The prospector

Missing in action

Congressional candidates debate, Reyes absent

BY HENRY ARRAMBIDE

The Prospector

Driving down University Avenue or hanging out in Union East, students are encountering a variety of construction sites around campus. UTEP is growing, but with new additions come growing pains for old buildings. On Feb. 28, an email from Union Services to university staff reported that there were water problems on the corner of Randolph and Kerby.

"What happened is a leak developed," said Jorge Villalobos, director of Facilities Services. "We had to go in and repair it, and we actually found two small leaks in the area. Pipes are typically coated to prevent this, what we assume happened was a rock fell on this pipe and damaged the coating and over the years, corrosion developed."

According to the email, repairs were to start March 2 and be done by the end of the weekend. What happened when work began prolonged repairs until April 5.

"When they replaced one section of the line, we didn't realize a little ways up stream there was more damage," Villalobos said. "When they returned pressure to the system, we realized there was more damage, so we decided to keep the site open to repair the line. It's expensive to be digging holes like that, so we decided to capitalize on that."

In a follow up email, Union Services explained the incident and said Facilities Services was working quickly to repair it. No expected completion date was stated in the email.

"I think repairing those things that have been damaged for so long is crucial to keeping these buildings up," said Michael Garcia, freshman microbiology major. "The water pipe incident would probably happen a lot more if the campus is growing."

Villalobos said one of the main concerns during construction was that IT systems are housed in the Union Building West, which need to be kept cool. Facilities went so far as to bring a portable water chiller to Union East in order to keep the campus IT up and running during the repair period.

Garcia said that as a freshman he feels that the construction doesn't get in the way of his schedule too much, but he understands that others might have to put more work in. "I've had professors who have been good about it," he said. "I've been lucky in that way."

"To your far right, at the end of this table, the empty seat that should have Silvestre Reyes seating in it, that represents the status quo. Even though Congress is not in session, Silvestre Reyes could not be bothered to be here with you tonight," said Beto O'Rourke, former city councilman and candidate for Reyes' position. "This is not a singular event. This has happened over and over for a dozen debates and forums. Not only is the seat empty here in El Paso, it is empty in Washington D.C."

A statement released by the Silvestre Reyes' campaign said "unfortunately, due to a previous commitment scheduled before the UTEP University Democrats debate, Congressman Reyes was not able to attend." Ben Mendoza, Jerome Y'ldman, Paul Johnson and O'Rourke participated in the debate held by the University Democrats at the Union Cinema.

The candidates, looking to represent El Paso for 16th Congressional District seat, debated in front of a small audience with no more than 30 people. Mendoza stressed the importance of the U.S. Constitution and the role it should play for every elected official when it comes to representing their district.

see DEBATE on page 8

Activism

Rally for farmworkers

BY REBECCA GUERRERO

The Prospector

International Peasants’ Day Struggle will take place April 17 and the Centro de Trabajadores Agrícolas Fronterizos in El Paso is calling on the community to join them for a food sovereignty call to action rally. Food sovereignty is the right of people to feed, house and advocate for the well-being of their communities.

One of the biggest issues that La Vía Campesina, land grabbing is a global phenomenon led by local, national and transnational investors and governments to control the world’s most precious resources. It has resulted in the concentration of land and natural resources into the hands of large-scale investors, plantation owners, tourism agencies and real estate developers. This has led to the eviction and displacement of the local population, which La Vía Campesina claims is a violation of human rights, an increase in poverty and pollution of the environment.

"Students need to be aware about this movement because it highlights the mobilization happening in this current scenario of the right to life, land, labor, freedom and peace, which historically people of the fields have been excluded from," said Adrian Rivera, president of the UTEP student organization Cultural Artist United for Social Action.

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see RALLY on page 3

see PIPES on page 3
Students win national and statewide recognition

During the annual Texas Intercollegiate Press Association conference, held in early April, students from The Prospector and Minero magazine have recently received national recognition for their work. On March 20, the college media adviser was awarded Miners Magazine a second-place Apple Award for Best Magazine Cover for the spring 2011 issue, designed by Victoria Parillo. The college newspaper Business and Managing Editors’ nomination April 2, The Prospector design students won five awards:

- BEST CATEGORY FOR DISPLAY AD - EARTH WEEK AD
- BEST BLANK AND WHITE AD - 3rd place
- MAIL SERVICES
- Nicole Chavez, Greg Castillo
- BEST DISPLAY AD CAMPUS - 3rd place
- MINER VILLAGE
- Esteban Marquez, Yasmin Marquez, Javier Villanueva
- BEST ONLINE NEWS PUBLICATION HONOR - 3rd place
- QR CODE HEADS
- Esteban Marquez

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“Occupied Best Buy”

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UPTEC creates task force to help engage community

By Lorain Watters

Community engagement and international collaboration have been made a top priority by UT El Paso Provost James Gamboa, through the creation of two task forces that aim to increase the academic experiences for students, faculty and staff.

“These two task forces were brought up because of the growth trajectory, both the quantity and quality of things going on - it is very exciting,” Gamboa said. “It’s time to focus, however, so as not to lose the strength of community and engagement, to present the task force and then to the provost.”

The task force for community engagement was created to promote a major involvement of the university with the border community. Members of the task force have the responsibility of recommending ways to achieve this goal.

“Task force members were chosen for their experience and passion around community engagement,” said Kate Bonansinga, co-chair for the task force and director of the Abilene and Gerald Burton Center for the Visual Arts. “One will be charged with the task of assessing how UPTEC is currently succeeding at engaging community, and the other will analyze this data and write recommendations for increased community engagement to be presented to the task force and then to the provost.”

More specifically, efforts are being made to involve the campus community with the border region in order to help them increase their social capital, as well as attract other components to stimulate the region – such as employment and tourism.

“This is a complicated area. Our plan consists of regional economic development, for example,” Gamboa said. “Social capital is a critical component of economic development and even a way of life. UPTEC is a clear and prime driver of economic development.”

However, even with the increased efforts of the task force in engaging the community, there are still students who are unfamiliar with these efforts.

“These task forces seem like a good idea to bring people in and get people to understand that there is more around UTEP than they think. The only problem is getting students in the know,” said Brian Johnson, junior psychology major. “People are just in school and feel like they have to be here. Community engagement seems like a good way to involve the students.”

The second task force deals with global might or increasing the international collaboration with UPTEC’s partners around the world, which include Chile, Spain, Mexico, Italy, Kenya, Korea, Brazil, China and Indonesia.

“We have international faculty, staff and students, and we are looking to expand our impact and our message strategically,” said William Robertson, assistant provost and associate professor of education. “We envision the task force expanding to have affiliate networks that will include academic, faculty, staff and community members. It will address the expansion and development of international education and community activities that promote the enrichment of the international academic experiences.”

With 16 members on the committee, primarily made up of UPTEC staff and faculty, students are welcome to join and represent the student body on campus, and in the community at an international level.

“We put out a call through Student Affairs for student members, and we have one student member on the task force,” Watters said. “Students are welcomed to be involved or provide suggestions by contacting the co-chairs or any other member of the group.”

D.C. police arrest two occupiers in front of Bank of America

By Salvador Guerrero

WASHINGTON – Two members of the Occupy Washington movement were arrested early yesterday morning by the Washington park police in front of the Capital One Building, the headquarters of the bank.

Haris Ntabakos, 30, and Rodolfo Roberts, 45, were given three warnings in the sidewalk不去的OCU and later arrested. Protesters have been present down the street, which has become a legal area.

“Some of the conditions they needed to be or be arrested. Most of the Occupiers climbed and packed up their gear, but Ntabakos and Roberts decided to stay put and get arrested.”

“Let’s see how things go before they start talking to the people walking by,” Ntabakos said to a crowd of occupiers.

A dozen officers waited for a little over an hour before they were given the order to arrest the two Occupy protesters at 8 a.m.

James Hill, 45, who has been with Occupy since the December 11th night, said for two nights they have slept in the front of the bank, which he said does not break any laws.

“Since the park police raided us on Feb. 5, many of the Occupy DC skaters, who are sleeping on the sidewalks, are not returning,” Hill said. “Since that time, we’ve worked with the organizers and talked to our lawyers, and sleeping on the sidewalk in D.C. is not against the law.”

Hill said theaful protest movement has spread to other cities through social media.

He said members of the Occupy New York movement found a court ruling that protects sleeping as a form of speech. They have been held in a 2006 case in federal court in New York, which is continuing to talk about the foreclosure protests.

Alkridge, the company that manages the building where the bank of America branch is located, released a statement saying it was pleased that the protesters had been removed. The statement said Alkridge officials had met with bank officials and police.

The statement said police were in contact with the company that officers will continue to patrol the area.

A D.C. police spokesman said the department would have more information later in the day about the next step in the situation.

Three and a half hours later Ntabakos was released and went back to the corner of Vermont Avenue and 1st Street to continue protesting. Ntabakos said he has an April 26 court date.

“I told them I plan on getting arrested until every single one of us has been because I’m not breaking any laws,” Ntabakos said. “When I tell them that, they just laugh at me and go.”

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YOU GAVE US YOUR INPUT AND WE LISTENED.
HERE ARE SOME OF THE CHANGES/IMPROVEMENTS MADE ON CAMPUS BECAUSE OF YOU.

Leadership: Expanded current and implemented new Student Leadership Development Programs to include the creation of the UTEP 21st Century Scholar Program.

Activities: Expanded the Outdoor Adventure Program to include trips to Ski Apache, Guadalupe Mountains, Big Bend National Park, Aguirre Springs and Hueco Tanks.

Housing: Selected a nationally recognized architectural firm to design the next phase of on-campus housing in response to student’s desire for more undergraduate and graduate housing on-campus.

Programming: Increased programming in the areas of disability awareness, diversity and cultural awareness including facilitating “International Day of Persons with Disabilities”, “Festival of Lights” and “National Day of Silence.”

Fitness: Increased and expanded fitness programs to include offering Spinning, Zumba, Pilates & Climb Fit classes at the time of day that students have requested.

Union: Increased attention on cleanliness of bathrooms in the Union.

Student Publications: Created a comprehensive marketing campaign to promote “special editions” of Minero Magazine and The Prospector including the websites that included increased tabling and give-aways such as free food and a chance to win an iPad2.

Copy Center: Improved the process for preparing course packs. Implemented training for better customer service.

Safety of Students: Expanded the information available to students regarding campus safety and emergency response through the Student Safety Website.

Student Business Services: Redesigned training to be more customer-service oriented. Adjusted staffing to meet customer demand. Currently redesigning the website, based on comments from surveys.

Special Events: Implemented training for better customer service. Used student feedback about interests to plan events. Installed new signage and improved appearance of facilities.

Parking and Transportation: Implemented training for better customer service. Created more parking capacity with the new garage opened in January. Shared student responses with Sun Metro to implement bus route from far East El Paso.Currently re-designing the website.

Bookstore: Implemented a Rent-a-Text Program. Initiated new program to cross-train Bookstore associates to improve customer service. Opened a ticket center at the Bookstore. Adding more cashiers.

Miner Gold Card: Used student feedback to select design of the new Miner Gold Card. Implemented training for better customer service. Implemented standards for professional appearance of employees.

STUDENTS TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT YOUR CAMPUS AND GIVE US YOUR OPINION.

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*SURVEY IS OPEN TO ALL UTEP STUDENTS.
DEBATE from page 1

Getting the best education is one of the most important topics facing the nation, especially in El Paso.

“Today’s economy is not only a competitive economic environment but a competitive environment for workers,” Johnson said. “It’s a travesty today that our candidates are not talking about how we can improve our education system.”

Johnson also advocated for a new strategy to help people pay their college debt until they graduate. “I believe that the government should help you pay your college debt until you graduate,” Johnson said. “That would allow more time for them to find a job related to their major before they had to pay their loans off.”

Johnson also discussed the importance of small businesses in the economy. “Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and we need to support them,” Johnson said. “We need to be invested in quality education so that every child has the opportunity to attend college.”

Johnson said that the V.A. system was also a priority. “We need to be invested in quality education so that every child has the opportunity to attend college,” Johnson said. “We need to be invested in quality education so that every child has the opportunity to attend college.”

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Concerts

The Prospector will be at the next concert, stop by The Prospector to leave your good-bye message.

MESSAGES WILL BE PUBLISHED ON OUR GRADUATION ISSUE ON MAY 3RD.

stop by 105 uson any time from Monday, April 16 to Monday, April 30, between 9 a.m. to noon and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

the prospector reserves the right to edit any messages it deems inappropriate, please write clearly and concisely of others.

any overlapping messages will be included.

For a return address, step by step by The Prospector to leave your good-bye message.

price hopes to overcome injuries, offensive line issues

by rebecca wood

the UTEP athletics and rugby programs hope to become acquainted again in their doubleheader April 28.

“it goes all the way back to 1974. when the members of the rugby program came here from new zealand and the Miners would have a rugby team on and off the field,” says Richard Atkinson’s absence was felt when three offensive linemen—sophomore guard Andrew Martinez, senior center Eloy Atkinson and senior tackle James Nelson were among four players, are also looking forward to getting back to C-USA play was already in its last three games, has been struggling to consistently deliver good performances, has been asking about it, since they have averaged four runs each game. during the whole season, Nevada is batting worse than the Miners but have a much harder time getting on base, leading Miner bats were silenced. Sophomore utility Kayla Black said. “I can’t wait for our offensive line coaches, Andi O’connor and Justin Butler, to get back to C-USA play. We have a lot of experience back and we’re excited to go head to head.”

miners are still have a lot to play for. “we have a special place in our heart for the Miners and we think (winning rugby back) would be extremely important,” Mirena said. “we have a lot of experience right now going to UTEP on the Crusaders’ biggest rival and we’re probably looking forward to playing rugby next year. A lot of us have been asking about it, so we’ll be going to UTEP. Me and the Miners do a team getaway the team bold forward is playing small ball. just 27.7 percent of the Miners have homered, whereas the Wolfpack are batting worse than the Miners but have a much harder time getting on base, leading Miner bats were silenced. Sophomore utility Kayla Black said. “I can’t wait for our offensive line coaches, Andi O’connor and Justin Butler, to get back to C-USA play. We have a lot of experience back and we’re excited to go head to head.”

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UTEP is simply the best of our efforts to create a proper atmosphere— a brass band. “i was working for a place below Minnie, and he got me a job,” Park said.

(rugby) and i said yes, but i didn’t expect we’re going to have a rugby team again because of the successful past and the talent from the city. “we have such a strong high school program now that we feel it necessary to get the UTEP team going again,” Park said. “the collegiate program is very strong in the United States. In the local area, such as New Mexico State, the University of New Mexico and New Mexico Tech all have a team, and we’re having interest in it that’s increasing.”

“there’s no need to get the (rugby) team back into existence right now, but i think it’s a step that they’re starting to talk about. i think rugby back would be extremely important,” Mirena said. “we have a lot of experience right now going to UTEP on the Crusaders’ biggest rival and we’re probably looking forward to playing rugby next year. A lot of us have been asking about it, so we’ll be going to UTEP. Me and the Miners do a team getaway the team bold forward is playing small ball. just 27.7 percent of the Miners have homered, whereas the Wolfpack are batting worse than the Miners but have a much harder time getting on base, leading Miner bats were silenced. Sophomore utility Kayla Black said. “I can’t wait for our offensive line coaches, Andi O’connor and Justin Butler, to get back to C-USA play. We have a lot of experience back and we’re excited to go head to head.”

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of their hits have stretched into extra bases or home runs. Their 19 home runs this season are not only 11 less than UTEP’s total, but are outmatched by senior utility Camilla Carrera’s NCAA-leading 24. Carrera is currently 13 away from breaking the NCAA’s single-season home run mark.

DiNapoli mentioned that the team’s youth is a key aspect. “(Rugby) is a much needed thing because it would give everyone a chance to play the sport, as that form of the game is popular in rugby nations such as New Zealand, Australia and South Africa. The only opponents the Wolfpack have on their schedule that UTEP doesn’t, too, is NMSU, which they will play in a three-game series April 13-14 in WAC play. Price added that Jeffery can be the type of running back to carry a heavy load, if needed, next season. “He doesn’t look as big as he is because he’s got those skinny legs, but he’s 205, he’ll be 210 pounds,” Price said. “He’s a heavy-duty running back, he’s a good 20 (carries) a game guy.”

In addition to looking for a new game running with their three starters from last year graduated, the team also welcomed two new assistants in safeties coach Tom Williams and offensive line coach and former UTEP All-American tight end Brian Natkin. As the Miners now take time off the field, they will await for drills Aug. 6 at Camp Socorro.

Price was pleased with the way things went throughout the spring and said players are focused on the season to come. "The 2012 schedule includes a season opener against Oklahoma Sept. 1 at home, a road contest against SEC foe Ole Miss the next week and a matchup with last year’s Big 10-champion Wisconsin Sept. 22 in Madison. "I think the emphasis with our schedule the way it is has been great because kids took it serious," Price said. "They worked really hard, they need to prepare just like they’re playing Oklahoma, I mean everyone.” Sophomore running back Nathan Jeffery missed seven practice sessions with a knee injury, but returned in time to prepare for the Blue and White Game. Jeffery-solidified his role as the starter with a 122-yard performance in the Spring Game. "We need to prepare just like they’re playing Oklahoma, I mean everyone.” Sophomore running back Nathan Jeffery missed seven practice sessions with a knee injury, but returned in time to prepare for the Blue and White Game. Jeffery-solidified his role as the starter with a 122-yard performance in the Spring Game. "He doesn’t look as big as he is because he’s got those skinny legs, but he’s 205, he’ll be 210 pounds," Price said. "He’s a heavy-duty running back, he’s a good 20 (carries) a game guy.”

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