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The Prospector, April 29, 2014

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The Prospector

A sense of inspiration in the workspace is necessary when it comes to producing art. However, at the Fox Fine Arts Center, students say they lack inspiration due to the lack of technological equipment and the deterioration of the building.

"Every artist wants their workspace to be their home—a place where we can be inspired, a place to create, an environment where we feel appreciated for what we do," said Veronica Chaparro, senior art major. "It's hard to do so when the walls are so dingy, colors are bland, the equipment is falling apart and being aware that ceiling tiles are crumbling. It's heartbreaking, really."

Chaparro said that it isn't that the building isn't being maintained, but that it's outdated. It needs more than a facelift and needs to be renovated inside and out.

"Our professors and maintenance crew do their best to keep it all clean, but the building needs more than a paint job," Chaparro said. "We've had a major leak in the sculpture room, where all the electrical equipment is kept, and many students were slipping on the floor and feared being electrocuted."

According to Robert Moss, vice president for the Environmental Health and Safety Department, nothing has been reported to him that concerns mold, leaks or the crumbling of tiles at the Fox Fine Arts Center.

"Our department is always on the lookout for any type of circumstances that put the students' life in danger and the campus as a whole," Moss said. "If it's not, then we go ahead and approximate the square feet that have been affected. Lastly, if it is something that is out of our hands, we contact and hire a contractor, in order to remediate, and can come in and help improve the damaged area."

People from out of town, professionals and faculty and staff from other universities, have constantly expressed their opinion on the buildings and say that we are very lucky to have what we have here.

Despite circumstances, art students continue to excel

"People from out of town, professionals and faculty and staff from other universities, have constantly expressed their opinion on the buildings and say that we are very lucky to have what we have here."

- Cristina Moreno, senior ceramics major

see ART on page 10

Illustration by Diego Burciaga / The Prospector
Art: the tragic end

BY JAVIER CORTEZ
The Prospector

When it comes to administering what is and is not art, things are not as simple as some think. You have to consider the perspective that any and everything can be art or you are the exact opposite.

I am of the opinion that very little is art. In fact art is one of the most undauntingly human activities known to mankind. The act of art is a strict discipline the gos unnoticed and finds its way into our hearts, soul or minds.

One thing that needs to be understood is that entertainment is not art. Although entertainment might range and vary on what someone thinks is entertainment, the intention is always the same. True art is never made to entertain people. It either does or doesn’t.

If you try to create art to entertain then the point of making art has been lost. Miley Cyrus, by today’s standard, is a great entertainer, but she is not an artist. Her music does not have any authenticity, originality or substance.

Even what we call art today is not art. When we inculcate and subjugate the masses into thinking that art can be done as a profession and you can gain monetary value it actually devalues the whole meaning of creating art. It is an expression of self and nothing more.

Raphael, Van Gogh and Michelangelo made nothing in vain. It was not a popularity contest, and fame was not a virtue in their time. Artistic credit since there is a new Batman, but we can’t give him any hero known to man.

Miley Cyrus might have tried to show of artistry and merit. Everything stems from something—original thought is long gone. Miley Cyrus might have tried to sound original as possible on her latest album, but Cristina Aguilera did the same thing more than a decade ago and Madonna did more than 20 years ago.

Christan Bale did an excellent job as Batman, but we can’t give him any artistic credit since there is a new Batman movie made every 10 years. The same goes for Superman and Spiderman and every other fictions superhero known to man.

In summation, art is dead.

Javier Cortez may be reached at theprospectordaily@email.uccs.edu.
Escena artística crece en la región fronteriza

POR CASSANDRA ADAME
The Prospector

Al ver la ciudad, repleta de espacios vacíos, edificios y calles arruinadas, los artistas ven en ella un lienzo en blanco. Galerías pop-up, murales y pintura de aerosol en la lata refugian la ciudad.

Kerry Doyle, directora del Stanlee & Gerald Rubin Center for Visual Arts, dijo que ciudades en estas circunstancias son idóneas para el desarrollo de los artistas.

“La ventaja para ellos de que haya edificios abandonados, es que pueden entrar y empezar una galería, sin negoc- cio, sin tener realmente nada de capi- tal”, Doyle dijo.

No todas las galerías son de carácter permanente. Existen otro tipo de galerías que tienen la finalidad de ser más espontáneas, accesibles e informativas. Pop-up galleries es el nombre que se les da a este tipo de galerías. Estas galerías abren por unos cuantos meses o incluso días para después cerrar. Todo lo que se necesita es un espacio libre para artistas de todas las disciplinas que lleva un año abierto al público. Esta galería pretende ser permanente y salido y domingo ofrece espacio gratuito para que los artistas puedan vender sus piezas.

“Yo nací en El Paso, pero a los doce me fui a Albuquerque”, Patiño dijo. “Entonces visitaba otros lugares donde habían galerías y me fasciné: algún día quiero poner una galería”.

Patiño comenta que a su regreso a El Paso observó que si había arte, pero los artistas no se conocían.

“Estarías todos desparramados, entre todos los artistas tenían problemas y nadie los organizaba”, Patiño dijo.

Actualmente, Rock House se siente afortunado con el público que ha encontrado con sus murales y pintura de aerosol en lata. Florida cree que la clave está en que los artistas, o la presencia de los artistas, tienen en la economía de una ciudad y necesitamos rehabilitar el lugar. Las gallerías pop-up permiten de manera más suel- ma y a rehabilitar el lugar. Las gallerías son más interesantes para el visitante y ofrecen arte a precios más económicos.

El estudiante de tercer año de educación de arte, Theron Smith, dijo que la intervención de los artistas en una ciudad favorece plenamente su economía. En el libro “The Rise of the Creative Class” (el ascenso de los artistas creativos) de Rich- ard Florida, se documenta el efecto que los artistas, o la presencia de los artistas, tienen en la economía de una ciudad. Florida cree que la clave está en que los artistas, o la presencia de los artistas, tienen en la economía de una ciudad.

“Creo que es muy emocionante para El Paso tener varias galerías surgiendo en el centro”, Patiño dijo. “Es muy interesante que los artistas se den cuenta de que hay un interés en la ciudad y necesitamos rehabilitar el centro. Poniendo galerías ahí, hace del centro un lugar fresco e interesante donde estar, especialmente para gente joven. Para el pleno desarrollo de ideas y la cultura en general, es necesario que las personas tengan puntos de reunión.”

Miguel Patiño, veterano de guerra de 47 años, es dueño de la galería Rock House Cafe & Gallery, espacio libre para artistas de todas las disciplinas que lleva un año abierto al público. Esta galería pretende ser permanente y salido y domingo ofrece espacio gratuito para que los artistas puedan vender sus piezas.

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A blank white wall is slashed angrily with red paint. The wall seems to bleed through the jagged sharp lines. Crimson roses erupt from the center and have been delicately placed atop the jagged lines to create a soft contrast.

On the floor below, people walk through the low-hanging vines of black wires that hold glowing red objects at their ends. The objects give an eerie Kubrick quality to the Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center for the visual arts and are the opening piece of Maximo Gonzalez’s exhibit “Magnificent Warning.”

The exhibit was showcased last year and was the inspiration for the name behind the Maximo Art Society, a UTEP student organization that focuses on creating networking and exposure opportunities for artists.

According to Francisco Melendez, senior graphic design major and event planner for MAS, Maximo represented the ideals the organization wanted to base in themselves.

"Maximo had just come in and we had been very inspired by him. He knows what it’s like to be a beginning artist," Melendez said. "He was just very inspirational and we kind of just wanted to base ourselves on those ideas."

Jorge Murillo, senior graphic design and metals major and president of MAS, said the organization started last year by a group of friends that wanted to make art students more known in the UTEP community.

"It was a group of us that were interested in having an art group because we felt a little left out," Murillo said. "We wanted to make the art student more present in the university."

One of the goals of the organization is to develop professional opportunities for its members through exposure.

"What we want the members to take is to be able to be exposed to the professional world, allowing them to experience the real world for artists," Melendez said.

MAS has attempted to do this by providing workshops for its members, showcasing their work in galleries and by exposing members to professional artists.

Last year, MAS members were able to showcase their work in a Chalk the Block gallery, an event in which artists create murals out of chalk on the sidewalk. According to their website, the event has drawn in 30,000 people annually and premiered over 200 artists.

"Chalk the Block was the first big event and we let other people in El Paso know about us," Murillo said. "We had a gallery space and E.P. natives were able to see student work."

This year, MAS led the Salon de Refuses, a gallery that showcased the work of students who did not get into the Annual Juried Student Arts Exhibition at the Rubin Center.

"For people that didn't make it into the student art show, we helped them get into this makeshift student gallery at the fox fine arts to still get that exposure," Melendez said.

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Psychology major spray paints the city like a canvas

By Lorain Watters

The Prospector

Two giraffes share their last kiss as they are set on fire, while a panda tied to a multi-colored balloon floats over pyramids. The sky is filled with pink planets, swirling with yellow and blue gases, as a peacock walks by and says, “Keep it real.”

The world of Joseph Peterson, senior psychology major, is grandiose with color, coming alive on concrete walls, street signs and canvases, with an assortment of spray cans.

Peterson creates these quirky abstractions to be visually appealing for city dwellers.

“I have always been attracted to street art, it’s interesting. While walking about, it makes the normal different, like when you’re walking and you see stickers on stop signs or a wall with a stencil,” Peterson said. “It’s just odd. It’s like a Batman or Spiderman of art—you never see them do it, it just appears.”

Influenced by Henri Matisse, Banksy, Jean-Michel Basquiat and David Choe, Peterson uses epigrams of these artists and their styles by making his own stencils to spray paint on surfaces.

“I like to let the art sell itself. People find different things in my work, so a lot of (them) are untitled. They have subjects for me, but that may change to the person whose eye it catches,” he said.

Using his own optimistic approach on life, Peterson uses bright colors to represent happiness since, as he says: “Life is too short to be stuck in the mud.”

However, with a 0.48 percent employment rate per 1,000 jobs in Texas as of May 2013 (according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics), making a successful career as an artist in El Paso is a difficult task.

“I think the whole town is a bit of a struggling place for the arts. People’s attitudes often are not accepting of the action into purchasing art,” Peterson said. “People often treat art as unattainable, but for the artist to be self-sustained in their craft, people need to support the artist financially.”

Peterson will graduate in May and then go on to graduate school at UTEP where he will study personality and art therapy.

Peterson also bartends at a local Olive Garden to help pay for school and his art supplies.

He also sells his artwork at events like Last Thursday’s and the Art and Farmer’s Market.

“I receive a few grants and financial aid, then I cover the spread. I barely get by and sometimes I need to take a loan out,” he said. “If I didn’t have a ‘real job’ and tried a straight art approach it would be choices like dinner or red paint. It would be a stressful time.”

“... see CANVAS on page 6..."
Peterson began to sell his artwork two years ago after speaking with the owner of Lucy’s Restaurant. “He told me to start selling it and make money off of these motherfuckers,” he said. “It was a harsh statement, but a novel idea. I don’t think people are fuckers, but his point was made.” Yet, Peterson will still give his art away for free even though he may be struggling financially. “It’s a good vibe to give things away,” Peterson said. “The best things in life are free, especially if it’s a kiddo who’s viewing it. Money shouldn’t get in the way of art, money fucks art up.”

When Peterson does have an interested buyer for his artwork, he ships his pieces out on a national scale. “It’s already gone further than I ever thought,” he said. “I can only hope my technique improves since I want to ship overseas.” Peterson is currently working on a project to have an international exhibition that will build on his art and image. For more information or to view Peterson’s artwork, visit facebook.com/keepingitreal.

Peterson’s artwork is displayed at a downtown location. Paintings shown are part of his “Keep it real” series.

THE DAY OF COMMENCEMENT

1. In order to experience an enjoyable Commencement ceremony, please arrive at the Don Haskins Center no later than 5 p.m. Please enter through the East doors. Check-in will begin inside the Don Haskins Center at 4:30 p.m.

2. Have a green screen photo taken, in full regalia, after you check in.

3. Please leave all personal items (backpacks, cell phones, purses, coats, etc.) at home or in your automobile. These items (along with beach balls, balloons, confetti, noise makers, silly string, etc.) will not be allowed in the Sun Bowl Stadium.

4. Though your family and friends are an important part of Commencement, childcare services will not be provided, and children may not accompany graduates during the Commencement ceremony. Please make appropriate plans for the care of your children.

5. Wear regalia and COMFORTABLE WALKING SHOES. Please take into consideration that you will be walking from the Don Haskins Center to the Sun Bowl Stadium along uneven asphalt. Out of courtesy for your fellow graduates, please remain for the duration of the ceremony.

6. The student procession will depart for the Sun Bowl Stadium as early as 6 p.m. Please ensure that you have checked in and picked up your reader card before departing the Don Haskins Center.

For parking recommendations, tips for families and friends, and other information:

www.utep.edu/commencement
Office of University Relations • www.utep.edu/universityrelations

We know that your graduation from UTEP is an important event in your life and in the lives of those who have helped you reach this goal. It is important in the life of the University as well, and it should be a meaningful and rewarding experience for everyone. We hope these tips help to ensure that you, your family, and friends have a memorable experience at this joyous event, marking your transition from student to alumnus.
Downtown welcomes artists to affordable housing

BY JOSE SOTO

What is currently an underutilized space in Downtown El Paso will soon house local artists and creative businesses.

The unused former Saddle Blanket site will undergo a massive transformation into an innovative, an affordable housing project for striving artists in the city.

ArtSpace, America’s leader in artist-led community transformation, partnered with the El Paso Community Foundation, Artists’ Communities in the Downtown Core, the city of El Paso and local artists to set the plan in motion for permanent affordable housing for artists and affordable commercial space for businesses.

ArtSpace follows the mission to create, foster and preserve affordable space for artists and arts organizations.

The desire for such development became apparent when a market survey was released to the El Paso public in 2008, producing more than 400 responses. The results were given to local stakeholders in 2010, who have proceeded with the plans.

The goal is to create an entrepreneurial arts center, where artists currently face a need for affordable space, to create and sell their art and maintain a profitable lifestyle. “In our many meetings with the community, we have learned that there is a great need for a permanent space/place for artists to live and work,” said Yvonna Hernandez, a UTEP alumna with a bachelor’s degree in graphic design, “and share their ideas with the community,” said Cathryn Vanderbrink, vice president of ArtSpace. “The response from artists in El Paso is one of the largest in our experience.”

Vanderbrink said that two local artists, Chris Cunnings and Katherine Brennan, had previously heard of ArtSpace and worked with the city to bring a project to El Paso.

“The work began with a Preliminary Feasibility Study, progressed to an Artist Market Survey, and ultimately to the predevelopment contract that has allowed us to advance the project to its current place,” Vanderbrink said. “This method of working (responding to invitations by a local community) is how almost all of ArtSpace’s work began.”

Samantha Brown, a UTEP alumna with a bachelor’s degree in graphic design, sees this as an opportunity for El Paso to focus on their local artists. “Most often, local artists are overlooked by the general public. Many don’t realize that the salary of an artist, most usually isn’t enough to live off of,” Brown said. “This will surely help out our community in assisting them find a better economic zone.”

Yvonna Hernandez, a UTEP alumna with a bachelor’s degree in art, agreed with Brown and said this project is long overdue, and she feels a sense of relief to see that it is actually happening. “Unfortunately, some of El Paso’s best artists leave the city because they simply can’t afford to work and live on their own here. This will help the art community here in El Paso preserve its talent,” Hernandez said.

Both Brown and Hernandez have been waiting for the project to begin since 2010. “Although they say that it’s taken longer than expected, they are excited to see some progress. “I’m glad they finally have announced dates and information,” Brown said. “The art community was starting to worry.”

Anyone working and skilled in any fine arts is encouraged to apply. This includes painting, drawing, sculpting, book art and printmaking, among other art genres such as film, video, digital media, photography and music composition.

“The live/work residential units, the application process is a formal low-income housing application process that involves submitting of materials that demonstrate income qualification (low enough income to qualify for affordable housing, enough income to be able to afford the rent), prior rental history verification, etc,” Vanderbrink said. “Qualified house-holds are then interviewed to discuss their involvement in the project.”

A preference is given to qualified households, who demonstrate a commitment to their particular art form.

“For commercial spaces, we are in continual conversation with individuals and organizations interested in establishing an arts-related business in the project,” said Vanderbrink.

Miguel Veliz, senior graphic design major, said he believes the art community will benefit a lot from this project. “Having all artists in one building would help to support each other and collaborate in projects. Also, the El Paso community could come and learn about what an artist’s studio life is like,” Veliz said.

Downtown welcomes artists to affordable housing

ART

Costume designing is taken to the next level

BY AMBER GOMEZ

Proudly marching through comic conventions like your favorite character can be pretty rewarding, especially if you’ve taken the time to create the costume yourself. For cosplayers, who have been going to conventions for years, creating their costumes has become more than a hobby.

“While making costumes is a hobby of mine, I have had a few paid commissions and have had a job as an apprentice to do a few costumes,” said Mia Vasquez, sophomore theater arts major. “I ultimately did not see it as a job though because I do it because I love it.”

While Vasquez has been cosplaying for many years, she started making costumes two years ago when she came to UTEP. She then began to design costumes for others before she came to UTEP. She then began to make costumes for others before she came to UTEP. She then began to make costumes for others before she came to UTEP. Mia Vasquez, sophomore theater arts major, makes costumes for others. “I came to UTEP freshman year, named Sharon, who enhanced all that I learned. The next thing I knew, I was not only fixing costumes at UTEP but was making them at Kids-N-Co. It was then I decided I wanted to make costumes for myself and not just other people.”

Vasquez’ first self-made cosplay costume was Maria from “Hotel Transylvania.” She is paid for her work if someone orders a costume made for him/her. Typically, she spends $10 to $30 on supplies to make the costume. She said she then puts her money to a good cause. “I tend to donate some of the money I earn to organizations that I believe in the project, “ said Vanderbrink.

“It was my New Year’s resolution to go after different fears and out of my norm. Running for Miss El Paso was one of them,” Hernandez said.

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AREA

The unused Saddle Blanket site will house striving artists in the city. Occupancy is expected to start in late spring or early summer of 2016.

The Prospector

April 29, 2014

TANGA MORAD / THE PROSPECTOR

YVONNA HERNANDEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

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TANGA MORAD / THE PROSPECTOR

YVONNA HERNANDEZ / THE PROSPECTOR
Entertainment

"I've always wanted to be in a pageant, but I was shy. Cosplaying opened up a big part of me. Now I'm very courageous and it really did boost my self-esteem. I realized that if I could do cosplays, then I could do a pageant."

Vasquez and Gonzalez said that anyone who wants a career in costume-making needs to remember that practice makes perfect and one can always teach themselves.

"It's a fun hobby you can do if you want it to be a career or a part-time hobby," Gonzalez said. "As a beginner, at first it was tough to make the costumes, but over the years you will get better. Every costume is a piece of you. It's a piece of artwork that you're making. Be shameless about it."

Amber Gomez may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

The Prospector

El Paso is a city rich with culture and beauty. Recently, the city has been working on developing more public art for El Pasoans, especially with the new ballpark nearing completion.

The ballpark will feature artwork by local artists who have been commissioned by the city. Gaspar Enriquez is one of the artists who will be working on the murals for the stadium. The mural he is working on will portray the history of baseball in the city of El Paso.

"The city has a 2 percent budget for the arts," Enriquez said.

It's great to see street, public art and artists, being appreciated, respected and recognized by the public and the city.

- Fernie Perez, senior graphic design major

Ballpark art is a hit for El Pasoans

BY LESLY LINON

The Prospector

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Estudiante conserva su cultura mexicana

BY JOSE SOTO

El Paso, Jueves de el 29 de abril del 2014

Julia Sosa, estudiante de teatro y sociología, comparte su tiempo, sus esfuerzos y sobre todo su arte en ambas ciudades. Lo cual es importante para ella, ya que dice que es muy difícil quitársela.

“No que me la quiera quitar, es lo que me construye como persona y artista. Es mi identidad”, dijo Sosa. “A donde quiera que vaya, mi influencia mexicana va estar ahí. Y a viene contigo. Así que me construyo como persona y difícil quitársela.

Para ella, las artes se esfuerza a reflejar la actualidad de su patria. Mi arte se esfuerza a recordarles de eso. La gente de ambas ciudades son muy nobles y nos gusta notando de eso. La gente de ambas ciudades de la república mexicana y aquí en El Paso. Formada en el 2012, Luna ha aprovechado de la urgencia de la vida social en Júarez. Por la violencia, la escena artística fue reducida y mucha gente optó por asistir a eventos aquí en El Paso. Hoy, las cosas han cambiado. Ambas ciudades gozan de la música local y eso hace posible que Sosa y su banda se muevan entre El Paso y Júarez, manteniendo las hermosas cuidades en sincronización.

“Hoy, las cosas están renaciendo. Ahora, vez a la gente de Júarez con ganas de recibir arte y entretenimiento”, dijo Sosa. “El Paso está notando de eso. La gente de ambas ciudades son muy nobles y nos gusta que sepan que no somos ni tanto de ay, ni tanto de acá. Somos unidos. Somos la gente de la frontera”.

Aparte de su esfuerzo musical, Sosa dirige obras de teatro en UTEP y la mayor parte de las obras que llevan tintes de la cultura mexicana y son relevantes a la comunidad hispana. Sosa dirige “A Solid Home”, como parte de la serie de teatro chicano que hace pensar en los sistemas de creencias como mexicanos”. Aunque “A Solid Home” será en inglés, Sosa dijo que lo que no sean de habla hispana podrán entender un poco de la historia y cultura mexicana. Esa convivencia entre dos mundos ha hecho que Sosa aprenda a coexistir como artista y estudiante, haciendo que su arte refleje la actualidad de ser integrante de una sociedad mezclada por raíces en la madre tierra y el esfuerzo americano. De acuerdo a la estudiante, mantener una identidad fija es la manera de construir arte relevante y honesto.

“Es inevitable tener influencia americana viviendo aquí. Yo lo tengo, como todos que viven en la frontera. También, vivimos hoy en la globalización”, dijo Sosa. “Pero tenemos que tomar en cuenta de donde vinimos y que es lo que nuestro ecosistema anterior puede aportar a lo que ahora hacemos. Mucha gente se viene a los Estados Unidos y no se acuerda de sus raíces. Mi arte se esfuerza a recordarlos de eso”.

Evdokia Romanova, una estudiante de Rusia, dice que para ella, las artes como Sosa la han ayudado a entender a la cultura de El Paso. “Creo
I hope that younger and older generations can collaborate together (on public art projects), but most artists are individuals, who more or less keep to themselves and come out of their creative worlds once in a while.”

The Southwest University Ballpark was scheduled for completion by the initial game day on April 28. With the anticipation of the ballpark completion and the first home game, one can only imagine how hectic things will be as the stadium so close to the university, the artwork being displayed has an impact on UTEP students and artists. “I think El Paso has come a long way, said Fernie Perez, senior graphic design major. “It’s great to see street art, public art and artists being appreciated, respected and recognized by the public and the city.”

The City of El Paso’s Museums and Cultural Affairs Department is working closely with the community in order to hear their opinions on what it is they want to see with public art projects. The rise of these projects can be seen throughout the city, and one project appears to be putting up art near UTEP. Photographer and artist, Patrick David Walker, is currently working with the El Paso Public Art Committee. His work can be seen at the bus stop located across from the Glory Road Transfer Center. One of his photos is printed on the inside of the grid, and make up the walls of the station. The images are broken up, however, and once you take a second look, everything comes into focus. The colors also change throughout the day, because of the different areas where sunlight hits the art. “I did research on El Paso history and decided that I wanted this particular project to focus on my photog-raphy. I took classes to learn about the native plants in the region, and after the course of one year, I gathered several hundred pictures,” Walker said.

“The design of the stadium was brought to life by Catherine Widgery, and Walker took the photos for the project, making this a team effort.”

I really enjoy working for the Museums and Cultural Affairs Department of El Paso,” Walker said. “Not a lot of people are aware of public art in the city. It’s wonderful to know that my art is now a part of our city and a part of it’s history too.”

El Paso may be reached at theprospectordaily@gmail.com.

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Usual suspects find success at Drake Relays

BY JAVIER CORTÉZ

The Prospector

After a successful showing at the Drake Relays in Des Moines, Iowa, the Miners are less than three weeks away from the Conference USA outdoor championships.

After stepping up to the outdoor season, both men and women showed promise over the weekend at the Drake Relays. Team captain took their title as they took first in the distance medley, led by All-American junior Anthony Rotich.

On the women’s side, senior Janice Jackson took home the silver medal in the 100-meter hurdles and led the way for the women.

“The Drake Relays were crazy to say the least,” Jackson said. “I ended up winning my heat in prelims by a decent margin, but the 4x100 was a different story. Overall, though, the final was good for me and it was one of the better starts I have had this season.”

All in all, head coach Mika Laaksonen felt it was a good meet for the men and women.

“I think it went pretty well,” Laaksonen said. “Overall, we had a bunch of season-best times and it was probably the best weather I have ever seen at the Drake Relays in the 15 years that I have been here.”

Weather is something that has hampered the Miners throughout their outdoor season. Both UTEP meets were plagued with wind, but the Miners still tried to perform well.

“Sometimes wind can mess you up, especially at UTEP because the wind is too strong. Everyone has the same conditions, though, and it is an even playing field for everyone,” personally, Zellner didn’t feel his performance was great, but he said he is confident the men will do well at the conference championships in May.

“The Drake Relays did not go well for me, but if everybody puts forth the effort in conference and steps up, we can win,” Zellner said. “We won the outdoor last year and indoor this year, so if we want to win again we need everybody to step up.”

Although there were improvements at the Drake Relays, Laaksonen said the women have outperformed the men since the start of the outdoor season.

“I think the women have stepped up as a team,” Laaksonen said. “The women actually have a chance at conference. The men have gotten a little too comfortable since the indoor season. The men are up for a rude awakening at the conference championships.”

Although it seems the men have taken a dip in performance, Anthony Rotich has been able to be successful at the meets. Laaksonen said the junior is a completely different athlete.

“Anthony does not need to run a personal-best time at the conference championships to win,” Laaksonen said. “Anthony is at a whole other level. You really don’t have to measure his performance at the conference championships.”

Jackson said that with experience aside, the women have a great chance to win the conference championship.

Freshman distance runner Cosmos Bat, along Anthony Rotich, Alexia Drake soaking up the distance medley rain.

"I think we have just as much of a chance as anyone else,” Jackson said. “Everyone is on equal footing. Everyone has been improving and especially for the freshman who need to gain experience. Getting the race plan down and believing in yourself is key.”

Junior Cortez may be reached at theprospectordaily.com
Final home series ends on a bitter note

BY LUIS BARRIO
The Prospector

The UTEP softball team concluded their last home series April 27, as the Miners fell to the Texas-San Antonio Roadrunners in two of the three games played.

With two setbacks against UTSA, postseason play is now out of reach for the Miners. They will close their regular season campaign May 3-4, when they take part in a three-game series against the East Carolina Pirates in Greenville, North Carolina.

“They are a pretty special group,” said head coach Tobin Echo-Hawk. “As a first-year coach, they made it easy for me and my staff.”

The Miners split the April 26 doubleheader against the Roadrunners with a 7-6 victory in extra innings. Sophomore pitcher Danielle Pearson hit a sac-fly to bring in junior Ashley Eldridge for the game-winning run.

In the final home game for the Miners this season, on senior night, the offense struggled to produce any hits, much less runs.

The Miners got their first hit in the fifth inning with a bunt-ruled hit. The Miners had two runners on base. A pop out to right gave the Roadrunners their second out of the inning, but Eldridge tagged third and tried to get one run. A nice assist from right field tagged Eldridge out at home.

The Roadrunners wasted no time getting things started. They started the ball game with five runs in the first inning. The Roadrunners’ first baseman, Megan Low, hit a homer in the first inning. She leads the nation in homers with 22, including the one against the Miners.

The Roadrunners scored in all innings except the second. UTSA scored 10 runs on 11 hits. The Miners committed two errors in the contest.

In game two on Saturday, senior Colleen Holman hit two home runs in an 11-8 losing effort, where the Miners played solidly.

The Miners entered the seventh inning down 11-3, and were able to produce five runs and make things interesting. Senior Miraya Montiel was in scoring position when Erika Arcuri, another senior, scored on a single to left field. Eldridge accounted for two more RBIs with a single, and senior Alanna Lessau was able to bring Eldridge in herself.

The excitement was heightened, but the Miners had no more runs to produce. “It was nice to see them keep fighting, but it was the little things that killed us all game,” Echo-Hawk said. “We didn’t take care of the ball and make sure (UTSA) didn’t advance bases. It leaves a sour taste in our mouth; we’re better than that.”

All the excitement came on Sunday with the nine-inning game that the Miners won. A near comeback in part two of Saturday had the Miners eager for Sunday.

The seniors, Arcuri, Kayla Black, Holman, Lessau and Montiel, were all to be honored prior to the start of the Sunday Senior finale.

On a gusty Sunday, the Miners were welcomed by an enthusiastic crowd, and the seniors’ team numbers were displayed in the batters’ area.

Despite the Miners’ struggle against some solid pitching by UTSA, Holman said that this will not be the lasting memory of the senior squad.

“This is not what I’ll remember. I’ll remember the games when we fought, the games when we were hitting well, the games when we were pitching well, the bonds I’ve made with my teammates,” Holman said. “We were just flat today. I don’t know why. You would think the fire would come, but it never did.”

The Miners, who were expected to finish in last place in the conference standings prior to the start of the season, managed to get a 8-13 conference record and a 16-32 overall record. They currently sit at the 11th spot of 13 teams in Conference USA.

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