Student pushes efforts to help Japan

BY ANUSHIKHA VALDIVIA
The Prospector

Although his family in Japan is safe, a UTEP student has started a relief fundraiser for the victims of Japan's March 11 disaster.

Keisuke Irie, geophysics graduate student, said that once he learned about the catastrophe, he immediately felt compelled to do something for the victims of Japan's 9.0-magnitude earthquake and nearly 30-foot wave tsunami, which caused problems at a nearby nuclear power plant.

“I contacted the Japanese embassy in Los Angeles, but the disaster had just happened, so there wasn't really any relief effort going on,” Irie said.

“So that's why I decided to do something on my own, and the only thing I can do here is donate money.”

Irie said he approached Crett McCorry-Andalis, associate vice president of student affairs, to get permission to manage a donation booth at the right time.

“I contacted the person from the student activities office, and she got permission for me to manage a booth,” Irie said.

McCorry-Andalis said that there are many in the UTEP community who want to help the victims in Japan as much as they can.

“It's wonderful to know that there are faculty, staff and students who want to do something positive for Japan,” she said.

The event, 1,000 Cranes for Japan, is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 6 at the Union Plaza, during the Special Events Wednesday Music Café. The event will feature more than just a donation booth.

“There will be live music by Dan Lambert, an origami workshop to make the 1,000 blue and orange cranes to send to the Japanese embassy in support of Japan, an information booth on earthquakes, and Greek life students will have a bake sale and a button-making booth as well.”

Valerie Lerma, sophomore psychology major, who is the secretary for the Alpha Xi Delta Women’s Fraternity, said that her organization and other Greek life students were excited to help participate in this event.

“Seeing the news and seeing what is going on in Japan has really made me feel grateful for what I have, and it made me want to do more for them,” Lerma said.

“Irie said that his goal for the fundraiser is to simply have people donate.

“It doesn't matter how much you give - $1, $2, even 25 cents. When accumulated, it can amount to a lot. You can’t fix damage from an earthquake right away,” Irie said.

“It takes a lot of time and money. So people should still help out months and years later.”

Irie said he plans to give the monetary donation to the Red Cross, which is providing aid to Japan.

Irie said he first heard about the disaster while driving to California. His friend sent him a text message about the news, and led Irie to exit the highway.

“I went to the nearest Starbucks for Wi-Fi and used my laptop to Skype my family. Fortunately, they're okay,” Irie said.

While Irie's family is fine, his friend's hometown was severely damaged after the event.

“He said it looks like it's been destroyed by a bomb. The good thing is that he and his family are all right, but I can imagine a lot of children being orphaned from this disaster. I feel bad for them,” Irie said.

Irie said he plans to give the money to family friends and groups that are still helping out months and years later.

“I have been praying for the people of Japan. Since I am on the opposite side of the earth, I cannot be of much direct help to Japan, like helping with rescues, comforting people and providing food and water,” Morishita said.

“I can imagine a lot of children being orphaned from this disaster. I feel bad for them,” Irie said.

Another student, Katuya Morishita, graduate student in music performance, said he also feels sympathy for the victims.

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“I can imagine a lot of children being orphaned from this disaster. I feel bad for them,” Irie said.

By DIANA ARKEITA
The Prospector

The El Paso and UTEP communities will celebrate Cesar Chavez Day March 31 by hosting several events including a march in downtown to honor the activist.

Last November, UTEP’s Faculty Senate voted to recognize Cesar Chavez Day from campus due to the limited number of holidays offered by the state, but students, advocates of farm workers, and public speakers urged the university to reinstate the holiday.

Last November, UTEP's Faculty Senate voted to reinstate the holiday.

Although it was reinstated in the fall semester, Chavez Day will be taking place throughout the El Paso community March 31 to honor the activist.

The event, 1,000 Cranes for Japan, is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 6 at the Union Plaza, during the Special Events Wednesday Music Café.
Travel abroad while you still can

BY VANESSA JUAREZ
The Prospector

In July, I will set foot on British soil for the first time in my adult life. Her Majesty’s United Kingdom for several weeks. After more than a year of saving, dreaming and planning, I’ll try out my untested wings in a foreign country (you’d be surprised how different Great Britain can be from America) and finally see all the places that I’ve only read about.

For about a year, the main goal has just been to save every spare penny, since the roundtrip flight to London, with a student discount, is still about $1,230. Now, as the trip approaches, I find myself trying to sort out every other detail — money, transportation, passport, living arrangements, food costs, flight schedules and narrowing down exactly what, in a country with centuries of history and tons of rich culture, have the time and money to see.

At this point in the semester, with only a few more days of summer study abroad sessions start, I know there are many other UTEP students who are anxiously running through the same checklists as they prepare for their travels. One good friend of mine is heading to China for the summer, another is waiting to hear if she will get an internship in Europe. Students in various departments are also planning to set out on a foreign adventure. Pick up your passport and travel abroad takes a lot of, well, preparation. Granted, some people have the courage or the lanueva

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WHAT DO YOU THINK?
This week’s poll question: Will you contribute to the Japan relief fundraiser?

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POLL RESULTS
What did you do over spring break?

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President Barack Obama spoke at a town hall meeting March 28 to discuss education in the U.S. and the role Hispanic students will play in it. The event was hosted by Univision at Bell Multicultural High School in Washington, D.C. UTEP held a viewing party of the broadcast by Univision at Bell Multicultural High School in Washington, D.C. The broadcast was part of the president’s efforts to provide early learning opportunities to Hispanic children.

Obama took questions from the audience on topics such as improving college affordability and access for Hispanics, preparing Hispanic students for college and such as improving college affordability and access for Hispanics, preparing Hispanic students for college and making sure students are not getting sufficient help they need, “We could have one similar in size to the one in Haiti (7.0 magnitude). There is an earthquake fault that runs along the east side of the Franklin Mountains and there are other fault zones in the area that are also active,” Doser said. “Our problem, like what happened in Haiti, is that none of our buildings are designed to withstand earthquakes.”

JAPAN from page 1

Diane Doser, professor in geological sciences, said that this recent earthquake building code and it worked very well, “It is also the largest earthquake in Japan since the 20th century. The largest magnitude since the 20th earthquake in Japan is the fourth-largest magnitude since the 20th century. But now she’s unsure if she’ll planning to go to Japan this summer, given the circumstances. "This is a terrifying, tragic disaster beyond expression. Because of the crisis at the nuclear power plant, the victims of the tsunami, not to buildings falling down in the earthquake."

According to CNN, the numbers of dead people by the morning of March 27 was 10,489, while 16,621 are missing and 2,777 injured. EPA noted that 12,000 people in the area were affected by the disaster. "We could have one similar in size to the one in Haiti (7.0 magnitude). There is an earthquake fault that runs along the east side of the Franklin Mountains and there are other fault zones in the area that are also active," Doser said. "Our problem, like what happened in Haiti, is that none of our buildings are designed to withstand earthquakes.”

The government is doing the best it can, “I had a hard time falling asleep that night, so I turned on the TV and found out what happened,” Morishita said. “At first, I could not believe it. I was unable to grasp the situation. It was hard to make that personal connection right away.”

Taeko Hiroi, assistant professor in political science, said her family in Tokyo is also safe, but she is still worried about those who are suffering. "This is a terrifying, tragic disaster beyond expression. Because of the crisis at the nuclear power plant, which is really serious and requires utmost government attention and action, the victims of the tsunami are not getting sufficient help they need," Hiroi said. "But I think the government is doing the best it can, given the circumstances." Morishita said he immediately called his family and prayed for their continued safety.

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Cesar Chavez was a Mexican-American leader, civil rights activist and strong supporter of farm workers in the United States. With a large Hispanic population on campus, Cesar Chavez Day has been an important tradition celebrated at UTEP for many years.

“The importance of this holiday for us has to do with the fact that Cesar Chavez is an icon of the Chicano movement and closely tied to the curriculum of Chicano Studies as a political and labor leader,” said Dennis Bixler-Marquez, director of the Chicano Studies Program. “This year in particular we want to focus on what Cesar Chavez means to this community, especially to the UTEP community.”

While Cesar Chavez Day is an optional holiday among higher education institutions, it has played an important role at UTEP.

“This holiday helps bring together many groups with farm workers, side by side, to improve their conditions and assist them, which is the top priority of many civic leaders in this community,” Bixler-Marquez said. “In addition, it showcases for the community that UTEP has played a pivotal role in providing services to the farm workers of this region.”

While Chavez died in 1993, his legacy continues to live among today’s generation of UTEP students.

“The work of Cesar Chavez is now reflected among students at this university,” Reyes said. “People are donating socks for the Center for Farm Workers and participating in other activities that speak for the values and beliefs inspired by Chavez and that have continued to live through UTEP students.”

Diana Arrieta may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

CHAVEZ from page 1
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WASHINGTON – Hundreds of people took to the streets March 26 to protest outside the White House, demanding an immediate end to the intervention of the U.S. and its European allies in Libya and other countries in the Middle East.

As the violence in Libya escalates, members of the ANSWER Coalition, an umbrella group of anti-war and civil rights organizations, raised their voices against the recent bombings in Libya.

"The Libyan people deserve to be treated better than chess pieces and pawns," said Brian Becker, national coordinator of the ANSWER Coalition said to the crowd gathered on Pennsylvania Avenue. "The last thing the United States, Britain and France should be doing is intervene in Libya."

The coalition said it was one of the many demonstrations taking place in major cities across the United States.

The protesters chanted, "Libya is under attack. What do we do? Stand back, Fight back" and "We have seen this all before. Same story. Different war."

An enraged, anti-Gaddafi protestor at the rally approached the ANSWER Coalition members and yelled, "You support Gaddafi!" at the group. The chants continued and the crowd ignored him.

Hundreds of men, women and children from Yemen and Syria also held rallies to protest against the regimes in their home countries, demanding an end to the dictatorships and urging new democracy.

"We are here to demonstrate against the current regime and to call on Saleh to leave. We are tired of his regime. It is time for him to go," said Ali Baleed, a member of the coalition committee who organized the rally, said in an interview.

The protests made similar demands. They chanted in Arabic and carried banners demanding that their president, Bashar al-Assad, "dictator Bashar" leave.

"The protests said Syria wants freedom and democracy. A group of Bahraini students in the United States also staged a rally to demand an end to violence. The peaceful protests, which continued into the late afternoon, included an advocacy group, the 9/11 Truth group, which says it spreads the truth about the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks."

Tom Ball, a member of 9/11 Truth group, said the United States waded into Middle Eastern countries in the name of democracy to trick U.S. citizens into fighting. The group's website casts doubt on the validity of investigations into the 9/11 attacks.

"Whenever there is a huge protest like this one, we try to wake people to the truths of 9/11," Ball said.

Hamidhoon Rashad is an undergraduate journalism honors student at Limkokwing University of Creative Technology in Cyberjaya, Malaysia. He is currently an intern at the Scripps Howard Foundation’s Semester in Washington Program.
Art work that demonstrates the border violence in Cd. Juarez is part of the exhibit “Un Grito al Vacío” on display at La Galería de la Mision de Senecu 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. until April 20 located at the Ysleta School District Fine Arts Department on 8455 Alameda Ave.

BY ALEJANDRO ALBA
The Prospector

With the violence happening on the border today, the Ysleta Independent School District has opened its gallery doors to local artists who interpret border issues through different art media.

“I really appreciate how the gallery gave us the chance to make our statement about violence against women. Some of the art work that was submitted was irrelevant to the theme of the exhibit and had to unfortunately be cut off,” Barba said.

According to Barba, the art work entries had to relate with the ongoing issues happening across the border. “Some of the art work that was submitted was irrelevant to the theme of the exhibit and had to unfortunately be cut off,” Barba said.

With a big influence from the UTEP community, the opening reception was a success according to Barba. The majority of the visitors the exhibit has received have been mostly from the UTEP community, along with other high school groups and the general public.

Barba said “Un Grito al Vacío” is not the first exhibit in Galleria Senecu that relates to border issues, but it is the first to deliver a strong political and emotional message to the community. “I believe that the artwork displayed creates a strong sense of awareness and the personal feel with everyone else,” Nungaray, who discovered the exhibit through an email calling for entries, said.

The Colombian heartthrob’s fame has been made on the subject. “Sucker Punch” is one of the ugliest and most brutal representations of girls in an insane asylum, depicts them as erotic dancers, soldiers, and objects of lust, yet never treats them as actual human beings. To the point where one character, Blondie (Vanessa Hudgens), is shot to death by an orderly/pimp because “no one likes a rat” caused the audience to laugh.

However, Baby Doll’s repeated rape being treated as trillillation for the audience should be something that everyone finds offense. In the film, Baby Doll (Emily Browning) is repeatedly asked to dance and she uses this dance as a way to distract her captors and escape into an even deeper fantasy. The movie is set up in a way that has some similarity to last year’s “Inception,” as the heroes of the film enter fantasies in other fantasies. The dance scenes are part of a fantasy realm that resembles a bordello and every time Baby Doll dances to distract her male captors it is implied that she is actually having sex with them in the insane asylum in the real world.

When looking at what the film implies, the message it gives is that during sexual abuse, the victims get to go to a place where they have power, because in the real world they have none. To victims of sexual abuse, this is one of the ugliest and just plain cruel films that has ever been made on the subject.

Especially when you look at the end of the film which kills three of the girls, Baby Doll gets a lobotomy, and the one girl who escapes cannot do so of her own power, but has to rely on the help of a mysterious male benefactor to lie for her. The one girl who escapes also happens to be the one who was the most frightened of her male captures/abusers and remains that way for the entire film. The ones who stood up to them are all dead and gone.

In an interview, Snyder said that he thought this film would be empowering to women, yet the film sexualizes the girls to such an extent that you feel awkward while watching.

See SUCKER on page 8
I was completely blown away with one of Nungaray’s artwork,” said Michelle Gonzalez, sophomore pre-nursing major. “I really was impressed with how the art work itself was simple yet very meaningful.”

Gonzalez, who has previously attended two other border art galler-ies, says this has been one of her favorites. “I really do feel the personal attachment these art pieces have to their creators and the people around them,” Gonzalez said. “The artwork also feels more local than others I have seen.”

Nungaray said she was interested in her fellow artists and the way they interpreted some of the issues that had impact in their lives. Seeing the personal connections between art works and the artist inspired her to go on and explore other fields of art-work regarding different topics. “For these two art pieces I took my background as a secretary and incorporated it into my art work,” Nungaray said. “Now, I feel a sense of creating some other new type of art for my collection.”

Barba said that some of the art work has been requested for pur-chase. She added that a portion of the money received from the pur-chase goes to the artist. “The other portion goes towards scholarships to the students. The other portion goes towards tuition fees. Says this has been one of her favorites. Barba said that some of the art work has been requested for purchase. She added that a portion of the money received from the purchase goes to the artist. The other portion goes towards scholarships to keep supporting artists at the high-school level.”

“I think that I would sell my art-work even though I have a personal attachment to it,” Nungaray said. “I would benefit from it, I would be giving another artist a chance to keep pursuing art, and I would be sharing a message with other people in other places.”

“Un Grito al Vacío” will be at the Galería Senecu from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. until April 20 in the Ysleta School District Fine Arts Department at 8455 Alameda Ave.

BORDER from page 7

JUANES from page 7

Día Normal,” was released in 2002 and went gold during its first day of sales. It was later certified platinum and multi-platinum in countries including Colombia, Mexico and Spain. The album spent 92 weeks in the top ten of Billboard’s Top Latin Albums chart, setting a new record and spent a total of two awe-inspiring years on the chart. Aside from working the stage with fellow Latino superstars such as Alejandro Sanz and Ricky Martin, Juanes has also collaborated with artists like Nelly Furtado. In 2003 he worked on her single “Powerless (Say What You Want)” from her album Folklore and on “Te Busque,” a song from her 2006 album, “Loose.”

“I just really like the beat to all his music, it’s pretty catchy,” said Genesis Vega, a diehard Juanes fan. “And also that most of his music has meaning behind the lyrics, not just dumb wording.”

Recently, Juanes performed at the 2010 FIFA World Cup Kick Off Con-cert and was fea-tured at the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York. His latest endeavor, “P.A.R.C.E.” has already spawned a #1 hit on Billboard, “Yerbateros,” and another top ten hit, “I, No Re-gress.” The next single off his al-bum is said to be “Regalito,” and it is believed to be another chart top-per for the successful singer. To add to his lengthy resume, Juanes is also known for his humanitarian work, especially with Colombian victims of anti-personnel mines, where he established the Mi Sangre Foundations to help the victims. In 2005, he was named by TIME magazine as one of the world’s 100 most influ-en-tial people. Juanes will perform on 8 p.m. on April 2 at the El Paso County Coli-seum. Tickets are $87-$877, plus ser-vice charges.

SUCKER from page 7


8. Baby Doll, who is supposed to be 20, is done up in a way that makes her look barely 13. So when the male characters cruelly abuse her, you feel disgusted that you are watching this thing. The film should not have sunk to the level of having a character look like a child to add pathos to the violence that happens to her. Any human being watching these things happen to any person, girl, boy, woman or man, would feel badly for them. I understand that I have not discussed the amazing visuals, the acting or much of the film besides the cruelty on display for two hours. But when a film reaches a point where it is impossible to look past the themes at play, it should not matter. This film is insanely cruel, misogynistic and hateful to not only its characters, but to anyone with morals. No picks.

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Small Towns may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
Miners prepare for Lobos after Memphis loss

BY WILLIAM VEGA

The Miners will take a break from Conference-USA play when they take on their final non-conference opponent, New Mexico Lobos March 29 at the Helen of Troy Softball Complex.

UTEP is currently tied for eighth place in the conference, but will not have the opportunity to gain ground in the standings with Mountain West opponent, New Mexico. If the Miners can look forward to anything it’s trying to snap a five-game skid as they try to rebound from series sweeps by no. 14 Nebraska and C-USA foe Memphis.

“We stick together and we move forward together. It happens,” senior center fielder Becky Smith said. “The games, the losses, they don’t feel good but we know next game we’ll get them. No big deal.”

Similar to the Miners, New Mexico leads with hitting even as they struggle from the mound. The Lobos place in the top half of the Mountain West Conference in batting but is one of the worst pitching teams in the conference.

The Lobos pitchers are giving up an average of over five runs each game with a team ERA of 4.54. Only sophomore pitcher Kaela DeBroeck has an ERA under 4.0, but she is 6-8 in 16 appearances this season.

Balanced hitting has defined this season for the Lobos with three batters hitting better than .300. Junior catcher Jessica Garcia leads the team with a .472 average, a .820 slugging percentage, 42 hits and six homeruns.

The Miners have fared even worse from the pitching circle as not a single pitcher has an ERA better than 5.0. Other than freshman Kayla Black who took the only win of her career in 1.2 innings of play, not a single pitcher has a winning record. Despite being run-ruled in three of their last five games, UTEP still has the assurance that their pitchers can continue leading them to victory.

“It’s all about having confidence in our pitchers because we know they can do it no matter what,” freshman shortstop Camille Herrera said. “We always have confidence in our team and our pitchers no matter who’s up there.”

UTEP has made up for their less than stellar pitching with great hitting. The Miners lead C-USA in doubles, hits, runs scored and batting average. Junior catcher Chelsea Troupe has been silenced over the past five games despite leading the team in batting average, slugging percentage, runs scored, homeruns and RBIs. During their current slump, Troupe has gone 2-11 from the plate with no RBIs and just one run scored.

The Miners know they cannot rely on their 2009 C-USA Freshman of the Year and will need an overall team effort to get back on track.

“I think together we need to be consistent. We just need to do what we need to do,” co-head coach Kathleen Rodriguez said. “We have to be better in every aspect of our game and that’s with our defense, our offense and that’s with everyone on the field and everyone on our coaching staff.”

see LOBOS on page 12

Football

Simmons named safeties coach

BY SAL GUERRERO

With spring football right around the corner, the UTEP football team recently announced former Cal coach Al Simmons the new safeties coach.

“One of the brightest things about spring is the new addition to our staff,” head coach Mike Price said. “Al Simmons is going to be the guy that is going to make it happen. He will be Andre Patterson’s right-hand man.”

Simmons spent the last three seasons (2008-10) at the University of California coaching safeties and special teams before accepting the job at UTEP. He helped lead Golden Bears to the best defense in the Pac-10 holding opponents to an average of 319 yards per game. During Simmons first season the defense of unit was first in the conference and third in the nation in interceptions.

“He is a quality coach that will help all the coaches get better,” Price said. “He has been at several different colleges…he was also with the San Francisco 49ers as a defensive back coach.”

This could not come at a better time for UTEP. Former Simmons will take over for former safeties coach Adam Gonzalez, who left for a coaching job at Ohio Northern University after the recruiting season.

“We wanted to see what was going to transpire and who would be available,” Price said. “(Simmons) just slipped through the cracks, we are so lucky to get him. He is one of the best coaches to be around.”

see SIMMONS on page 12
The UTEP tennis team was tripped up by No. 66 Santa Barbara, 7-0, in a neutral-site match March 27. The Miners (4-11) battled but could not ever put it all together in the eventual setback 6-2. The Orange and Blue's top play, Trierweiler, took on Lozano at No. 1 singles. She showed plenty of poise in an entertaining first set, but couldn't close the deal in a 7-6 defeat. The sophomore traded, 3-0, midway through the second set before she was forced to retire.

Marie LeBlond was saddled with a sluggish start against Meheen at No. 5 singles, dropping the initial set by a count of 7-6. She was and much more competitive in the second but it wasn't enough in a 6-4 defeat. Glebova ran into a buzzsaw in the form of Cos at no. 4 singles, eventually falling by a final tally of 6-2, 6-0. It was a similar fate for her fellow classmate, Fuentes, at No. 6 singles. Cano bested the Mexico native, 6-0, 6-1.

Action initiated in doubles as

There was a short break before focus shifted to the singles matches, where the Miners aspirations of a comeback did not come to fruition. Abdrakhmanova pushed Novak to the limits, only to come up shy in three sets, 6-3, 0-6, 6-1 at No. 3. Jordan Dockendorf/Natalia Lozano, eventually falling by a final count of 8-4, at No. 3.

As Miners aspirations of a comeback did not come to fruition. Abdrakhmanova pushed Novak to the limits, only to come up shy in three sets, 6-3, 0-6, 6-1 at No. 3.
Softball

UTEP loses Memphis triple header

BY WILLIAM VEGA

Looking to pick up their first win of their Conference-USA three-game series with Memphis, the Miners’ rally was cut short by the Tigers’ traveling arrangements as they fell to Memphis 15-6 in six innings March 27 at the Helen of Troy Softball Complex.

“You’ve got to hate drop-dead time. We got cheated out of a few outs. They had to be at the airport by 2:30 (p.m.) so we had to drop dead with whatever was going on,” co-head coach Kathleen Rodriguez said.

“There was a lot of stalling and a lot of timeouts but it goes back to how you plan. That’s good coaching. We had a lot of momentum and I would have done the same thing.”

The game ended in the top of the sixth with two outs when junior first baseman Jessica Phillips hit a grand slam in the top half of the inning to finish the game. Phillips finished the game with six of her series-leading nine RBIs including her first three home runs of the series in the third game. UTEP was denied their opportunity to bat in the bottom of the sixth as Memphis hurried out of the dugout. UTEP trailed 8-2 after three innings but the Miners rallied back to cut the lead to 10-6 in the fifth.

“We were rushing that last kid that hit the ball out,” Rodriguez said. “We had minutes to go and we were trying to do everything we could to get out of that inning and get our top of the lineup up to bat. We couldn’t have been in a better situation.”

The Miners dug themselves into an early hole that may not have needed a come from behind effort.

“We hit bad at first,” senior center fielder Becky Smith said. “Except for the first inning we were scoring every inning so I definitely think we could’ve comeback. Not upset at all, though (with the drop-dead).”

UTEP left the bases loaded in the second and third, which resulted in the six-run deficit. The Miners had 10 walks and hit one batter while using three pitchers.

“You cannot, in any level in this game, battle 10 walks and one hit by pitch,” Rodriguez said. “I cannot put 11 people on base without having to work for it and win it. That’s what we did and a combination of all that equals a lot of freebies.”

Great pitching was expected from the Tigers, with a team ERA that places second in the conference but as the worst batting team in C-USA, not too many expected the bats to be the difference maker. Memphis scored 33 times off eight home runs and 30 hits, while giving up 12 total runs for the Miners.

The Miners showed promise to start off the conference series when senior center fielder Becky Smith hit a two-run homerun to go up 2-0 in the first. With the score tied at six heading into the seventh and final inning, the Tigers placed runners on second and third with two outs. Senior pitcher Courtney Auger hit one walked one batter to load the bases and hit the next to give Memphis the 4-3 advantage. Freshman right fielder Ashleigh King singled to score the fifth run for the Tigers and UTEP stranded two runners in the bottom half of the inning falling in game one 5-3.

Memphis racked up a run in every inning of the second game including eight in the fifth to run-rule the Miners 13-3. UTEP homered twice in the second leaving the inning knotted up at two but managed only one hit the rest of the way.

“Yesterday (March 26), our energy wasn’t there. We were quiet in the dugout and lazy in the second game,” freshman shortstop Camille Herrera said. “We have bats, gloves and amazing talent but the momentum is not there all the time. We’re not consistent.”

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

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This program is being sponsored by many UTEP registered student organizations and departments. For additional information about the event, contact The office of Student Life in Union West 102 or 915.747.5648.

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Other than pitching and improved hitting, the Miners’ main focus is still to win and claw their way back to the top with only 18 conference games and the C-USA tournament remaining. The Miners were in the same predicament last season but were only able to win two of their next four series after losing five straight games. UTEP hopes this season is not a repeat of last, which will start with hard work from this point on.

“I’m going to work with every single one of our kids and we’re going to work harder than we have ever for these last 23 games,” Rodriguez said. “Let’s put it this way: they are going to look forward to games because they are going to be so easy.”

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Price said Simmons is familiar with the coaching staff and the program. Last season he was brought in to clinch the defensive backs and to review tapes to help with mistakes of past seasons.

“My goals are to try and get (UTEP) to play the best defense we can in the conference,” Simmons said. “I’m going to bring some knowledge to the players and hopefully they’ll eat it up and improve. This is going to take some time.”

Simmons comes into the program in a rebuilding year. Last year the Miners gave up an average of 412 yards per game ranking them seventh in Conference USA in total defense.

“When I first got here I had a chance to look at some film and I’m excited about working with some players as well,” Simmons said. “I see a lot of strengths, they played great on defense last year. We have a lot of guys returning and I feel good about where we’re headed.”

One player that was mentioned by Simmons was senior defensive back Travon Nixon, who Simmons said might move to safety because of his ability to move on the ball. Simmons will get his first shot at working with the defense March 31 when the Miners begin the month-long spring training season.

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