GATE ACCESSIBILITY
DISABLED STUDENTS FIND ALTERNATIVES ONTO CAMPUS

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

BY SABRINA NÚÑEZ
The Prospector

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

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

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

Bill Dethlefs, director of the Center for Accommodations and Support Services, said the gate to the east side of University Avenue will close to thru-traffic around May 20. A gate will remain at the western side of the University Avenue entrance and will continue to allow pedestrian traffic and bike traffic flow.

"As the various phases of the campus transformation proceed, it will change as to where they will go. In the near future, when they're going to start the excavation of University Avenue, Hawthorne will be dead-ended roughly where the Administration Building is," Dethlefs said. "The plan is to construct a turn around for the Lift and Project Amistad, so that will be an inner-campus drop-off point and there will be several points along West University Avenue as well as Wiggins (Street) and Rim (Road)."

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

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

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

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

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

Graduate student and history major, Daniel Romero said problems with parking on campus led him to approach state senators to create SB-see GATES on page 3

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

Melissa B. Austin, poet

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

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

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

Melissa B. Austin, poet
The fascination of coming out

BY ANDRES RODRIGUEZ

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

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

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

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

There was also, for example, a surge of media coverage that Alan Gendreau received weeks leading into their sexual orientation. I’m thinking of Frank Ocean and Anderson Cooper, for example, respectable figures in their own fields that saw a rise in popularity after coming out.

I feel these are facile bandwagon attempts at supporting a fashionable movement.

When I read responses that speak to Collins’ courage, their status as a pioneer, but I felt these are facile bandwagon attempts at supporting a fashionable movement.

I feel these are facile bandwagon attempts at supporting a fashionable movement.

I feel these are facile bandwagon attempts at supporting a fashionable movement.

Although a pragmatic stance, I find prejudice may not completely disarm prejudice, but it’s a good place to start. This nearly brought me to tears because it made me believe in a brighter future for myself, but then I thought about the films’ screenplay, a great one at that, compared to some of the other nominated screenplays. “WALL-E” and “Frozen River,” and just couldn’t see Lance Black winning.

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

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

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

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

All to say that we should recognize gay athletes, gay artists and gay figures of the LGBTQI community for their contributions to their fields and not for simply being an underrepresented minority.
1061, a bill that states that persons with disabilities may park in designated areas without the purchase of a parking permit from the university.

“This law is going to wipe away all the fees associated with parking in disabled parking spots, not only for UTEP, but for every university and every school in Texas. It’s going to affect thousands,” Romero said. “I found the policy on campus to be very discriminatory and very biased towards disabled persons and veterans, so that’s why I got with my legislative senators and we introduced this bill.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sabrina Nuñez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
Organizing the event for the first time, Sarah Walker, senior English and American literature major, said that it has been a very exciting process.

"Thanks to the funding that came entirely by donation and sponsorships from various community/UTEP organizations and major sponsors such as the UTEP Alumni Association, El Paso Sun City Pride and Rio Grande Adelante, we have been able to make this event a success," Walker said.

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

"I love the fact that different performers and speakers have volunteered to appear at Rainbow Graduation each year," Risch said. "It’s one of my favorite parts of the evening, along with the look of accomplishment and pride on the faces of the graduates as they receive their rainbow tassels."

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

"I am excited and so very honored to be performing at this event," Austin said. "College is often a time for young queer people to really explore their identities and to connect with like-minded people."

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

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

"It is not only important to have this annual event for graduating seniors, but it’s also necessary for the LGBTQI community to become more prominent through events like these," said Abril Perez, senior English and American literature major. "A visible LGBTQI community is crucial for the survival, both emotionally and physically, of individuals who identify as such. The Women’s Studies program is hosting this graduation reception to provide students not only with a safe space to celebrate academic achievements, but most importantly to celebrate the truest and most open versions of ourselves."

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

Andrea Acosta may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
The Network, a restaurant with the tagline “Where Professionals Play” located on 317 East Mills Ave., is offering El Pasoans the feel of classic authenticity with the taste of modern contemporary gourmet.

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

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

Montes opened The Network with the help of two close friends, Joe Hernandez, co-owner and Angela Feathers, an El Paso real estate agent. Hernandez, who had known Montes for 20 years in the restaurant business, was living in Boston, Mass., at the time and it only took one flight to convince him to run the then-prospective business.

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

After purchasing and creating a contract, Montes and his business partners renovated the building. Holes in the walls, old plumbing and redoing the floors were the biggest projects, which took about four months to complete. The owners said the biggest feature and accomplishment are the polished bricks on the walls. Fulfilling the dream even inspired Montes to do more. He added a lounge in the back, The Red Room, which is used for private events.

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

- Frank Montes, owner of The Network

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

At night, The Network transforms from an ambient daytime restaurant to a lively bar, usually featuring local musicians of different genres including jazz, rock, indie and electronica.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

YOU + the prospector + IN A PHOTO = FREE Neon Desert TICKETS
On Tuesdays they offer $2 tacos, tequila and Tacos. Thursdays are well known for the $5 burgers with various types of mediums, seven artists hang their work on the signature brick walls. According to Montes, some of the art changes, but larger pieces stay, while some are for sale.

What matters most to The Network is contributing in some way to the growing downtown scene. “I just want El Paso and downtown to grow and we’re right there,” Montes said. “We could taste it, we could feel it, we’re almost there and I want to be a part of it.”

For more information, visit The Network’s facebook page, facebook.com/TheNetworkEP or their website at thenetwork.ep.com.
KAMAIYO SET FOR FINAL SHOWDOWN

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

BY EDWIN DELGADO

The Prospector

May 2, 2013

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

Kamaiyo, who did not compete in the 2012 outdoor season due to injuries, came out strong in her last outing. This season, she started with a chance because I knew the track and had done good competing one week prior to the Drake Relays. I knew I was going to do good because I was ready for it.”

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

She competed for two years, including one in college, prior to the Drake Relays. I knew the track and had done good competing one week prior to the Drake Relays. I knew I was going to do good because I was ready for it.”

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

“She is going to do good because I was ready for it.”

Kamaiyo was going to do good because I was ready for it.”

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

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

—Erika Arcuri, junior outfielder

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

—Erika Arcuri, junior outfielder

outfielder.

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

The Miners will also be looking to end an 18-game losing streak. The Herd is currently tied for fourth in conference USA with East Carolina and Mississippi Grizzlies series is tied at two — it is really difficult to imagine the Thunder overcoming the loss of Westbrook and challenging the Spurs in the West. The experience of the Spurs, Tim Duncan and veteran coach Greg Popovich, will prove to be too much for a young, but injury-ridden team.

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

Judging from the early play in the first round in the Eastern Conference, the one team that might give Miami trouble are the New York Knicks. The Knicks have pushed their first 50-win season in more than 10 years, led by Carmelo Anthony and Amar’e Stoudemire. With the additions of veteran players Tyson Chandler and Jason Kidd, the Knicks have greatly improved their roster with experienced players like Carmelo Anthony and Amar’e Stoudemire. With the additions of veteran players Tyson Chandler and Jason Kidd, the Knicks have greatly improved their roster with experienced players.

The Western Conference side is a bit more complicated. The Thunder and the San Antonio Spurs have separated themselves from the rest of the pack as the top two seeds in the conference, with everyone else fighting for the other six seeds. Two of the major storylines from the Western Conference have been San Antonio first-round sweep of the Lak- ers, who were without Kobe Bryant. Prior to the playoffs, Bryant suffered a torn Achilles tendon and is expected to miss six to nine months. The top-seeded Thunder has looked good and currently holds a 3-1 edge on the Houston Rockets. However, the loss of point guard, Russell Westbrook, has put the team preventing the Heat from repeating as champions?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The probability that we will see a Spurs/Thunder rematch in the Western Conference finals has dramatically decreased with Westbrook’s injury. With other young teams playing well—the Golden State Warriors have the Denver Nuggets in a three-game series, while the Los Angeles Clippers/Memphis Grizzlies series is tied at two — it is really difficult to imagine the Thunder overcoming the loss of Westbrook and challenging the Spurs in the West. The experience of the Spurs, Tim Duncan and veteran coach Greg Popovich, will prove to be too much for a young, but injury-ridden team.
CONCLUDE from page 7

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

The Miners hope to keep Marshall pitcher, Andi Williamson, from repeat performance of last season, in which she set a school record with 14 strikeouts against the Miners. For Arcuri the key to success against Williamson will be patience. "We definitely need to be disciplined at the plate and not chase at any high pitches," Arcuri said. "We really need to just stay focused from the first pitch to the last pitch."

Despite the Miners falling short from participating in the Conference USA Tournament, senior infielder Kayla Oranger, said that the team will continue to fight until the final out. "I think we're just going to go into this Marshall series and just play as hard as we can and leave it all on the field," Oranger said. "It's our last series, our last game for me and my fellow seniors. Hopefully we can leave on a good note."

Arcuri, an advertising and graphic design major, said it is important to reflect on the positive aspects from this season despite what the Miners' overall record is. "I think that one of the positives that will come out of this season will be that next year we're going to know that we will have to work so much harder than we did this year," Arcuri said. "Now that we're the underdogs, we're going to have something to really strive for."

For Oranger, a business management major, this season may not have produced the outcome that the team had hoped for, but she said it is important to reflect on all the positive things that came out of it. "The outcomes of the games have not gone our way but we've hung with a lot of good teams," she said. "We've shown a lot of heart and we're never going to give up."

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

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

USA TOURNAMENT, senior infielder Kayla Oranger, said that the team will continue to fight until the final out. "I think we're just going to go into this Marshall series and just play as hard as we can and leave it all on the field," Oranger said. "It's our last series, our last game for me and my fellow seniors. Hopefully we can leave on a good note."

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

Despite the Miners falling short from participating in the Conference USA Tournament, senior infielder Kayla Oranger, said that the team will continue to fight until the final out. "I think we're just going to go into this Marshall series and just play as hard as we can and leave it all on the field," Oranger said. "It's our last series, our last game for me and my fellow seniors. Hopefully we can leave on a good note."

Arcuri, an advertising and graphic design major, said it is important to reflect on the positive aspects from this season despite what the Miners' overall record is. "I think that one of the positives that will come out of this season will be that next year we're going to know that we will have to work so much harder than we did this year," Arcuri said. "Now that we're the underdogs, we're going to have something to really strive for."

For Oranger, a business management major, this season may not have produced the outcome that the team had hoped for, but she said it is important to reflect on all the positive things that came out of it. "The outcomes of the games have not gone our way but we've hung with a lot of good teams," she said. "We've shown a lot of heart and we're never going to give up."

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

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