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The Prospector, January 26, 2012

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In President Barack Obama's State of the Union address Jan. 24, he stated plans to double the number of work-study jobs in five years and extend tuition tax credits. He also pushed states to make college more affordable. Last October, Obama announced a change to the Pay as You Earn plan in an effort to make loan repayments easier.

"We can't just keep subsidizing skyrocketing tuition, we'll run out of money," Obama said. "States also need to do their part, by making higher education a higher priority in their budgets. And colleges and universities have to do their part by working to keep costs down."

The president gave a warning that the cost of college will continue to rise and that students will be the ones to pay. "We can't just keep subsidizing sky-rocketing tuition," he said. "States also need to do their part, by making higher education a higher priority in their budgets. And colleges and universities have to do their part by working to keep costs down."

"Let's also remember that "Tuition, immigration hot topics at State of the Union address" is more than a debate," said Louis Southard, chairman of UTEP College Republicans. "It's a real issue that affects students and families."

According to the Project on Student Debt, the average Texas student graduate with $20,919 of debt. "I agree with what Obama is trying to do," said Bernie Medina, senior biology major. "The government is there for the people and sometimes you have no choice but to rely on it."

Republican candidates are facing different views than Obama on how education should be handled at the federal level. According to Gingrich's website, he plans to collect research and data, and see candidates on page 6.
Dr. Natalicio, what does UTEP stand for?

Dear Dr. Natalicio,

What does UTEP stand for? Academic or athletics? Students at large or student athletes? Morals or money? Student development or athletic success?

In recent days, the answers to these questions have become unclear. It is critical these questions be addressed in an open forum, where all students’ voices are heard.

Last week, two student athletes were caught in an alleged drug-related incident when the odor of marijuana was reported to the campus police and where narcotic paraphernalia was found. So far, the punishments for these violations have been only “indefinite suspensions” from their athletic team even though, in an interview Jan. 25 after practice, head coach Keitha Adams admitted “the two players who were involved in the situation were suspended.”

UTEP Athletics and university officials have hidden the cause of their suspension under the general and vague excuse of “violation of team rules.”

We published an article on the incident in the Jan. 24 issue of The Prospector. As expected, it caused quite a bit of controversy around the university and the city of El Paso. It created a media buzz, but due to the university’s obvious efforts to hide the story, we were the only media outlet to confirm the story and publish it.

The method we used to uncover the story was sources that live in Miner Village, key witnesses to the actions of the two athletes and the response of the university police. One of our sources was forced for his role in uncovering the events of that night. This upstanding and outstanding student, who felt it was his obligation to report the commonly known, yet publicly unspoken drug-related problems at the student residential areas, was terminated from his duties as a student employee.

Instead of being rewarded for his courage to speak the truth about this major issue that is affecting students living on campus, his reward was termination. Yet so far, the two athletes have yet to receive anything but a slap on the wrist. If two students not affiliated with UTEP Athletics were caught in the same situation, would they receive the same slap-on-the-wrist punishment? Would university officials have punished the student who released the information?

The night we started contacting UTEP Athletics and other university officials for information on the allegations, we were met with a brick wall. We are by no means saying that the public information officers did not do their jobs—by fulfilling our request to get interviews (well for the most part), most of them were very helpful throughout the long night and day we worked on breaking the story. But surprisingly, university officials were the ones who tried to block us from publishing the story more than the university’s public relations’ personnel. A university employee even accused us of working on the story only because the subjects were student athletes. Whether the athletes or university officials like it or not, student athletes are public figures and their actions are chronicled every day in the media. That is the reason why, most if not all, universities have a separate PR department to handle just sports.

One of the best advantages of being the student newspaper is that we are on campus, so we develop sources in almost every department at the university. Our students work in various offices around campus, live in almost every department at the university, which is more important: the start of this letter come in. As a university, which is more important: academics or athletics? Should athletes be held to the same standard as the general population of students? While there is no doubt UTEP Athletics brings a large amount of money into the university, is that more important than producing students with strong morals? Should athletic accomplishments outweigh education? Students at large should represent UTEP once they graduate and enter the work force.

In your 2011 State of the University address, you stated “Today, we strive to be the university that our students have every right to expect: a university that creates a broad range of educational opportunities for all residents of this region; an institution that fully engages all its students in a collective quest for excellence in all that we do; a university whose graduates are extraordinarily well-prepared to compete successfully with their peers from institutions across the U.S.….indeed across the globe.”

We here at The Prospector, truly believe you mean that, but Dr. Natalicio, we write you this letter to ask if the people who work under you do as well.

Thank you,

The Prospector Editorial Staff
Beyond Jeopardy: putting Watson to work is a hit with students

REBECCA GUERRERO
The Prospector

He is part of a team that contributed to the creation of Watson, a supercomputer that astonished the world when it competed on and won the popular game show Jeopardy and he was also the latest speaker in UTEP’s Centennial Lecture Series, Beyond Jeopardy. Richard Talbot, director of Product Line Management of IBM Power Systems, spoke to UTEP faculty, staff and students about how Watson came to be and the impact its creation could have on the future of technology.

“Watson is not a fancy prop in a science fiction movie. It is a real computer with artificial intelligence capable of responding to Jeopardy questions posed not in binary code, but in natural human language with all of its complications,” UTEP President Diana Natalicio said. “Watson is not only capable of answering such questions, it’s really good at it.”

Watson, named for IBM’s founder Thomas J. Watson, was pitted against two of the most successful contestants in Jeopardy history last February, including Jeopardy legend Ken Jennings. The result left many astounded. Watson not only won, it won by a large margin. Furthermore, Watson did not cheat by getting help through any sort of Internet access; it relied entirely on its own capacity.

“Watson represents an accomplishment that at one point in time we thought impossible to achieve,” Talbot said. “The challenge was to retrieve, analyze and retain massive amounts of information, which here means about a million books, and then come back with accurate answers very quickly.”

Talbot said Watson's capabilities are very different from the Google search engine, because when people use Google they typically receive many answers that need to be sorted through to find the information required. Watson responds to questions quickly and with a high level of confidence that it is the correct answer.

According to Talbot, another characteristic that sets Watson apart is its ability to learn from its mistakes. While on the show Jeopardy, Watson got a few of the questions wrong because of the way Watson phrased the answers. After its feedback let it know that it was guessing incorrectly, it used a system of algorithms to change its strategy and went on to win the game without missing more questions, a feat that has even technical-minded individuals in awe.

“I'm very interested in this subject matter, I'm even taking a class on artificial intelligence this semester,” said Jaime Daniel Peña, junior computer sciences major. “This is the future.”

After Watson’s success on Jeopardy, IBM has challenged itself to dedicate Watson’s capabilities to solving real-world issues beginning with issues in health care.

“Watson represents an informational resource. It is a supercomputer that is able to understand unstructured language and learn from its mistakes. They said they might also be able to expand its knowledge base and eventually become more intelligent than human-kind, throwing us into an apocalyptic situation straight from the big screen,” Talbot said.

Many of the students at the event came to see the super-computer that made headlines after its performance on Jeopardy and to learn what was behind the machine.

“I watched the jeopardy game, so I really wanted to find out what was behind it,” said Hoong Yan See Tao, graduate electrical and computer engineering student. “I think the most exciting part is the things it can do in the future. I mean, they already sold the system to some industries, so the possibilities of how it can actually help human-kind are endless.”

Every student, whether they attended for class credit or because of a personal interest, were able to take something away from the presentation.

“What I really found the most interesting was that this supercomputer can go back and reorganize and use algorithms to correct itself. When you think about it, that is something huge because in structured environments machines aren't able to do that,” said Kathleen Zurifelden, graduate systems engineering student.

Talbot was confident that this kind of technology is going to solve meaningful and significant problems in today's society, and that in a matter of 10 to 20 years, many people will already have benefited from it.

“You'll be using this technology in the near future, and your children will benefit from it as well,” Talbot said.

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**Campus**

**Career fairs bring opportunities to students**

By Rebecca Guerrero

The Prospector

With over 60 local, national and global companies set to attend, the Business & Liberal Arts Career Fair and the Engineering & Science Expo will bring UTEP students a chance to seeking jobs and internships.

“I’m definitely going to attend, because it’s a great opportunity to meet current employees and see if there’s anything I can do to better myself and make myself more marketable in the market,” said Sofia Maragoudakis, senior business major.

The event will be split into two days, the first hosting companies relevant to business and liberal arts, and the second focusing on engineering and science. It will provide students with the chance to present their resumes to representatives from successful businesses, network with working professionals and begin to circulate their names within the workforce.

“I always hear that students don’t want to come to these events because they can simply apply for jobs online,” said Betabe Castro, associate director of the University Career Center. “But it’s so important for them to understand that you don’t have an opportunity to make your case on a piece of paper. We know that employers nationwide use these career fairs as a tool to start identifying potential candidates, and that face to face time is extremely critical.”

A few of the companies booked to attend are local, such as GECU and the Union Pacific Railroad.

Other national companies such as Target and the Coast Guard, and even global organizations such as Alcatel-Lucent, a communications corporation founded in France will be part of the event.

“According to Castro, a major reason why companies visit UTEP is that many students are bilingual. “They know that many of our students are bilingual, an incredible asset to many organizations, and that many of our students are used to working and going to school while maintaining strong academic backgrounds,” Castro said.

Many students may assume that career fairs such as this one are meant only for upperclassmen and graduate students actively seeking jobs and internships. Though that is their main focus, underclassmen are more than welcome to attend as they learn how these types of events work and prepare themselves for the future when they will be ready for the job market.

“Even if you’re a freshman and not ready to apply for a job, you can still go to learn how people network,” said Adriana Melendez, junior pre-education major. “You can see what people wear, what they put on their resumes, what they say to and ask to the employers, and what kind of companies they represent.”

If a student is attending the career fair for the first time, into networking with representatives can be quite intimidating, but the University Career Center advises students to look for the people wearing white ribbons. These are the UTEP alumni that have risen through the ranks within their companies and have returned as representatives.

“It’s very encouraging for students to realize that these people were just like they were a few years back, and it makes them more confident,” Castro said.

“The career center offers students a service to help students organize their resume and practice their interviewing skills. Appointments aren’t necessary and students are encouraged to simply walk-in and request help.”

“Students should be looking for a job up to six months before they graduate,” Castro said. “Because the hiring process at every company takes a while, if you miss the boat, you just have to wait for the next one to come in.”

By Salvador Guerrero

Mexico’s July presidential election may put PRI back in power

**Scripps Howard Foundation Wire**

WASHINGTON – The United States isn’t the only country facing a contentious presidential election this year.

Mexico will elect a new president in July, and some experts think the National Action Party (PAN) will be ousted from office by the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which held power for 71 years before the PAN took over in 2000.

Roderic Ai Camp, professor of the Pacific Rim at Claremont McKenna College, said Jan. 20 that two issues are likely to be important to voters: increasing family income and reducing violence.

He spoke at a forum sponsored by the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars Mexico Institute and the Hispanic Division of the Library of Congress.

“It will be interesting to see what PRI is really proposing that will be different from PAN on two major issues,” Camp said. “One is how do you increase personal income, and how do you reduce violence, therefore increase personal security.”

Religion may be a third issue, Camp said. The Catholic Church has played a major role in politics, coming under fire at times when it has spoken out against officials and pushed democracy in the last 15 years.

“They were critical in urging ordinary Mexicans to vote, both in 1994 and in 2006,” Camp said. He said there is little academic work done on the relationship between politics and religion in Mexico because scholars choose not to explore the subject.

“The church plays two roles. It has always been a critic of neoliberalism,” Camp said. “There is an agreement on human rights. They would stand up for human rights, and they actually practiced this in the 90s. … What is interesting to me is they have been outspoken as they have been. Only a few selective bishops have made very clear statements.”

The country has been plagued by a drug war that has taken thousands of lives. Camp said the problem does not arise just from Mexico but stems from the drug consumption of Americans.

“We are now confronted with the problem of underwriting that drug war that has taken thousands of lives,” Camp said.

CAMP: Members of Congress don’t have the courage to address it. That’s the fundamental issue. If you don’t have the demand, you don’t have the drug problem,” Camp said.

He said nine-percenter of all Americans over the age of 12 use some type of illegal drug.

“Why don’t members of Congress talk about this? Because it is so much easier to say the problem is next door rather than to admit it is a social problem,” Camp said. “We are people consuming the drugs? That is a much more common message.”

The political atmosphere in Mexico has been a tumultuous one the last few decades, with the drug war and the shakeup in presidential elections.

Camp is one of the foremost experts on politics in Mexico and is frequently consulted in the areas of comparative elites, church-state relations and civil-military affairs. Last year, he released three books, “Oxford Handbook of Mexican Politics,” “Mexican Political Biographies” and “Mexico, What Everyone Needs to Know,” that discuss the lives of politicians and topics relating to political institutions.

“In a way it is a synthesis of so much knowledge of Mexico,” said Miguel E. Basáñez, professor at the Fletcher School of Tufts University.

When you look at the structure of the handbook, you can see what is Rod’s brilliance.”

The Career Fair and Expo will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Feb. 2-3 on the 3rd floor of Union Building East at the Thomas Rivera Conference Center.

The Career Fair and Expo will bring more than 60 companies to offer students job and internships from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Feb. 2 and Feb. 3 on the 3rd floor of Union Building East at the Thomas Rivera Conference Center.

For more information, contact the University Career Center at 747-5640.

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amazon.com/textbooks
December of 2010, but was blocked by the Senate, killing the bill. “Many were brought here as small children, are American through and through, yet they live every day with the threat of deportation,” Obama said. “Others came more recently, to study ... but as soon as they get their degree, we send them home to invent new products and create new jobs somewhere else.” That doesn’t make sense the president said. Although Obama called for resurgence in the DREAM Act, he noted that his administration has increased the size of the agents along the border, which could be attributed to the decline of undocumented immigrants crossing.

In a statement released after the State of the Union, he called for a continuation of border security at the federal level and to hold businesses accountable for hiring undocumented workers.

The president ended the segment of the speech with a push for immigration reform that would stop the expulsion of young people who want jobs in the country.

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CANDIDATES from page 1
help find new and innovative ap-
proaches to them be adopted vol-
untarily at the local level.”

“Gingrich seems to be the most vocal about federal aid and wants to reform the loan system,” Southard said. “He wants to make it easier to go to college. Having the government pay for everything hasn’t been working obviously.”

Ron Paul seems to share a similar view as Gingrich. Though his website’s only word on edu-
cation is that the government should do more to support home schooling, he has stated on the campaign trail that he would do away with federal aid completely in an interview with CNN. Paul said “anybody who is ambitious enough will get to go to college.”

“That’s just another way to keep the best interest in favor of high-

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is concerned about a continuation of border security at the federal level and to hold businesses accountable for hiring undocumented workers.

“Time is to stop rewarding businesses that ship jobs overseas, and start rewarding companies that create jobs right here in America. Send me those tax reforms, and I will sign them right away.”

Mortgage
Obama said the plan would save homeowners about $3,000 a year on their mortgage. In order to do this, he said he would place “a small fee on the largest institutions” to give the banks a chance to pay back their bail-out money.

“I'm pretty forget. Millions of Americans who work hard and play by the rules every day deserve a government and a financial system that do the same. It's time to get our economy moving again. As a first step, we need to reduce the costs of borrowing so families and businesses can start creating jobs and expanding their efforts.”

CANDIDATES from page 1

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cut federal aid would have a dra-
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Fernie Medina, sophomore pre-

career major. “If that happened then obviously

tuition prices”.

Both Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum don’t seem to have federal financial aid on their list of issues to overcome. Like Paul, Santorum’s only words on educa-
tion involve home schooling and allowing parents to contribute more to their child’s education. Romney doesn’t mention anything about education in general on his website; nor has he been vocal about it on the campaign trail. “I want the federal government should cut back,” Southard said. “Our country used to be so smart that the quality of education has gone down significantly.”
Cirque Du Soleil returns to the Don Haskins Center

‘Dralion’ puts a unique spin on the elements

BY KRISTOPHER RIVERA
The Prospector

Cirque du Soleil has found a way to make a person fly without wings on multiple occasions and from Feb. 15-19, they will be performing "Dralion" at the Don Haskins Center.

The group is known worldwide for its theatrical performances that have showcased in front of audiences all over the globe in cities such as Paris and Sydney.

Cirque Du Soleil presented "Alegria" during the 2011 season.

This year’s show is titled “Dralion,” a merger of the two main symbols in the show: the dragon representing the east, and the lion of the west.

"Everywhere we’ve been so far the crowds are welcoming ‘Dralion,’ the critics and reviews are very positive, and they enjoy the show,” said Julie Desmarais, Cirque du Soleil publicist.

"It’s a show that appeals to everybody with a lot of energy and the acrobatics are amazing.”

Featured in the concept of the act are the four elements: Air, Earth, Water and Fire. They are told through the point of view of Eastern philosophy, energy and the acrobatics are amazing. "It’s all about human beings performing unreal things,” Desmarais said. “So it’s a unique experience and so far everything has been going well so we just hope that in El Paso it’s the same thing.”

The story of the show is captivated in a very creative and vibrant process that uses a 3,000 year old tradition of Chinese acrobatic arts. It also features 50 international acrobats, gymnasts, musicians and singers.

“We travel with 18 semi-trucks and the show itself weighs about 400,000 pounds,” Desmarais said. “We have an impressive stage and show, which will feature its own choreography, 10 different outstanding acrobatic numbers and a live band that will perform the music for the performers.”

The acrobats will perform in a variety of stunts including aerial ballet, languorous aerial dance, hand balancing, hoop diving and many more.

Jorge Vazquez, executive director of special events, is excited about giving UTEP students a chance to see a show that normally is rooted on Broadway or in Las Vegas.

"(Cirque du Soleil) truly wants to give students the opportunity to see their show. It goes beyond the business aspect,” Vazquez said. "They truly want to expose our students to the art of what they do and they really want to involve students and make them part of Cirque du Soleil.”

UTEP students will be able to buy admission into the show for a price of $25 as compared to the normal public rate, which ranges from $35-$145 before taxes.

“I think $25 is an amazing price," said Perla Hernandez, junior history major. "I’ve personally never experienced a show like the one they offer so I’m super excited about being able to go. I would not miss it for a thing in the world because I know this opportunity doesn’t come around often.”

Audiences will get a glimpse of what happened before Dorothy dropped in into Munchkin Land in “The Wizard of Oz.”

The story exposes the true story of how the notorious Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good Witch of the North met.

Tickets range from $57.50 - $125, and are available online through Ticketmaster.

WITCHES FLY INTO EL PASO
The Untold Story of the Witches of Oz
A “Wicked” story of the witches of Oz is coming to El Paso’s Plaza Theatre.

The Tony Award winning Broadway Musical will have 16 performances from Feb. 1 – 12 and still has tickets on sale.

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More than 120 years after its inception, George Eastman’s contribution to the world is on the brink of corporate extinction. Eastman Kodak, simply known as Kodak, filed for bankruptcy the beginning of January.

Remaining operational, financial woes currently suppressed by Citigroup’s $850 million-dollar financing, Kodak’s corporate restructuring intends to “bolster its digital imaging and imaging products businesses to return Kodak to profitability.”

To this end, Kodak filed lawsuits against Apple, HTC and RIM for infringements on its digital imaging patents and shift entirely into the high-end digital camera market. In the latter part of the century, financial troubles became further publicized when it was revealed that Kodak was at the forefront of the digital revolution.

In 2007, Kodak was found to be infringing on several of the patents held by Nikon. Kodak’s inability to resolve its liabilities and court the company to focus on its most valuable business lines, “according to an official statement.”

Regarded as the pioneer of modern photography and once considered an innovator — being the Apple of its time — Kodak’s unerring decisions, relentless preservation of physical film and its inability to recognize and sustain a cycle of tangible media threatened the final nails in its coffin.

Building their first cassette-based digital camera in 1975, which required 23 seconds to develop a single image and utilizing a customized reader to display photographs in a black and white television, Kodak was at the forefront of the digital revolution.

Nevertheless, Kodak viewed digitalized photography as a direct threat to its business line. Their ignorance in the creation and distribution of film, Kodak’s inherent opposition favored short-term profits over long-term sustainability. Standardizing Hollywood’s 35mm film, Kodak too, must eventually fade away.

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Building their first cassette-based digital camera in 1975, which required 23 seconds to develop a single image and utilizing a customized reader to display photographs in a black and white television, Kodak was at the forefront of the digital revolution.

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Whether it’s appealing to the city, the tradition or style of play, every collegiate program has a different style of recruiting high school athletes for every sport. For the Miners’ softball program, family comes first, because being a part of the roster is like being part of a family of 20 siblings, parented by co-head coaches and spouses James and Kathleen Rodriguez.

Since the program’s inception in 2003, the Rodriguez’ have been at the helm as co-head coaches and the approach to their team is that of a family environment, such that players refer to them as Papa (James) and Mama (Kathleen) coach.

In the spring of 2004, they announced the Miners’ first-ever recruiting class, which was made up of seven freshmen and four junior college transfers. Since then, the message has remained the same: the softball team is a family.

“We’re going to look after them, but they have to be mature and responsible enough to take care of their business as well. They’re here to get an education and play softball at the same time,” James said. “We try and look after them as much as we can, we make sure they’re going to class and we have curfew time in the fall and in the spring.”

For players, the family environment has left an impression and even some of their veteran players still remember how it felt to be recruited by the Rodriguez.

“It’s kind of what it is, we’re a husband and wife coaching team,” James Rodriguez said. “When these girls out of high school are getting ready to go to college and their parents are having to drop them off, sometimes states and thousands of miles away, they want to feel like their kids are going to be taken care of. It’s family oriented.”

The atmosphere created by both coaches has helped them in recruiting players to come to El Paso whether or not they have ever heard of UTEP. Their approach has also helped them keep parents at ease about their child’s time as a student-athlete with the Miners.

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“I took two official trips. When I looked back at the trips that I was taking and the schools that I was looking at online, this was the school that stood out the most,” senior outfielder Courtney Ware said. “Every good memory I had was of El Paso. I really liked the family atmosphere that they have here.”

Senior catcher Chelsea Troupe was one player who wasn’t aware where UTEP or El Paso was located, but after visiting several schools, she simply felt like she belonged as a Miner.

“Mama/papa was the first to call me when we started the recruiting process and I just came out for a visit and fell in love with the family environment,” Troupe said. “I think I was just meant to be here, I just knew that this was the place for me.”

With 18 of the 20 players on the roster being from outside of the El Paso region, stressing a family environment is an important aspect that both coaches and players seem to respond well to.

“In reality, they spend more time with each other than they do with their families back at home. That’s where the family aspect all comes into play,” James Rodriguez said. “We stress family that they need to be there for one another and take care of each other. We’re just kind of leading them in that way.”

With a program that is less than a decade old, getting players to come to El Paso could be a tough task.

“In the beginning, starting the program nine years ago, (it was hard) having people know that there is a softball program here in El Paso. If they had heard of UTEP, they hadn’t heard of UTEP softball,” James Rodriguez said. “So that took a few years to convince people. Since then, it’s just a matter of getting them to El Paso. Once we get them here and see how wonderful it is here it makes it a little bit easier.”
Miners not taking last-place Southern Miss lightly

BY WILLIAM VEGA

Following a perfect start to Conference-USA play at 6-0, the only negative the Miners have possibly encountered was a suspension for two players that may still stand. UTEP played well without them during their last outing and the same could result when the Miners take on Southern Miss Jan. 26 in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

“It’s just another team that we have in conference that we’re ready to go but, of course, it’s hard because it’s on the road and we have to play every team hard,” sophomore forward Kayla Thornton said.

Freshman forward Chirsiona Parker and sophomore guard Ryah Lacy were both suspended by head coach Keitha Adams for breaking team rules for the Jan. 22 home game against Houston. After their first practice following the game Jan. 24, Adams did not comment on whether the two will be at the Southern Miss contest.

Both Adams and Thornton said they were not distracted by the suspension. When asked about The Prospector article that said the two players that were involved in the situation were suspended.”

Eren shorthanded, the Miners had no trouble snapping a six-game losing streak to Houston in a 87-43 victory. Following the win, the team gained some national recognition when they received a vote in both the AP and ESPN/USA Today top-25 poll. It was the first time this season that UTEP received a vote in the AP poll and the second time they received a vote in the ESPN/USA Today. They received two votes back on Dec. 29 after starting the season 10-0.

“It’s good to be seen nationally but we have to keep our head straight and keep doing what we’re doing and keep playing until we reach conference (tournament) and what we’re aiming for,” Thornton said.

The Miners will now turn their attention to a reeling last-place Southern Miss team that has yet to pick up a conference victory at 0-6. During that span, the Golden Eagles have lost to three teams UTEP has already beat in Tulsa (Jan. 5), Houston (Jan. 8) and Memphis (Jan. 18).

The Miners still feel they cannot take Southern Miss for granted as it is still another conference and road game.

“We know that we have to be ready and ready to play. We know Southern Miss is going to play hard, they’re good at rebounding the ball and we’re going to have to play 40 minutes,” Adams said.

While Adams may note that rebounding is the Golden Eagles’ strongest suit, the statistics do not show it. Southern Miss has the second worst rebounding margin and defensive-rebounding total in C-USA, and is the worst offensive-rebounding team in the league.

Just two active players are averaging better than five rebounds a game, led by junior guard Tanecka Carey. On top of her team-high 6.4 rebounds a game, Carey also leads the team in scoring with 16 points per outing. Adams said playing the game at their tempo will be key, especially in the way she’s conducted practice this week. She said she emphasized the team’s press, press breaker and even challenged her offense in five-on-eight, full-court drills.

“We know we have to be ready for Southern Miss. We’ve already gotten in a routine,” Adams said. “We went over their offenses (Jan. 24) and what their gameplan is and (Jan. 25) we’ll do it again so we’re just trying to get prepared before we take off.”

The Miners are in their final stretch, with just 10 games remaining, including the Golden Eagle matchup. The locations for each are split down the middle with five home and five away games left. The Southern Miss game marks the third road game in their last four contests but coming off a home game, both Adams and Thornton feel they are rested and ready to go.

“Tired of winning, we lost last time but we’re back-to-back so it’s kind of a good transfer…and we have a little bit more energy so I think we’re going to do great,” Thornton said.

William Vega may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
Men’s Basketball

Floyd set for rematch with Houston

BY FRANKIE RODRIGUEZ

Following a dismal start on the road, head coach Tim Floyd lectured another page from his coaching book to his players.

“Like coach says: boys play at home, men play on the road,” senior forward Gabriel McCulley said.

The Miners will continue the hunt for their first road win of the season, Jan. 28 when they head to Houston to face the Cougars for the second and last time of the regular season.

“Houston is a good team. We beat them last time we played them and I am sure they are looking for a little payback at home,” McCulley said. “This is not going to be easy at all. We have to really work this week to try and get that win."

The first meeting against conference-foe Houston was Jan. 7 at the Don Haskins Center, which UTEP won 70-50. The Miners had three players score in double-figures led by McCulley’s 22 points, sophomore center John Bohannon’s 14 and 11 boards and freshman guard Julian Washburn’s 19.

UTEP was able to contain the Cougars’ top two leading scorers holding them to eight total points. Sophomore forward Alandise Harris had two points and junior forward Jonathon Simmons finished with six. Not one player from Houston scored in double-figures.

“Their top two leading scorers had 17 points combined in the last three road games. Against Tulane, he shot 40 percent and he finished with only four points. "I have not been aggressive on the road as I have been at home. It is just something about the UTEP fans and the pressure that comes with that," McCulley said.

That is something I am going to have to change. If I want to lead this team, it is going to have to start with me."

Houston is coming off an 82-76 win over East Carolina and both Simmons and Harris scored 19 apiece. UTEP also beat East Carolina 70-56 Jan. 18 at the Don Haskins Center.

“Houston has been the worst defensive team that I have coached," Floyd said. "You can see that on the defensive boards, second chance opportunities, defensive field goal percentage, 3-point field goal percentage for opponents and we are last in the league. Is it quickness, foot speed, inexperience or strength? These are things we are asking ourselves."

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Freshman guard D’Von Campbell flies in for a layup against East Carolina Jan. 18 at the Don Haskins Center.

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This basketball season, a few freshmen have stood out to lead both the men and women to winning records. While the women have the more experienced team, they still have four freshmen. The men have 11 new players, eight of them freshmen. Three of the more notable are (from left to right) forward Julian Washburn, guard Jenzel Nash and forward Cedrick Lang.

Surf & Turf
Valentine’s Day Dinner
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Templeton Suite, Union East

Four Course Meal:
Homemade Caesar Salad
Roasted Tomato Bruschetta
Wild Mushroom Demi Glace
Garlic Dutch Potatoes
Grilled Asparagus

Main Entree Choices:
6 oz. Filet Mignon with Fried Shrimp
6 oz. Chicken Breast with Shrimp Scampi

Complementary glass of wine (Red or White) or a pitcher of Non-Alcoholic Sangria

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