Many living in the El Paso region, which has a long history of military presence and has seen a major influx of military personnel in recent years, see the recent repeal of the “don’t ask, don’t tell” law as a progressive move towards equality and acceptance of gay individuals.

Cadet Richard Brockett, senior multidisciplinary studies major and member of the Fighting Miners Battalion (UTEP’s ROTC program), said the repeal was an eventual change for the better. “(DADT) was progressive for the time and enabled progressive actions to take place to move us forward to where we can get rid of it all together and allow homosexuals to serve openly,” Brockett said. “The Army is a macho institution, traditionally, but it’s not so much nowadays, so I believe homosexuals can be of service to the military.”

The Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell Repeal Act of 2010 was made official Sept. 20 after being passed by Congress in December 2010.

“It weakens our national security, diminishes our military readiness and violates fundamental American principles of fairness and equality,” said President Barack Obama, who had vowed to repeal the law in a statement in November 2010.

Cadet Yunmi Lee, junior multidisciplinary studies major, believes the
Christopher Columbus: hero or villain?

BY CELIA AGUILAR

In elementary school, we are often asked to not only read about Columbus through literature, which encourages him as the discoverer of the Americas, but also to write reports which mirror this one-sided perspective. What we don’t learn about are the atrocities performed against the indigenous peoples who encountered Columbus.

In their attempts to amass wealth and exploit gold from what Columbus believed was the Indies, the Spaniards participated in a form of genocide that would drastically diminish Native American people.

According to documentation by Bartolomé de Las Casas, a priest who came to the Americas in search of wealth, the Spaniards “work was to exasperate, ravage, kill, mangle and destroy.” He said between 1494 and 1506, “over three million people had perished from war, slavery and the mines.” While some historians believe this number is exaggerated, others believe the true number is closer to eight million.

Despite the numbers, the fact is that Columbus was sent on an expedition to find and retrieve gold and spices, but instead found a group of people he could easily exploit or kill in the name of progress.

Is this truly someone who we believe deserves a national holiday? What is the larger message this sends out about the type of nation we are? I refuse to celebrate a holiday that, in essence, celebrates the genocide and destruction of a group of people as a means of conquest, especially because of the close ties I feel with my Mexico (Nahuas people indigenous to Mexico) heritage.

As a Chicana, I am outraged by the continued celebration of a false hero, but I am not surprised. History is told from the perspective of the conquerors.

By disregarding these violent acts of coercion, we are implicitly justifying Columbus’ behavior. A celebration of his actions, to me, seems like a flagrant disrespect to the communities who were intentionally subjected, as well as a way of condoning avarice.

I can understand that there are those who feel that his “discovery” is something to celebrate, as it formed the nation we are now, but how can we celebrate something founded on genocide and domination?

This is why I, and other members of M.E.Ch.A. (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán), have decided to participate in a celebration that focuses on indigenous struggles and culture rather than the violent man who came to the Americas in search of wealth.

M.E.Ch.A will be hosting Dia de la Raza from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 12 at Lorch Grove. The event is a celebration that includes danza azteca, poetry and a reception with live music to be held at the Centennial Museum.

While I don’t expect everyone to agree with my perspective, the goal of this event is to educate others, while promoting a critical analysis of a holiday we otherwise wouldn’t consider.

For most of us, this event is a way of celebrating the ancestry we often tend to ignore, our Native ancestry. As U.S. citizens of Mexican descent, we acknowledge that we are products of coercion, we are implicitly justifying the continued celebration of a false hero, but I am not surprised. History is told from the perspective of the conquerors.

The Prospector is a student publication of the University of Texas at El Paso. We do not accept unsolicited submissions except those made by advertisers. Additional policy information can be obtained by calling The Prospector at 747-5161. Opinions expressed in The Prospector are not necessarily those of the university.

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**Loss of a genius**

Steve Jobs, 56, founder of Apple and technology icon, passed away Oct. 5. The former CEO of Apple Inc. stepped down from his position in August after a long battle with pancreatic cancer.

“Apple has lost a visionary and creative genius, and the world has lost an amazing human being,” read a statement on Apple’s official website. “Those of us who have been fortunate enough to know and work with Steve have lost a dear friend and an inspiring mentor. Steve leaves behind a company that only he could build, and his spirit will forever be the foundation of Apple.”

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**Column**

**iPhone 4S: Steve Job’s death saddens, Apple disappoints**

**BY JERRY ALDAZ**

Editor’s Note: The following column was written prior to the announcement of Steve Jobs’ death, no disrespect intended. Steve Jobs, co-founder and former CEO of Apple has died at the age of 56. Condolences go to those who knew and respected Steve.

“Now that the rumor-mill has stopped churning, and all theories have been set to rest by Apple’s “Let’s Talk iPhone” event Oct. 4, countless were left with an empty void in their gadget-filled souls.

The promise was grand. Apple’s iPhone 4S (or 5) would once again set the mobile standard. Sadly, this year’s unveiling was the most anticlimactic yet.

Although services such as the iCloud and Siri voice control are enticing features, the hardware upgrade is simply not Apple worthy.

Parading a newly installed A5 dual-core processor and an additional network antenna, making it a “world phone,” the new iPhone 4S struts an 8-megapixel camera capable of recording 1080p video at 30 frames per second.

Besides retaining iPhone 4’s exact dimensions, not to mention its three-gram weight gain, the iPhone 4S comes pre-installed with Apple’s upcoming iOS 5 and a slightly improved battery.

So why are crowds in the interwebs planning to sit out Apple’s latest creation?

Simply speaking, the delivery is a cruel disappointment for the speculation-filled sleepless nights and idealistic predictions experienced by tech enthusiasts like myself.

I like Apple, just ask my iPhone, but I can’t seem to extinguish the anger boiling within my nerdy self.

Surely, similar to the 3G to 3GS leap, hardcore fans might argue that subtle changes are part of iPhone’s natural progression.

To them, I say; if a multi-billion dollar company needs 16 months to add a few mechanical tweaks to its defining product, there is something terribly wrong.

By no means am I claiming to know what’s best for Apple or their customers, but one can’t deny their shortcomings in the innovation department. Aside from keeping their usual 3.5-inch screen, outdated “Retina” display, they did not even bother to enhance the front-facing camera.

In my opinion, customers ought to avoid paying premium price for improved processing power and increased photo resolution.

Apple needs to realize that the competition has vastly changed since the iPhone’s original 2007 launch. Featuring a 4.27-inch Super AMOLED Plus display in a 8.49 millimeter shell, the Samsung Galaxy S II is just one of the heavy-weight contenders challenging iPhone’s supremacy.

If careless, Apple’s conservative advancements will place them in Blackberry’s shoes – a struggling company attempting to regain a dedicated fanbase. I believe the current generation of consumers expect more from their “superphones” and Apple’s lavish reputation might prove futile in keeping them competitive.

If you have a 3G or 3GS, get the iPhone 4, now it’s only $99 on a commitment. For iPhone 4 owners, wait for the iPhone 6, or whatever they’ll call it.

Jerry Aldaz may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
Since the DADT policy took effect in 2001, more than 13,000 men and women have been discharged from the armed services for revealing their sexual orientation. A precursor to this policy began in 1992 when President George H. W. Bush signed the Uniform Code of Military Justice, which set up discharge procedures for homosexual service members.

Robert Gutiérrez, senior psychology major who spent four years in the U.S. Marines plus four years in the reserves, said he felt equality was necessary in the military regardless of sexual orientation. He also said that there are some people who are apprehensive about serving with gay men and women.

"I don't think anybody has to hide their sexuality," Gutiérrez said. "But I think when it comes to being in a compromising situations with another person who is gay, it's an issue for some military people."

The DADT policy was seen as a compromise effort in 1993, when President Bill Clinton issued a defense directive that military applicants not be asked about their sexual orientation.

Repealing the law has been an uphill battle for President Obama and congressional members opposed to DADT. Even after the Pentagon released a report concluding that gays in the military are a low risk to the armed forces' abilities and effectiveness, Republicans filibustered to halt the debate on repealing the law. Although the repeal was passed and signed into law in December 2010, the military had to make preparations for the repeal, which included freezing discharges and investigations of gay and lesbian soldiers.

"The Army is a very orthodox, very conventional type of organization and it takes a long time to implement progressive policies," Brockett said. "The Army is transforming and evolving all the time, but when it comes to culturally progressive policies, it takes a while for those things to really take effect."

Lee is optimistic about the future of the military and hopes people see the military in a different light.

"I honestly believe that anyone who loves their country can serve and put their life on the line just like anyone else, no matter what their beliefs or views are. That is what makes our military strong, to be able to bring people from all over the United States to serve one purpose," Lee said. "I do believe in time, there will be more openly gay personnel to serve in the military."

"Our Crown Jewel of Texas understood the tremendous difficulties that many of our citizens face and was relentless in eliminating barriers that impede college attendance and success," Hodges said. "She knew that college provides hope, inspiration and a better life for our citizenry. She dedicated her life to this end.

Shaw earned many awards and honors during her long career in developmental education. Among these she was named a Fellow of the Council of Learning Assistance and Developmental Education Associations, the field’s most prestigious honor, and in 2010 she was inducted into the El Paso Women’s Hall of Fame.

"Gladys was a staunch advocate for student access and worked hard to provide students with the resources they needed to be successful at the university," Edens said. "Her large heart, endless enthusiasm and generous personality impacted thousands of students during her time at UTEP. What a great role model for all of us."

As per Shaw’s request, in lieu of flowers, she wanted people to send donations to her favorite charities, Art of Birth and Wellness, Circle of the Solidarity (a veterans’ fund) and the Brock Riemann Memorial Scholarship fund.

The memorial service in Austin is open to the public and conference registration is not required to attend. Shaw is survived by three children, seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.
Community brings awareness of breast cancer

Above: Lea Chavez, sophomore general studies major and member of Zeta Tau Alpha, pins a pink ribbon on a child’s shirt for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Above right: Members of Zeta Tau Alpha hand out pink ribbons and information pamphlets to customers at Walmart.

Right: Pink ribbons, bracelets and other items were handed out at the Susan G. Komen Golf for the Cure Sept. 30 at Butterfield Trail Golf Club.

PHOTOS BY VERONICA CHAPARRAL

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Supreme Court to hear cases on First Amendment, due process

BY PAMELA ENGEL
Scraps Howard Foundation Wire
WASHINGTON - The U.S. Supreme Court has 25 cases on its docket for the term that begins Monday. It will hear cases that address the First and Fourth Amendments, due process and patents. The court usually hears about 80 cases per term, and President Barack Obama health care reform act seems likely to arrive at the court soon.

Lawyers at a Howard University panel discussed several case decisions recently to discuss the most important cases:

Fourth Amendment

In U.S. v. Jones, police obtained a warrant to install a GPS tracking device on a suspected drug trafficker Antoine Jones’ car. The warrant gave police 10 days to install the device in D.C., but police waited until the 11th day to attach the GPS to Jones’ car, which was in Maryland. During the four weeks police monitored Jones, he visited a narcotics mission in Baltimore, Maryland. The court is being asked to decide whether a tracking device on a vehicle requires a search or seizure. The Fourth Amendment protects individual privacy and typically requires a warrant before a search or seizure. The Supreme Court is expected to rule on this case soon.

The court recently ruled that the Fourth Amendment protects Antoine Jones’ car. The warrant gave police 10 days to install the device in D.C., but police waited until the 11th day to attach the GPS to Jones’ car, which was in Maryland. During the four weeks police monitored Jones, he visited a narcotics mission in Baltimore, Maryland. The court is being asked to decide whether a tracking device on a vehicle requires a search or seizure. The Fourth Amendment protects individual privacy and typically requires a warrant before a search or seizure. The Supreme Court is expected to rule on this case soon.

First Amendment

The Federal Communications Commission v. Fox Television Stations deals with profanity and nudity in broadcast. The Supreme Court will decide if the FCC’s ban on airing the expletive “F—” and female nudity is constitutional. The court usually deliberates fewer than 10 cases per term. The court will also hear cases on whether corporations have a “ministerial exception” to religious freedoms. Lower courts are divided, and the court could decide this issue this term.

Religious Liberty

In Hosanna-Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Church andSchool v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission deals with religious freedoms. The Supreme Court is expected to rule on two cases this term that come before the court since it’s last religious freedom case, “Tabor v. Zobrist.” The court will decide whether the employer was a religious organization and that the employee was a minister in the sense that part of the day she was teaching religious studies.

Patent and Copyright

Golan v. Holder deals with whether Congress can copyright works that were once in the public domain. The court will decide if the Federalist Society discussion, “So if Congress is overstepping its bounds because copyrights are supposed to be granted for a limited time.”

Administrative Law

The court has few cases on administrative law, and there’s a sense in which this may seem somewhat less weighty than some of the other foreign policy questions that some before the court since it’s last religious freedom case, “Tabor v. Zobrist.” The court will decide whether the employer was a religious organization and that the employee was a minister in the sense that part of the day she was teaching religious studies.

Separation of Powers

Zivotofsky v. Clinton questions whether a federal statute on passports is unconstitutional. If U.S. citizens born in Jerusalem ask for Israel to be listed as their birthplace on their passports, the secretary of state must comply. This statute has not always been enforced, however, and the State Department refused to list Menachem Zivotofsky’s birthplace as Israel on his passport because the U.S. does not recognize it as sovereign territory.

The implications are really more than meets the eye here, and there’s a sense in which this may seem somewhat less weighty than some of the other foreign policy questions that some before the court since it’s last religious freedom case, “Tabor v. Zobrist.” The court will decide whether the employer was a religious organization and that the employee was a minister in the sense that part of the day she was teaching religious studies.

The court is being asked if this violates due process.

“Property owner can put in a very serious dilemma because you have a couple here … whose options were to either get a permit and come into compliance or be in violation of the EPA’s dictates and to face the possibility of fines, which could be as much as tens of thousands of dollars each day,” Clement said.

Paul Offit, senior pediatrician at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, is a former of the Slate’s Howard Foundation’s Seminars in Bioethics Program. The story was published at prospector@stripes.com.
**Event**

**Exhibit reveals a close-up of the human body**

**By Kristopher Rivera**

The Prospecter

For the second time in El Paso, "Bodies Human: Anatomy in Motion" presents for the second time in El Paso and will run until Dec. 31.

**Since May 2007, the itinerant exhibit has displayed human specimens and bodies preserved through a process called "plastination." Over 100 authentic human specimens, including whole bodies, individual organs and transparent body slices compose the exhibit. The Bodies Human exhibit gives people a look into the human body. It shows the cardiovascular, nervous, digestive, respiratory, reproductive, muscular and skeleton systems. "Our plan was to create a museum for El Paso that would bring in world famous therapists, cosmetologists and children who are learning about the human body," said Laurie Paternoster, owner of Lynx Exhibits. "We weren't getting some of the bigger exhibits in town. They didn't feel the demographics would support it." Paternoster said this exhibit attracts many, such as medical students, massage therapists, cosmetic and children who are learning about the human body.

"An art teacher asked to see if they could bring their class in more than once because they're studying the body and how to draw the body," Paternoster said. "There is a lot of interest from artists that are looking real specific at hands, the way the muscles are shaped, so it's definitely appealing to them too."

Christine Villegas, senior graphic design major is one of the people who appreciates this exhibit from the artistic scope. "I thought it was a great exhibition. As an artist, it's hard to find models who are willing to stay still for a long time, and these guys, they have no choice; they're dead," Villegas said. "You get to see the inner workings of the human body, so it's really important to understand how the body works, and this is one of the best exhibits I've seen that deal in that area."

Aldo Leyva, general manager at Lynx Museum said the exhibit, in addition to understanding the physiology of the human body, also serves as a pusher for choosing healthy lifestyle choices. "The exhibit displays organs into town due to his accessibil- ity when it comes to his fans, and his great attitude. However, Barrera said that a meet-and-greet with the singer is still pending due to time and dynamics."

"We would really love fans to get a chance and meet their artist," Barrera said. "But we can promise them a good experience by just attending."

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**Concert**

**Mexican pop icon Aleks Syntek performs at Don Quintin Bar**

**By Alejandro Alba**

The Prospecter

Anticipation lies within the fans of Mexican pop icon Aleks Synetek, as he gets ready to perform in El Paso at 9 p.m. Oct. 7 at the Don Quintin Bar located on 420 N. Campbell St.

"I am super excited," said Rocio Estrada, sophomore microbiology major. "I have become a greater fan of Alex since he appeared as a judge in 'La Voz,' and I just can't wait to see him."

"You get to see the inner workings of the human body, so it's really important to understand how the body works, and this is one of the best exhibits I've seen that deal in that area," said Paternoster.

"We decided to partner with them since they play his music a lot," Seyffert said. "There is a lot of interest from artists that are looking real specific at hands, the way the muscles are shaped, so it's definitely appealing to them too."

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Caitlyn Hutchins, student, sax player and roller derby girl

BY NATALIA AGUILAR

Caitlyn Hutchins, freshman music major has an unusual hobby for most girls her age. She is a roller derby girl who isn’t afraid of getting knocked down, and most importantly, she keeps it from happening.

Since January of this year, Hutchins has been playing the game, and in April, she was finally drafted to the Chuco Town Chulas. Her interest came from her mother, who was the first to get involved in roller derby.

“My first thoughts of when she told me were, ‘you’re old and you’re gonna get beat up,’ but I supported her,” Hutchins said. “I saw what it was like at the practices and I just wanted to be a part of it. I love athletics and staying active, and I thought this would be a good way to stay fit.”

Roller derby is a two-hour game that consists of two groups of five girls on roller skates. The main job is for the jammer, Caitlyn’s position, to make points without getting tackled.

“A lot of the women are in their late 40’s, so I still have 30 years to do that. I know I won’t do it for 30 years, but it’s nice to know that I can,” Hutchins said.

Roller derby has been a fun ride for Hutchins, and it has also helped her to get out of her comfort zone.

“I’m usually really shy and when you are doing roller derby, you have to forget that and you have to be a different person,” Hutchins said. “So at this last game I wasn’t me at all; I was somebody else.”

Belen Gallegos, vice president of the league and former captain of the Chuco Town Chulas, said Hutchins has not had major problems juggling college and games. However, sometimes it can get conflicting with quality family time.

“She keeps going and going,” Gallegos said. “We haven’t had any problems until recently, but I encourage her to do family and school first.”

Besides being a roller derby girl, Hutchins is also part of the top band ensemble at UTEP Symphony Winds. She said band is a major part of her life. Hutchins has played the saxophone for eight years and in recent years, she got involved with the flute and the oboe. Hutchins hopes to become a high school band director and eventually would like to direct at a university.

“It’s made me more comfortable in situations I wasn’t comfortable before,” she said. Playing has also made her discover the game is about so much more than just the talent. It is mainly about the player’s attitude.

“If the player doesn’t have a good attitude, she will not be drafted,” Hutchins said.

Roller derby games are held at the El Paso County Coliseum once a month and the seasons run from January to October.

Caitlyn Hutchins, freshman music major has several extracurricular activities including playing for a roller derby team.

I saw what it was like at the practices and I just wanted to be a part of it. I love athletics and staying active, and I thought this would be a good way to stay fit.”

Caitlyn Hutchins, freshman music major and jammer in roller derby team.

By Natalia Aguilar

The Prospector

Aries (March 21 to April 19) Mars, your ruling planet, helps you deal with career challenges in a way that reflects some of your own hidden strengths. This impresses some important decision-makers.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20) Your strong Bovine will, combined with your romantic nature (you are ruled by Venus), helps turn a romance with a potential for problems into one with more-positive possibilities.

Gemini (May 21 to June 20) Mercury’s influences creates some unsettling moments, but nothing that you can’t live with. You’ll soon learn more about what far greater change is about to be revealed.

Cancer (June 21 to July 22) Opportunities for you are like the phases of the Moon: constantly appearing and reappearing. So, cheer up. The opportunity you think you let slip by will be replaced by another.

Leo (July 23 to August 22) An opportunity that you hoped would open up for you remains closed. Stop wasting time scratching at it. Something else you’ll like will soon make itself apparent and accessible.

Virgo (August 23 to September 22) Congratulations. You’ll soon hear some positive feedback for all the hard work you recently put into a project. A Pisces could soon swim into your personal life.

Libra (September 23 to October 22) Someone whose friendship you felt you had to write off will try to revive it. What you do is up to you. But don’t do it without giving it considerable thought.

Scorpio (October 23 to November 22) A job-related plan might need to be reworked to allow for changes. Lucky for you that Saturn remains a strong influence that can help you focus on getting it done right.

Sagittarius (November 22 to December 21) This is a good time to move into areas of self-discovery. You might be surprised about who you really are and how you really relate to those around you.

Capricorn (December 22 to January 19) Expect to confront someone who will make an unwelcome request. Stand by your resolve to do the right thing no matter what “persuasion” might be offered.

Aquarius (January 20 to February 18) A friendly competition could become more contentious than you expected. Take time out to discuss the reasons behind this unexpected change, and act accordingly.

Pisces (February 19 to March 20) You have a wonderful mind for solving mysteries, so you should feel confident about solving the one developing very close to you. An unlikely source offers help.

Born This Week: You’re a great host or hostess. You love being with people, and you’re very good about planning all sorts of social events that bring folks together.
Football

Transfer becomes game hero, defensive leader

BY DANIEL ORNELAS
The Prospector

According to Collins English Dictionary, a playmaker is a player whose role is to create scoring opportunities for his or her teammates. Miners senior safety Travon Nixon is just that.

“He’s a great teammate, a competitor and he always wants to win,” junior safety DeShawn Grayson said. “He always wants to be where the ball is. He’s a playmaker; I call him the ball hawk.”

Nixon transferred to UTEP in the spring of 2010 from Ventura Junior College. In 2009, he earned Southern California Football Association’s All Star first-team honors. At Ventura, Nixon currently ranks sixth in career interceptions, with nine in only 17 games played, while returning two for touchdowns. He’s been an all-purpose player throughout his career, returning punts at Ventura and UTEP along with playing both safety and cornerback.

Grayson is not only a teammate, but also his roommate, which he said, has helped Nixon become a better player.

“I kind of put him under my wing... we look after each other,” Grayson said. “He’s quiet, focused. We do the same thing; he’s just like a brother to me.”

Nixon’s first season at UTEP was productive, leading the team with four interceptions and finishing third with 75 total tackles, he was named defensive MVP for the Miners.

Nixon has multiple reasons to play football, and good competition is one that brought him to UTEP.

“(In 2010), we played against (Arkansas quarterback Ryan) Mallett, (Houston quarterback Case) Keenum and some good teams. That really sparked my interest; I wanted to play against some of the top players in the country,” Nixon said. “It’s great. There’s millions of people around the world wishing they could do what we’re doing over here, you can’t ask for anything else. I’m grateful for that.”

Nixon helped the Miners to a 6-6 regular season in 2010 where he led the team with four interceptions. He was also third on the team with 75 total tackles and 44 solo stops. Last season, he helped lead UTEP into the New Mexico Bowl where they fell to BYU 54-24. Nixon had an interception that he returned 43 yards to go with six tackles and two for losses.

This season has been no different for Nixon, having two interceptions thus far in only three games played. Possibly his most notable was the game winner against Stony Brook Sept. 3 in the home season opener. Nixon made a diving interception on Stony Brook’s first play in overtime to seal the game and give the Miners the victory.

“He’s a playmaker. He makes stuff happen,” defensive coordinator Andre Patterson said. “He has tremendous ball skills and great vision to see where the quarterbacks intentions are going with the ball. He’s a great field-tacker.”

CB Sports.com has ranked Nixon as the 56th best cornerback entering the 2012 NFL draft, while Fox Sports’ Scouts.com ranks him 33rd. Nixon is currently a safety for UTEP, but has no preference in position.

“When I was at Ventura, I played safety my freshman year and cornerback my sophomores year,” Nixon said. “I’m used to playing both of them. I really don’t mind, whatever I can play I’ll play it.”

His coaches have seen him playing both positions, but they feel that he needs to be at safety where he has more opportunities to be a playmaker.

“I think it aids his skill level because he can see more at safety and he can be involved in more plays. You’re playing corner lined up on the outside, you might not get any action the whole game,” Patterson said. “He’s our best playmaker on defense so we have to put him in a position to give him an opportunity to make more plays for us.”

In addition to being a playmaker, Nixon is also a role model for his younger four brothers and he hopes they will follow in his footsteps.

Volleyball

Miners prepare for tough final stretch of the season

BY KRYSTAL OLBINGER
The Prospector

UTEP has reached the midway point of their season with a record of 13-5 and 3-2 in Conference-USA. After starting the season on a record-breaking 8-0 start and in a current three-game winning streak, the Miners are feeling good about themselves.

“This weekend, we learned that even if we aren’t on top of our game, we can still come out on top through pure fight and desire to win,” sophomore setter Malia Patterson said. “In this week’s practices, we will focus on finding a better rhythm in our offense. And when we do, I’m sure the weekends ahead of us will turn out in our favor.”

UTEP is coming off a road-weekend sweep against Marshall and East Carolina who are near the bottom of the C-USA standings.

“I’m very happy with the weekend’s result. It felt great to win back-to-back matches,” sophomore middle blocker Xitlali Herrera said. “I think we still have a lot of things to improve on and I hope in the next games we can do it better.”

But now, they face their biggest competition to date as their final 13 matches are against teams they did not beat last year. So far, UTEP has beaten a team that they lost last season. The Miners lost seven match-es by this time last year, which sent them on a 14-match-losing streak. This came after playing an opponent twice to mark the second half of C-USA play.

On Oct. 7-8, the Miners will take on Memphis in back-to-back matches. UTEP did not beat Memphis in either of their two matches last year. The Tigers took the first win 3-1 despite strong efforts from the defensive line, which slammed out 22 blocks and committed 28 digs. It was not a kill that lost the match against Memphis, but instead, an attack error.

“In practice, there are a few things for Memphis that we’ll probably cue on just as far as their personnel, but most of the stuff that they do fits into our base defense anyways,” head coach Ken Murphy said. “Really, we’re trying to improve on areas we’ve been keen on getting a lot of our middle hitters and working on our serve-recruit passing; basically, try and iron out some of the wrinkles.”

UTEP was trailing the Tigers 24-21 after an attack error by junior right side Marisa Jovanovic gained them a point, but after a strategized time-out was called by Memphis, the two teams returned and sophomore outside hitter Taylor Nix committed an
SEASON from page 9

attack error that lost the Miners the game.

This time, the Tigers are tied with

UAB in conference at 3-2 (14-2 overall), but this does not mean

we have gotten better in the areas we

had problems with last year. Memphis could only break 20 points once in their match against the

Blazers, losing 3-0. UTEP will also

play UAB in back-to-back matches

Nov. 5-6, but will have to work on

their mistakes before they can take

on a team that thrives on such issues.

In their match against the Tigers, the

Blazers played off of Memphis’s ability to compete, but have played the top team in the

Conference: UAB.

"We were just a really young team

that was talented, but we hadn’t fig-

ured out our abilities to compete," Murphy said. "If the younger players can execute plays

better and set the ball a little more accurately so we can get a few

more kills early, we feel like that

would make a huge difference in our

outcome."

UTEP will also have to take on

ECU, Marshall, UCE, SMU and Tulsa again in order to hold their fifth spot or move up in C-USA.

"The stuff we were trying to do was

right and now we have two weeks to

get ready for the SMU match," Mur-

phy said. "We know our competitive

edge has gotten better, so we’re look-

ing forward to seeing how we match up."

"We are really ready to come out strong and I

like I haven’t proven myself, yet. I’m

ment. It’s my senior year and I feel

hungry. That’s an understate-

ment after suffering knee injuries early

in the season."

"The thing we learned a lot about our team last year was that we

were very resilient," Adams said. "I

was very proud of our team because

we did take a lot of hits and we kept

having to make adjustments."

A few players are returning

from season-ending injuries that

were listed as starters before last sea-

son. Senior guards Brianna Green and

Whitney Houston were practic-

ing after suffering knee injuries early in the season.

"After last year, I’m more

than hungry. That’s an understate-

ment in my senior year and I feel

like I haven’t proven myself, yet. I’m

just ready to come out strong and I

know this is going to be a good year."

Junior forward Anete

Steinberga was back participating

with the first team after she missed

the final six games of the year.

The Miners finished last

season 16-14 (7-9 in Conference-

USA) to place ninth in the con-

ference standings. UTEP’s season

ended at the hands of the top team in C-USA, Houston, during a quarter-

final game at Memorial Gym when

UTEP hosted its first ever C-USA Tournament.

The Miners will open the season with an exhibition match against St. Mary’s (Texas) at 4:05 p.m. Nov. 5. They have their first regular season match versus Idaho State at 1:05 p.m. Nov. 12 at the Don Haskins Center.

Soccer to host Kick

at University Field.

The game will also be "Breast Cancer Awareness" and "Girls Night Out." Anyone wearing pink will get into the game for free.

At halftime, head coach Kevin

Cross’ mother, Mary Cross, will be

honored at halftime. She is a breast
cancer survivor.

The Miners will end the weekend when they host Rice at 1 p.m. Oct. 9. Anyone that attends the volleyball
game at 7 p.m. Oct. 8 against Mem-

phis will get into that soccer game for free.

Women’s basketball

back on the hardwood

on a team that thrives on such issues.

They showed me a lot of fight, showed me a lot of heart, which really excites me this year be-

cause I learned a lot about their char-

acter last year with what we went through," head coach Krista Adams said.

Recovering from an inju-

ry-filled 2010-11 season, the Miners

had all 16 players participating. Ad-

ems said the team would practice fundamentals for the first few weeks as they did on day one.

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were very resilient," Adams said. "I

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Women’s basketball

back on the hardwood

Cross Country

Reigning runner of the year still looking to improve

Junior Elkana Rotich (right) crosses the finish line at the Lori Fitzgerald Sept. 10 at the Chamizal National Memorial.

BY FRANKIE RODRIGUEZ

Looking completely healthy, junior Elkana Rotich has started this season looking to improve from his sophomore season.

Currently, Rotich leads the way for the men’s team, having earned a third-place finish Sept. 3 at the Lobo Invitational with a time of 25:19. He also finished in fourth place Sept. 10 at the Lori Fitzgerald at 21:42, and attained the gold finish in the men’s 8K title Sept. 17 at the Kachina Classic, clocking in at 25:51.

“After I won at the Kachina Classic, it was nice because so many people were looking to finish first, but it was unfortunate for them because I won it,” Rotich said. “It is nice after you win. Everybody is just looking at you!”

The Kenya native also competed Sept. 30 at the Notre Dame Invitational, which was his biggest test this season. He crossed the line with a time of 24:49, placing 36th overall.

Rotich is expecting more from himself due to the highly intensive training he has been undergoing.

“For this season, we have been training hard, running eighty miles a week, which is great,” Rotich said. People who are familiar with Rotich said he lets his running speak for himself.

“He is a very quiet guy. He does not talk very much,” head coach Paul-Ereng said.

Rotich has noticed major improvements from his body since his arrival at UTEP. He credits Ereng for that.

“I can set that I have developed my cardio, when I was at home, I was not able to run a mile under four minutes. Now I can,” Rotich said.

He is majoring in nursing and he plans to travel back to Africa after graduating.

Despite dealing with injuries, Rotich claimed the league crown last season, which earned him the Conference-USA Male Athlete of the Year and first team All-Conference honors. In 2010, he took two third-place finishes at the Kachina Classic, crossing the finish line with a time of 25:25, and at the Lori Fitzgerald, clocking in at 20:45.

Last year at the Notre Dame Invitational, he came in 22nd with a time of 24:20. He also finished fourth at the Lobo Invitational at 25:14, which earned him C-USA Athlete of the Week honors. He earned a 22nd-place finish at the NCAA Mountain Regional with a time of 30:26. He also placed 32nd with a time of 24:19 at the Pre-National meet, which earned him the league’s athlete of the week for the second time.

“Elkana is a very talented athlete,” Ereng said. “For the last two years, he has been competing with injuries and we are waiting to see how he does this year because he is off to a really good start.”

In 2009, as a freshman, Rotich was named the C-USA Male Freshman of the Year. He came in fourth at the Kachina Classic with a time of 27:02. He also finished fourth at the C-USA Championships with a time of 24:33, and 18th at the Mountain Region Championships crossing the finish line at 30:56.
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One entry per student*. At least 15 blanks must be filled in to be counted or entered for prize. By entering you agree to have your name published in The Prospector (print and online editions).

*You must be a registered UTEP student

Please send or drop off complete entry to:
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