey and his status as a pioneer, but I feel these are facile bandwagon attempts at supporting a fashionable movement.

Being gay is tough, we know, but as of late there's been such hunger for defining gay public figures, that at this point, anyone outed in the public eye is getting accolades left and right for their sexual orientation. I'm thinking of Frank Ocean and Anderson Cooper, for example, respectable figures in their own fields that saw a rise in popularity after coming out.

There was also, for example, a surge of media coverage that Alan Gendreau received weeks leading to the NFL draft. A former Middle Tennessee State kicker, Gendreau is openly gay and just about any major media outlet covered his story as an NFL prospective draft, not so much

because of his talents as a football player, but because he is openly gay.

He told The New York Times, "I'm a kicker that happens to be gay." Collins too, had a similar stance on coming out and rightfully acknowledges that this is a small step. He said, "Openness may not completely disarm prejudice, but it's a good place to start." Although a pragmatic stance, I find it less dangerous than the attempts to force a public figure to be a role model for the LGBTQI youth and to fill the role of the token gay voice of their profession.

I can't deny the power that these openly gay public figures play in the public sphere. However, I remember being a young film enthusiast watching the 2009 Oscar telecast when Dustin Lance Black went up to receive his award for Best Original Screenplay for "Milk." He said directing himself to the gay and lesbian youth, "You are beautiful, wonderful creatures of value and that no matter what anyone tells you, God does love you and that very soon, I promise you, you will have equal rights."

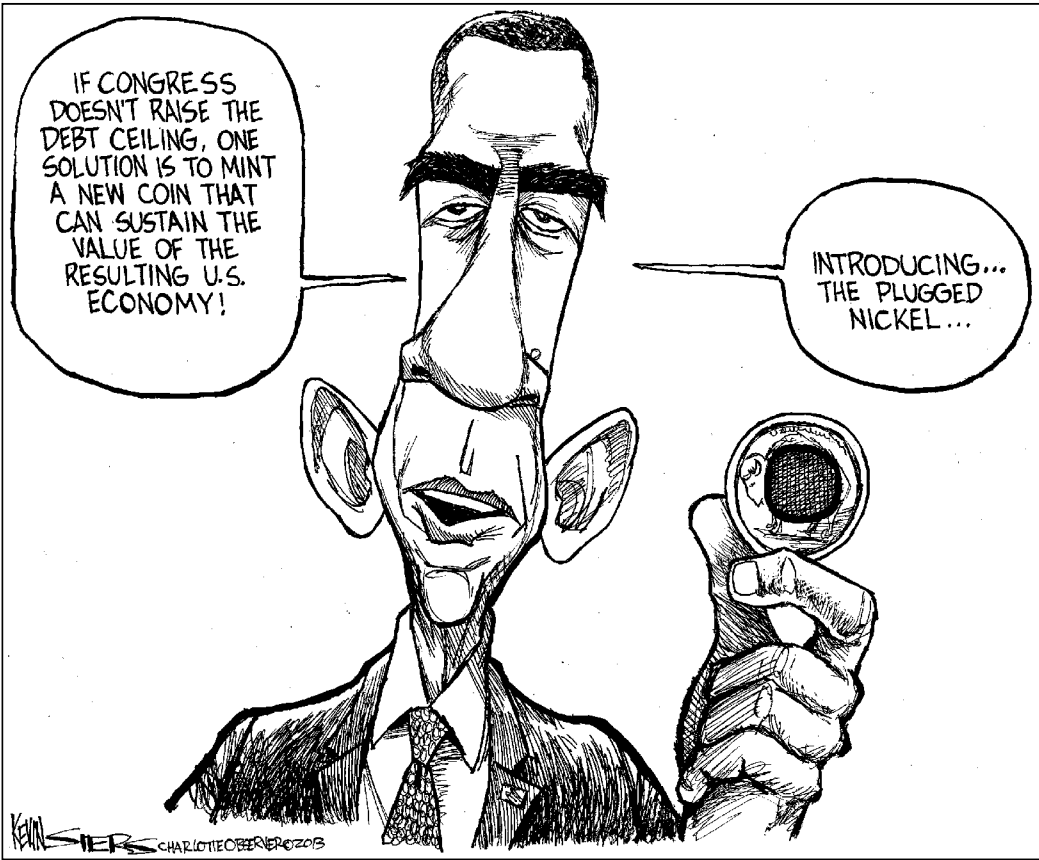
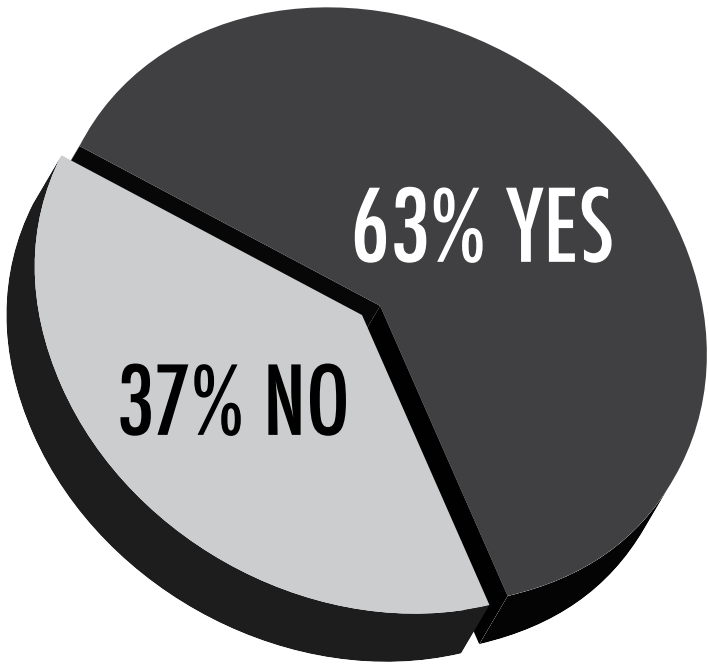
This nearly brought me to tears because it made me believe in a brighter future for myself, but then I thought about the film's screenplay, a great one at that, compared to some of the other nominated screenplays: "WALL-E" and "Frozen River," and just couldn't see Lance Black winning.

All to say that we should recognize gay athletes, gay artists and public figures of the LGBTQ community for their contributions to their fields and not for simply being an undermined and underrepresented minority.

Andres Rodriguez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

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GATES from page 1

1061, a bill that states that persons with disabilities may park in designated areas without the purchase of a parking permit from the university. “This law is going to wipe away all the fees associated with parking in disabled parking spots, not only for UTEP, but for every university and every school in Texas. It’s going to affect thousands,” Romero said. “I found the policy on campus to be very discriminatory and very biased towards disabled persons and veterans, so that’s why I got with my legislative senators and we introduced this bill.”

Romero is a disabled veteran and is sometimes unable to walk because of the two composite, metal and plastic plates that cover his kneecaps, as well as screws and plates in each one of his ankles. Romero also has a cane and a walker to help him when needed.

The bill will be effective immediately if it receives two-thirds vote in each legislative body or it will automatically become a law on Sept. 1 if it is not voted upon.

Romero said SB-1061 will help CASS because they will now have a more accurate way of determining who is and is not disabled.

“I didn’t take my experience in a negative way, I took it as a positive because I’ve been working so closely on these issues with (Dethlefs),” Romero said. “They started to do what I needed to do to make life easier for disabled students.”

Dethlefs said CASS is looking to see if any of their students need on-campus assistance by a family member or a personal assistant by working on an arrangement to allow them to get through the gates without the purchase of a permit, limiting the access to pick-up or drop-off only.

“These are students who can’t necessarily walk very far or they’re in a manual wheelchair and they don’t have the energy they might have anticipated, so we’re seeing those situations as being an exception to the rule,” Dethlefs said. “It’s just making sure that the gate attendants would recognize somebody who is there to assist in an ADA situation. We really haven’t had many situations that fit in that category, and so right now we’re trying to assess what is the right way to respond to it.”

Dethlefs said his office is preparing for the Centennial Plaza construction that will take place along University Avenue from the crosswalk between the UTEP Union breezeway and Liberal Arts Building up to Wiggins Road. The area will not be reopened to thru-traffic.

“Part of (the) intent is to eliminate existing barriers and to create a much more accessible campus to any individual, faculty, staff, student or member of the community that has mobility limitations, so the outcome of this is going to be fabulous, but it just means there will be some disruptions as each phase has to be addressed,” Dethlefs said. “We are looking at relocating classrooms from some of the buildings where students or faculty with mobility limitations are (close) to an accessible location so that they’re not caught in the middle of the construction zone.”

Dethlefs said that CASS currently has 560 students registered, of which an estimated 150 have mobility limitations.

To get the information out to students, CASS is holding informational sessions, mailing and emailing letters, as well as linking the On the Move website to their own.

“I worry more about the individuals who don’t ask questions, who don’t have access to the information,” Dethlefs said. “This whole process is to try to make the students, as well as the employees, as informed as possible.”

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



FLOR FLORES / The Prospector

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RAINBOW from page 1

Organizing the event for the first time, Sarah Walker, senior English and American literature major, said that it has been a very exciting process.

“Thanks to the funding that came entirely by donation and sponsorships from various community/UTEP organizations and major sponsors such as the UTEP Alumni Association, El Paso Sun City Pride and Rio Grande Adelante, we have

been able to make this event a success,” Walker said.

The reception will feature keynote speaker Marion Rohrleitner, assistant professor of English, along with a special performance by poet Melissa B. Austin, who is known for her performances at the Barbed Wire Open Mic series.

“I love the fact that different performers and speakers have volunteered to appear at Rainbow Graduation each year,” Risch said. “It’s one

of my favorite parts of the evening, along with the look of accomplishment and pride on the faces of the graduates as they receive their rainbow tassels.”

According to Austin, it’s good that the Rainbow Miner Initiative has taken the steps to create a graduation event that acknowledges the importance of finding and creating an LGBTQ community for students.

“I am excited and so very honored to be performing at this event,” Aus-

tin said. “College is often a time for young queer people to really explore their identities and to connect with like-minded people.”

Austin said the celebration is often liberating, relieving, comforting and a lifesaver for students, especially for students whose family may not be as accepting.

“This may be the graduation event that allows them to really be themselves and to invite the people they want to invite, to celebrate this important step in their lives,” Austin said.

Awards will be given out to students who have excelled in student leadership, being a straight ally and for research excellence. Staff and faculty will also be awarded with leadership awards.

“It is not only important to have this annual event for graduating seniors, but it’s also necessary for the LGBTQ community to become more

prominent through events like these,” said Abril Perez, senior English and American literature major. “A visible LGBTQ community is crucial for the survival, both emotionally and physically alike, of individuals who identify as such. The Women’s Studies program is hosting this graduation reception to provide students not only with a safe space to celebrate academic achievements, but most importantly to celebrate the truest and most open versions of ourselves.”

The Rainbow Graduation reception will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the El Paso Natural Gas Conference Center. Any LGBTQ student or ally graduating in spring, summer or fall 2013 may join the event by sending an RSVP to brisch@utep.edu or secocx@miners.utep.edu.

Andrea Acosta may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.



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NEW RESTAURANT
AND BAR HITS
DOWNTOWN SCENE

AARON MONTES / The Prospector

(Top) The Network offers a variety of food specials and events for local artists and residents of El Paso to enjoy. (Bottom) Frank Montes, owner of The Network opened his bar with the idea to help El Paso grow.

BY MARILYN ALEMAN
The Prospector

The Network, a restaurant with the tagline “Where Professionals Play” located on 317 East Mills Ave., is offering El Pasoans the feel of classic authenticity with the taste of modern contemporary gourmet.

Frank Montes, owner of The Network, became interested in the vacant space and decided to make a proposal to the landowner. Montes was a general manager at La Catrina restaurant and since he had familiarity with the building, he decided to make a down payment. Owning the idle building was a dream he had for many years.

“I ended up creating my own dream (to) do my own thing,” Montes said. “I’ve been in this business for 20 years so I figured it was time for me to grant it.”

Montes opened The Network with the help of two close friends, Joe Hernandez, co-owner and Angela Feathers, an El Paso real estate agent.

Hernandez, who had known Montes for 20 years in the restaurant business, was living in Boston, Mass., at the time and it only took one flight to convince him to run the then-prospective business.

“My lifelong friends (Hernandez and Feathers) believed in me, that I should have my own spot,” Montes said. “Because I always worked for other people and they were the ones to help me out.”

After purchasing and creating a contract, Montes and his business partners renovated the building. Holes in the walls, old plumbing and re-doing the floors were the biggest projects, which took about four months to complete. The owners said the biggest feature and ac-

“I just want El Paso and downtown to grow and we’re right there... we’re almost there and I wat to be a part of it.”

- Frank Montes, owner of The Network

complishment are the polished bricks on the walls.

Fulfilling the dream even inspired Montes to do more. He added a lounge in the back, The Red Room, which is used for private events.

The Red Room is currently in the works to become a daytime area, where customers can enjoy espressos, cappuccinos, breakfast burritos, brunch and also have access to Wi-Fi. The area is planned to be open by June.

With a flexible atmosphere, The Network offers customers a place to sit with their leather, sofa-like chairs, and to browse their computers while bartenders serve mixed drinks and domestic beers in a dimly lighted environment with ambient sounds.

At night, The Network transforms from an ambient daytime restaurant to a lively bar, usually featuring local

musicians of different genres including jazz, rock, indie and electronica.

Priscilla Alcantar, senior digital media production major, said the vibe of The Network was comfortable even on a late Thursday evening as she was exploring different downtown restaurant-bars.

“I liked that the music was not very loud,” Alcantar said. “Places like that win major points with me because when I’m out with friends, I like to be able to hear them talking without loud music bothering us.”

Since The Network is used as a venue for music acts, they offer different events to local organizations or to host charity events. Comedians, who hope to get their name out there, show up to Open Mic Tuesdays, a free event for customers and participants. On average, Montes said that 10 comedians will take the stage.

A government-funded program for impromptu poetry, Free Hole Slam, also does a once-a-month feature, alongside well-known local poets.

Tajei Leroy Harper, freshman creative writing major, was one of the participants of the poetry slam event during the early spring semester. While he was there, he decided to take a taste to the \$6.99 Network nachos.




“The nachos were crazy good,” Harper said. “They had good cheese with plenty of meat, lettuce, tomatoes and some other stuff, it can’t be eaten with one sit, there’s a lot on the plate.”

With business booming, The Network has specials on certain days of the week. Monday through Friday from 3 – 7 p.m., the club offers half off on their appetizers and a happy hour including \$2 domestic beers, margaritas and tequila.


see RESTAURANT on page 6



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HERE'S HOW



RESTAURANT from page 5

On Tuesdays they offer \$2 tacos, tequila and Tecates. Thursdays are well known for the \$5 burgers with steak or sweet-potato fries. The core menu, created by one of Montes' friends, offers four types of burgers and salads and six appetizers. Just recently, Montes added tacos, rib-eye steaks and salmon.

"The amount is the same (for specials), we're not cutting it in half," Montes said. "You're still getting a great bargain for your \$5."

An all-day special will arrive on May 4, a one-year anniversary celebration, when the doors will open at 11 a.m. Brunches, drinks and other specials will be offered, along with

live entertainment with DJ Chris Garcia from Las Vegas after 5 p.m.

Good customer service is what Montes and his team consistently try to bring with their staff of servers, bartenders and cooks.

While eating tortilla soup and a sandwich, Alcantar said that the service was friendly and was even more so when she was helped by a waitress while she was sick during the late fall.

"I got a special kind of tequila shot that the waitress made for me just because I had a sore throat," Alcantar said. "She was awesome."

Not only is The Network friendly to their customers, but also to local artists. Displaying prints, oil paintings in various types of mediums, seven

artists hang their work on the signature brick walls. According to Montes, some of the art changes, but larger pieces stay, while some are for sale.

What matters most to The Network is contributing in some way to the growing downtown scene.

"I just want El Paso and downtown to grow and we're right there," Montes said. "We could taste it, we could feel it, we're almost there and I want to be a part of it."

For more information, visit The Network's facebook page, facebook.com/TheNetworkEP or their website at thenetworkep.com.

Marilyn Aleman may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

Movie Review

Gosling and Cooper face daddy issues in 'The Place Beyond The Pines'

BY OSCAR GARZA

The Prospector

The first image that Derek Cianfrance presents in his newest drama "The Place Beyond the Pines" is that of a stuntman motorcyclist named Luke (Ryan Gosling, in a vulnerably cool performance) taking a deep breath and doing knife tricks before his big stunt show. Cianfrance presents it in a gorgeous tracking shot as we simply follow him across his world, a long take which also serves as the opening titles. This instantly presents a stylish look to this compelling and sprawling drama.

Cianfrance's narrative follows Luke and his struggle to support his son and how his determination leads him to morally complex situations in Schenectady, New York.

The other dual father story is that of Avery Cross (Bradley Cooper), a police officer, who also becomes part of the narrative after a major turning point in the film. The film touches upon his dealing with recovery, guilt and seeking out the truth after he uncovers a wide conspiracy of police corruption.

After the critical success of Cianfrance's "Blue Valentine," which told the before and after of a young couple's relationship in a brutally honest way, here too Cianfrance employs elements of intimacy and grittiness but presents this in a completely different genre as sprawling in terms of length, themes and scope and as a family saga.

Working again with Cianfrance, Gosling delivers another strong performance as Luke. He has the ability to be incredibly tough and cool, but he also has that concern of taking care of his son. This forces him to break the law and turn against his friends.

Cooper delivers another great performance as Cross. Cooper portrays him with all his doubts and sentiment of guilt and continues to excel in these dramatic roles.

Eva Mendes, who plays Romina, the mother of Luke's son, also delivers a great performance, and brings a lot of emotion into play, especially during her scenes with Gosling.

Cianfrance incorporates elements of police corruption, family

drama and the sins of the father, but the predominant theme is that of father-hood.

It's a classic theme that has been explored and told in many fashions but Cianfrance's approach is so fresh, emotionally rich and compelling that it creates a wonderful cinematic experience. His action sequences have a vibrant, kinetic, "you are there" feeling to it, especially the motorcycle chases that Gosling engages in, which are stylish. They look almost like scenes that are being played live and the director is presenting them to you in this immediate fashion.

The film is also beautifully made. The cinematography by Sean Bobbit ("Hunger" and "Shame") looks like something that could've been shot in the '80s. It has a very cool color palette that brings about Cianfrance's gritty world to life through long takes or hypnotic steadicam shots that further amplify that feeling thanks to Mike Patton's melancholic score. The production design by Inbal Weinberg does a terrific job of presenting the period that the film is set in without actually ever telling the audience what it is.

"The Place Beyond the Pines" is ambitious, terrifically acted and stylishly directed by someone who is positioning himself as the next great American auteur.

The script by Cianfrance, Ben Coccio and Darius Marder brings about all these relationships and themes across decades that can be jarring, especially in the transition periods between characters, and while it's not a perfect film, it is visually striking, its characters are compelling and it's an emotionally rich story of fathers and sons that ranks among one of 2013's best films so far.


5 out of 5 picks.

TTTTT

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

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Answers to 04-30-12

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
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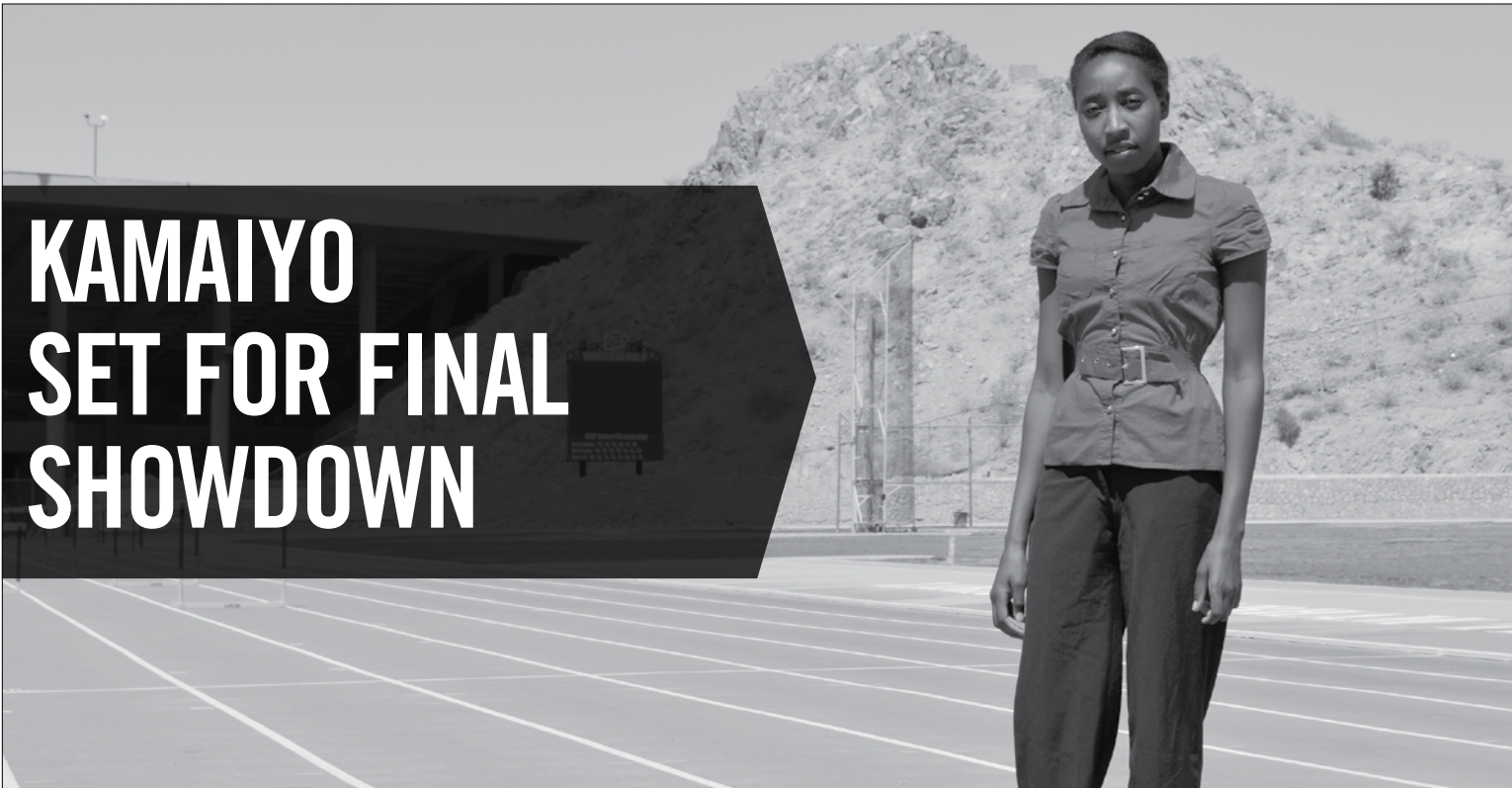
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KAMAIYO SET FOR FINAL SHOWDOWN

Senior distance runner, Risper Kamaiyo, is competing in her final meets this outdoor season. Aside from her stellar performance on the track, Kamaiyo also balances her studies as a nursing major.

BY EDWIN DELGADO

The Prospector

The 2013 track and field outdoor season will be the last for senior distance runner Risper Kamaiyo, who said she is trying to close out the season as best as she can in her final three competitions.

Kamaiyo, who did not compete in the 2012 outdoor season due to injuries, came out strong in her last outing. This season, she started with a first place finish in the 5,000 meters in

the annual Drake Relays with a time of 16 minutes and 18 seconds.

“It was my third time competing at Drake. I did good in my freshman year, I even qualified for regionals, and then in 2010 I was able to win, but because of injuries I wasn’t able to compete in 2011 or 2012,” Kamaiyo said. “This year I felt I had a good chance because I knew the track and I had done good competing one week prior to the Drake Relays. I knew I was going to do good because I was ready for it.”

Kamaiyo has always enjoyed running. Back in her hometown of Iten, Kenya, she became interested in joining her track team at Sing’ore Secondary School after learning that the best would have a chance to compete in national events.

She competed for two years until one of her coaches referred her to Paul Ereng. UTEP cross country head coach, who is also a Kenyan native. Ereng recruited and offered her a scholarship to attend UTEP.

“When she came from Kenya about five years ago, she was a very raw tal-

ent. She has come a long way,” Mika Laaksonen, track and field head coach said. “She has improved a lot as an athlete, of course coach Ereng has done a great job getting her to where she is right now.”

Kamaiyo will run 10,000 meters during the Conference USA Championships. This will be the second time this year that she runs the distance race. The first time she ran was at the Stanford Invitational earlier in the season, but Laaksonen is

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Softball

UTEP will conclude season at Marshall



AARON MONTES / The Prospector

Senior infielder, Kayla Oranger attempts to tag out Tulsa’s Julie Kernan at the last UTEP home game of the 2012-13 season on April 28 at the Helen of Troy Softball Complex.

BY PAUL REYNOSO

The Prospector

The UTEP softball team will look to end the season on a high note when they face the Marshall Thundering Herd in a three game series on May 4-5 at Huntington, West Va.

The Miners will also be looking to end an 18-game losing streak. The Herd is currently tied for fourth in Conference USA with East Carolina at 11-9 in conference play, while the Miners sit in eighth at 1-19 and did not qualify for this season’s Conference USA Tournament in Tulsa, Okla.

UTEP freshman pitchers Danielle Pearson and Jade Rodriguez have been a bright spot for the Miners this season. Pearson leads the team in pitching with an ERA of 3.86 and 70 strikeouts. In 12 appearances for the Miners, Rodriguez has recorded 12 strikeouts and allowed just two home runs.

“Now that we’re the underdogs, we’re going to have something to really strive for.”

-Erika Arcuri,
junior outfielder

On the offensive side, junior transfers Alanna Lessau, infielder, and outfielder, Erica Arcuri, continue to be a juggernaut for opponents. Lessau leads the Miners with a .486 slugging percentage along with eight home runs and 39 runs batted in. Arcuri is currently sixth in Conference USA in hitting with a .346 batting average with six runs batted in.

The Thundering Herd’s first baseman Alysia Hively, and utility player Shaelynn Braxton have combined to hit 14 home runs and 47 runs batted in this season to lead Marshall. For the Miners, the key to stopping the Herd’s offensive will be pitching.

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Column

Heat-Spurs matchup possible at the end of NBA finals

BY PAUL REYNOSO

The Prospector



The 2012-2013 NBA season shaped up to be what most expected it to be, with the Miami Heat boasting the league’s best record. Lebron James, Dwayne Wade and Chris Bosh have led the Heat to a franchise-best 66 wins, which included a 27-game winning streak, the second longest in NBA history. Not too far behind is the Oklahoma City Thunder that is led by superstar Kevin Durant. Durant helped lead the Thunder to the second-best record in the NBA at 60-22 and the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference. The big question now is will there be any team preventing the Heat from repeating as champions?

Judging from the early play in the first round in the Eastern Conference, the one team that might give Miami trouble are the New York Knicks. The Knicks have posted their first 50 –win season in more than 10 years, led by Carmelo Anthony and Amare Stoudemire. With the additions of veteran players Tyson Chandler and Jason Kidd, the Knicks have greatly improved their roster with experienced veterans that give New York a good chance to make it to the Eastern Conference finals. Despite playing all season long without superstar Derrick Rose, the Chicago Bulls have risen to the occasion and are one win away from advancing to the second round. Just don’t expect them to beat the Knicks, who currently have the Boston Celtics on the ropes.

The Western Conference side is a bit more complicated. The Thunder and the San Antonio Spurs have separated themselves from the rest of the pack as the top two seeds in the conference, with everyone else fighting for the other six seeds. Two of the major storylines from the Western Conference have been San Antonio’s first-round sweep of the Lakers, who were without Kobe Bryant. Prior to the playoffs, Bryant suffered a torn Achilles tendon and is expected to miss six to nine months. The top-seeded Thunder has looked good and currently holds a 3-1 edge on the Houston Rockets. However the loss of point guard, Russell Westbrook, has now put a big question mark on their chances to make a return to the NBA finals.

The probability that we will see a Spurs/Thunder rematch in the Western Conference finals has dramatically decreased with Westbrook’s injury. With other young teams playing well—the Golden State Warriors have the Denver Nuggets in a three-to-one hole, while the Los Angeles Clippers/Memphis Grizzlies series is tied at two— it is really difficult to imagine the Thunder overcoming the loss of Westbrook and challenging the Spurs in the West. The experience of the Spurs, with Tim Duncan and veteran coach Greg Popovich, will prove to be too much for a young, but injury-bitten team

see NBA on page 8



(LEFT PHOTO) Senior infielder, Ashley Collazo, gets an out for the Miners against Tulsa on April 27-28 at the Helen of Troy Softball Complex. (RIGHT PHOTO) Freshman utility player, Danielle Pearson, hugs senior catcher, Kayleigh Walts, after the Tulsa game. Being the final home game of the season, the seniors were honored after the game against Tulsa on April 28.



AARON MONTES / The Prospect

CONCLUDE from page 7

“I definitely expect our freshman pitchers (Pearson, Rodriguez) to get a lot of pitching time,” Arcuri said. “They work really hard every single day at practice and it really shows. So I expect them to come out and be ready to play.”

The Miners hope to keep Marshall pitcher, Andi Williamson, from repeat performance of last season, in which she set a school record with 14 strikeouts against the Miners. For Arcuri the key to success against Williamson will be patience.

“We definitely need to be disciplined at the plate and not chase at any high pitches,” Arcuri said. “We really need to just stay focused from the first pitch to the last pitch.”

Despite the Miners falling short from participating in the Conference

USA Tournament, senior infielder Kayla Oranger, said that the team will continue to fight until the final out.

“I think we’re just going to go into this Marshall series and just play as hard as we can and leave it all on the field,” Oranger said. “It’s our last series, our last game for me and my fellow seniors. Hopefully we can leave on a good note.”

Arcuri, an advertising and graphic design major, said it is important to reflect on the positive aspects from this season despite what the Miners’ overall record is.

“I think that one of the positives that will come out of this season will be that next year we’re going to know that we will have to work so much harder than we did this year,” Arcuri said. “Now that we’re the underdogs,

we’re going to have something to really strive for.”

For Oranger, a business management major, this season may not have produced the outcome that the team had hoped for, but she said it is important to reflect on all the positive things that came out of it.

“The outcomes of the games have not gone our way but we’ve hung with a lot of good teams,” she said. “We’ve shown a lot of heart and we’re never going to give up.”

The final series of the regular season against Marshall will kick off with a doubleheader at 11 a.m. MT on May 4, followed by a game at 9 a.m. MT on May 5.

Paul Reynoso may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

NBA from page 7

like Oklahoma City as well as the Warriors, Clippers or Grizzlies.

There is a good chance that we will see a Knicks and Heat matchup in the Eastern Conference finals. The Knicks will be the Heat’s stiffest competition yet, but don’t expect the Heat to have a let down against their bitter rivals. With the addition of veteran players like Chris Anderson and Ray Allen in the off-season, the Heat is poised to repeat. LeBron and company have too much riding on this season and a series’ loss to the Knicks would spell a season failure for Miami.

All bets are off if we see a San Antonio/Miami NBA finals series. The individual match-ups of Duncan/James and Wade/Tony Parker would

make this sporting event a must-see and would significantly boost national and global television ratings.

Yes, the Spurs don’t have a Kevin Durant-type player, but with other key players such as Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili, the Spurs would have enough to pull off a monumental upset of Miami in the finals.

While it’s still early, it should be fun watching how the rest of the NBA playoffs will play out.

Paul Reynoso may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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PROUD UTEP GRADUATE
Ms. Baca is asking for the support of all UTEP alumni, students, staff and faculty.



MICHELE TORRES / The Prospect

Senior distance runner, Risper Kamaio, competing at the UTEP track invitational at Kidd Field on April 13.

KAMAIYO from page 7

confident that she will win in both competitions.

Kamaio, a nursing major, has learned to balance her academics and athletics. She said it is tougher to balance her workload as she nears graduation.

“It makes me feel sad because I’m going to miss the team, coaches and everything about competing as a student-athlete, but I’ll try to focus on my studies a little bit too,” Kamaio said. “Right now I’m still thinking about running, but it depends how I do in nationals at the end of the season, and then I’ll see what my options are and decide what to do. If not, once I graduate I’ll try to get a job.”

On April 30, at the 39th annual Dinner with the Miners banquet, Kamaio earned the UTEP female athlete of the year award in recognition

of her outstanding performance in Cross Country and Track and Field.

Kamaio has just three more competitions to go. The Conference USA Championships, will take place May 9-12 in Houston, followed by the West Region Preliminaries May 23-25 in Austin. If she qualifies at the preliminaries, Kamaio will end her college career at the NCAA Outdoor championships June 5-8 in Eugene, Ore.

“Right now she is at the top of her game. She is in the best shape in her life and hopefully she goes out really strong,” Laaksonen said. “I would love to see her leave as a national champion, but that is a very tough task. All we are hoping for is for her to have the best outdoor season she has ever had for us.”

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

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