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The Prospector, February 10, 2011

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After several letters of protest, a rally and march to the President’s Office, and a Gold Nugget recipient returning his award, Cesar Chavez Day is back as a "no classes" day only for this year.

At their monthly meeting Feb. 8, the Faculty Senate voted in favor of reinstating Cesar Chavez Day and Spring Study Day as holidays for students. Last November, the same entity removed both dates from the school’s calendar to meet a requirement by the state legislature that mandated them to choose 12 staff holidays per academic year.

The reinstatement of the holiday was announced through an e-mail sent by the President’s Office, which included a statement from UTEP President Diana Natalicio.

“We regret the calendar confusion and the misunderstanding that resulted from it,” said Natalicio in her statement. “There was absolutely no intention on the part of the Faculty Senate to dishonor Cesar Chavez or his legacy.”

As a result of the vote, no classes will be conducted March 31, although the university and its staff will work that day.

Carl Lieb, president of the Faculty Senate and biological sciences professor, said there was confusion between staff and student holidays, and because of this, changes were made to the university’s calendar.

“We expect that in the future we’ll be able to protect the holidays that are important for our student population,” Lieb said.

March 31 declared a ‘no classes’ day

UTEP officials continue repair water breaks and heater problems caused by the winter storm that hit El Paso last week.

“Campus
Money woes burden university as repairs continue

Part 1 of series examining financial and academic problems due to the winter storm

Look for the Spring 2011 edition of Minero Magazine inside this issue
Let lost love lie on V-day

BY VANESSA JUAREZ
The Prospector

February 10, 2011

The first time my little heart skipped a beat was in Mrs. Rosenbaum's kindergarten. He gave me a piece of bubblegum, sparking an instant connection in the reading corner of Mrs. Foley's class under the watchful eye of Sofia De Anda, Bob Corral, Daniel Rosas, Greg Castillo, and Celia Toccoli. I was infatuated with a popular kindergartner, and I can still vividly remember the feeling of my heart going pitter-patter for a guy and since then, like most boys and girls, I've had a steady parade of crushes, infatuations and attractions. Despite all the fun dates and hookups over the years, nothing comes close to sticking with you like your first love. For some fortunate Miners, this Valentine's Day will be spent with your first love, or, even better, your last love. The rest of us, we try as hard as we can to ignore the very existence of the holiday. Of course, that's tough to do when huge bouquets of flowers get delivered to the girl in the next cubicle or when someone on Facebook proudly announces their plans for a night of love. For those of us without a date on Valentine's Day, I propose a day of reflection on past loves lost and lessons learned.

Almost instantly, that sounds like a pretty depressing activity but I can't overemphasize enough the importance of taking some time to reflect on past decisions and choices. The well-used trope, the more we know about our history (personal, sexual, romantic), the less likely we are to repeat the same mistakes. Instead of pining away with a box of bubblegum, sparkles, flowers, chocolate, or chocolates, I'm going to consciously set aside some time to reflect on the lessons I’ve learned from the boys in my past and try as hard as I can not to repeat the same mistakes with the men in my future. I can not to repeat the same mistakes because unrealized possibilities and what ifs still linger in the back of your mind. Because of those pesty first loves, Valentine's Day can be difficult, especially when you’re not in a relationship. On the day of love I find myself musings about what could have been, what mistakes could have been avoided and so on. I'm definitely exposing some of my own hang-ups, but I take comfort in knowing that almost everyone has been there.

Relationships, whether they end positively or not, always have a lesson to be learned. If you're like me, it may take a few boyfriends (or girlfriends) to learn the lesson, but I tend to lean toward the optimistic and like to see each relationship as having a deliberate purpose. It's hard to put first loves to rest, but maybe this Valentine's Day should represent the end of dwelling on what could have been and instead learning from those mistakes. Instead of pining away with a box of chocolates or a tub of chocolate chip cookie dough ice cream, I'm going to celebrate Valentine's Day by remembering the fun dates and hookups over the years. I'm going out.

POLL RESULTS

This week's poll question: Should UTEP try to recover lost class days?

75% no
25% yes
Most UTEP students see marriage in the distant, hazy future, but for some, it’s already time to say “I do.”

Marriage brings new challenges to any relationship, but when added to the school stress, homework, class schedules and part-time jobs that college students already experience can seem overwhelming.

Evelyn Ponce, junior electronic media major, got married last April and admits that she may not have married in college if it had not been for her school schedule and financial status.

“It was not challenging for me, because I don’t work so it was better for me because I only go to school,” Ponce said. “If I was in a difficult financial situation and my husband was still in college, I would have waited to get married.”

Others students choose to wait until after graduation to get married. Laura Lugo, senior metallurgical and materials engineering major, will graduate this upcoming May and is already engaged to Ryan Schuetzler.

“My boyfriend and I are going to get married after I graduate,” Lugo said. “I’m waiting until I graduate, because I can’t plan our wedding now. It was always planned and he wanted both of us to graduate in order to get married.”

Schuetzler currently lives out of state and both have plan to exchange vows within the next six months.

According to data from the 2010 U.S. Census, the average age of marriage for men is 28 and for women, 26. From fall 2009 to fall 2010, the percentage of men attending UTEP increased by 5.8 percent and attendance by women increased by 4.7 percent.
Day of love is big day for profit

By Celia Aguilar

The Prospector

Monday, February 14, approximately 141 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged, according to Hallmark Cards, Inc., making the holiday the second most popular day to give out greeting cards. Even still, there are those individuals who decide not to celebrate the day of love. “I don’t celebrate Valentine’s Day because it’s such a materialistic holiday,” said Monica Molinar, sophomore history major. The origins of Valentine’s Day are hard to pinpoint. According to the History Channel’s website, the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different martyr saints named Valentine or Valentinus. However, modern day celebrations primarily revolve around gift exchanges and romantic outings.

“We’re bombarded with these messages that tell us that we need to spend a lot of money to show someone we care,” Molinar said. “You can show someone you care by making something yourself; there’s no need to spend money.”

Gabriel Holguin, senior political science major, believes Valentine’s Day has become an excuse for mass consumption and it is a holiday he chooses not to observe.

“It’s a consumerist holiday,” Holguin said. “Everything in our life is commoditized, even love. We’re reinforcing the idea that consumption is necessary more than celebrating our love for one another.”

Diego Holguin, criminal justice junior, feels the day is celebrated primarily as a means to maximize revenue. “It’s all an economic boost, just like every other holiday. Everything costs double on Valentine’s Day,” Diego Holguin said. “A dozen roses can run up to $50.”

Valentine’s celebration is often equated with copious spending, and even though some shoppers may be wary of spending in an uncertain economy, research shows it is un-likely that the economy will have an effect on consumers’ Valentine’s Day spending. In fact, IBISWorld, a leading publisher in market and industry research, expects an increase in spending from last year, up to 5.8 percent totaling $18.6 billion or $125 per person.

Even for those individuals who do not consider Valentine’s Day, a holiday worth celebrating, social norms and traditions can coercive some of them into buying gifts for loved ones. “Even since elementary we’ve been pressed to celebrate by exchanging cards. We’re so conditioned to celebrate Valentine’s Day from early on that even those of us who don’t necessarily believe in celebrating the holiday feel pressured,” Gabriel Holguin said.

Diego Holguin doesn’t really believe in celebrating the holiday, but often feels obligated to please others. He feels that the day focuses too much on profits, but has always dated women who enjoy Valentine’s Day. “All of the women I’ve dated have been really into romance,” Diego Holguin said. “I’ll feel bad if I don’t buy them anything. Sometimes I feel like I have to celebrate Valentine’s Day, but it’s okay, I know the ladies like it.”

For some students, their refusal to accept the holiday does not only revolve around economic reasons, but also the recurring theme of loving one another. “Why reserve one day of the year to love when you can do it all the time?” said Adam Martinez, senior double major in Chicano studies and history.

“People feel like they need to spend money on gifts to say I love you, but there are different ways to show love on a daily basis. It is a good excuse to get candy, though. Just give me chocolates,” Martinez said.

Martinez is not the only one who feels Valentine’s Day is an optimal time for giving candy. IBISWorld predicts that candy sales this Feb. 14 will generate over $2.5 billion, a 5.1 percent increase from 2010. Rubia Legarda, senior biological sciences major, believes making gifts is a better option than canceling the holiday completely. “I’m going to generalize and say most people don’t celebrate Valentine’s Day, because they think it’s stupid, overrated or a Hallmark ploy, but there’s no need to buy anything on this day,” Legarda said.

Celia Aguilar may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
Esperan restaurantes y florerías incremento de ventas por San Valentín

POR LUISANA DUARTE
The Prospector

Restaurantes y florerías de El Paso esperan altas ventas este 14 de febrero durante los festivales del día de San Valentín.

"Esperamos tener un lleno completo todo el día, durante las horas de 'lunch' y 'dinner'" dijo Luis Duenas, gerente general del restaurante Armonía en El Paso. "(Esperamos) un flujo constante de clientes."

De acuerdo al National Retail Federation –una asociación de comerciantes del menudeo-- una persona gastará 116.21 dólares en productos de San Valentín este año, 11 por ciento más que el año pasado. El consumo total con motivo del festejo de San Valentín podría alcanzar 18 mil 600 millones de dólares en todo el país.

La encuesta de NRF sobre las in- tensiones de consumo de los Americanos durante el día de San Valentín este año indica que alrededor del 34 por ciento de las personas encuestadas, dará un regalo de amor el día de San Valentín.

Para Duenas, el mejor servicio que puede dar al cliente es aquel que se ofrece bajo una reser- vación, por lo cual recomienda tener reservaciones para este día de San Valentín.

"Tenemos un 'limited menu', la car- ta completa no estará disponible", dijo Duenas. "De esta manera los clientes tendrán un mejor servicio de parte del restaurante."

El menú que tienen preparado para el festejo incluye platillos hechos a base de carne, pollo, pescado y mariscos. Incluye además dos aperitivos, dos ensaladas distintas y una varie- dad de postres. "También tenemos el 'passion fruit cake' con motivo de San Valentín", dijo Duenas.

Otras atracciones que se han pre- parado para el día incluyen un dúo de música acústica. Al igual que la industria de restau- rantes, las florerías de El Paso se pre- paran para el día de San Valentín.

De acuerdo a la Society of American Florists, el día de San Valentín se considera el más activo del año ya que el 40 por ciento de los ingresos anua- les de ese tipo de negocios se reciben ese día.

Para la celebración de San Valentín el año pasado se cosecharon 198 millones de rosas y de acuerdo a la encuesta de NRF, 56.2 por ciento de los hombres regalarán flores este año.

La docena de rosas cuesta $80 dólares, "pero contamos con la pro- moción de si hacen el pedido con dos días de anticipación, les cuesta $65".

Los pedidos de arreglos florales también pueden incluir objetos de significado especial para la pareja, dijo Carrillo.

"No han pedido que incorpora- mos anillos de compromiso, joyería y hasta unas llaves de un carro" expresa. "Ultimamente también nos han pedido que pongamos perros en el arreglo, un señor nos pidió un lab- rador, que es un poco grande. Otras razas que hemos incorporado son los schnauzer y un bulldog inglés".

Laura Carrillo, dueña de Botánica/2430 N. Montana Ave El Paso, Tx 79902 joseujudge@att.net tel: (915) 838-8114 fax: (915) 542-0341 cell: (915) 241-9610

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THE PROSPECTOR February 10, 2011
How did the winter storm affect you?

MONTSE TREJO
sophomore graphic design major
“[I had] no internet, so I couldn’t use my computer or get on Facebook. I didn’t think it was too big of a deal though.”

ERICK PEREZ
freshman chemistry major
“My water got cut off for two days. Also, my electricity was getting cut off twice a day.”

FELIPE SOTELO
freshman biology major
“I live on the eastside, so the weather limited my transportation. I wouldn’t have been able to make it to school.”

ALEJANDRA HERNANDEZ
freshman electrical engineering major
“Even though I enjoyed the time off, I feel that a lot of my teachers are increasing our workload in order to catch us up.”

ERIK GUERRERO
junior business administration major
“I missed a whole week of classes and I did not have electricity in my house.”

ESMERALDA ELIAS
freshman nursing major
“It affected me in all my classes. We’re behind as far as test and quizzes go.”

SERGIO VALDEZ
freshman digital media production major
“It was good because I got to build a snowman, and I didn’t fall behind in any of my classes because of Blackboard.”

BENJAMIN CALDEIRA
sophomore biology major
“Roads were icy, slippery and really dangerous. Our pipes froze and now we have to replace them.”

JOHNNY PRADO
freshman computer science major
“Math class was affected the most because my exam was postponed.”

CARLOS GONZALEZ
sophomore finance major
“I had no water and electricity for two days, so I had to stay at a friend’s house for those days.”

Photos by Esteban Marquez, Justin Stone and Diego Bedolla
The stress of a college athletic career can weigh heavy on student athletes. Between grueling work outs of-town meets and games, some Miner athletes find it hard to maintain a meaningful romantic relationship.

Football player Bernard Obi and volleyball athlete Marie-Therese Joyce have overcome the demands of their college athletic careers and have been able to cultivate a special bond.

Like so many couples, Obi and Joyce initially met on the popular social network, Facebook. “She asked me on Facebook if I had voted for the athlete’s initiative or not and I said, ‘No, I haven’t and we started talking, and the rest is history,” Obi said.

Obi first met Joyce when he moved into Miner Village in July 2008 to workout with the football team. A teammate introduced Obi to Joyce and her roommate but they didn’t speak again for two years when Joyce sparked a conversation with Obi on Facebook.

Even after the challenge of finding time to get to know one another, their new-found relationship was hit with the hurdle of making time in between their athletic schedule. “We understand and respect each other’s schedules,” Joyce said. “We have typically the same schedule so we understand if I have to go to classes or if he has to go to classes. Understanding each other is a big part of it.”

Besides working around game day schedules, the couple also tries to attend each other’s games when possible and visit each other after contests. “Usually after a game I tell her she does well. I’ve never seen her have a bad game but she always does well,” Obi said. “Sometimes she is frustrated after a bad loss but I just know how to decipher how she will be after the end result.”

The UTEP football team lost just one home game this season to the Tulane Green Wave. In the face of hard losses, which are inevitable for any sports athlete, the couple has learned how to work through game letdowns. “When they lost the Tulane game, I was very scared because he’s very passionate about football and he’s very hard on himself,” Joyce said. “I learned to give him his space. One time I pushed saying, ‘are you ok?’ I learned that he’s fine when he wants to talk. I think our relationship has improved through that by learning how each other reacts.”

Obi shares an apartment with two other football players off-campus while Joyce lives on her Student athletes find time for love too

Couples make it work between gym sessions and game day

Column

Skip the fuzzy bear – men want action on V-day

BY ALEJANDRO ALBA

The Prospector

Valentine’s Day isn’t really a male holiday. Guys don’t usually want a heart-shaped box of chocolates, a cuddly pink teddy bear or a dozen roses. As a matter of fact, guys would rather not get anything on Valentine’s Day. Then again, I’m not sure how or when ties and socks became the equivalent of a box of chocolates for men.

Men seem to prefer gifts that represent respect and personal recognition. This Valentine’s Day, maybe the ladies should follow what “The Great Gatsby” author F. Scott Fitzgerald said, “The greatest gift you can give anyone is to see them exactly as they wish to be seen.”

On the other hand, women seem to prefer gifts that signify public displays of affection and reinforces the couple’s identity. Some women like the cozy stuff, or expensive diamonds, as the saying goes, they are a girl’s best friend. Regardless of what men and women really like to get on Valentine’s Day, the market and media have also enforced gift conventions. When you go to the stores, you always see a “for him” and a “for her” section. The “for him” section includes jewelry with personalized engravings, items related to his favorite hobbies or pastimes, music, movies and computer games. In the “for her” section, you will find body lotions with arousing aromas, as well as items that can be showcased to family and friends such as new clothes, jewelry or photo frames.

I personally dislike the day. Seeing too much red, white and pink hurts my eyes. Still, I do believe that even though most guys don’t like Valentine’s Day as much as some women
Infidelity

Definition of cheating is hard to pin down

BY ERIN COULEHAN
The Prospector

In today’s culture, relationships have become much more relaxed than in years passed, and this generation has adopted a new lease on the boundaries of behavior, redefining the terms of fidelity.

While most college students admit to being involved in a “no strings attached” relationship at some point, most also agree that they have become entangled in the vagueness of the undefined relationship.

“Cheating is basically the moment that a line has been crossed, a boundary that can only be set by the very nature of your relationship,” UTEP alumni Christiano Melano said.

The definition of cheating may vary from relationship to relationship, but for Kirsten Perez, English and American literature graduate student, cheating may just be an inevitable part of all relationships.

“It’s pretty incredible that some people believe cheating won’t occur,” Perez said. “Human emotions are so unbridled. I wouldn’t want to stand in the way of someone being completely happy. I hope whomever I’m with has the decency to tell me they found someone else and just leave. That way, the term ‘cheating’ is eradicated.”

Current shifts in social perceptions of relationships have been reflected in contemporary films. Movies such as “500 Days of Summer,” “Love and Other Drugs” and “Blue Valentine” stray away from the typical plotline of boy meets girl, boy messes up and leaves. That way, the term ‘cheating’ is eradicated.”

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STORM from page 1

According to McNicol, most of the buildings on campus were back to normal with only a few still experiencing problems.

“Every building on campus, as of today (Feb. 8), has water. We did have to close part of Memorial Gym due to water issues, but they are being worked on and will be open to students again soon,” McNicol said.

“In the short term, every building is online and working at nearly 100 percent. We got some other repairs required to make the repairs may not necessarily add extra cost to the university.

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refuse the ordinary

Aaron Martinez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

“First off, the weather is not supposed to get as cold for as many days as this last one,” McNicol said. “The length of storm is what caused most of the problems, because it was well-below freezing for several days with high winds which cooled things down faster, which caused most of the problems. The weather that is supposed to hit us this week is expected to not be as cold and last for as many days.”

As of yet, university officials have not announced if or when cancelled classes will be rescheduled. Be sure to read The Prospector in print and online as more information becomes available.

The Prospector
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Current shifts in social perceptions of relationships have been reflected in contemporary films. Movies such as “500 Days of Summer,” “Love and Other Drugs” and “Blue Valentine” stray away from the typical plotline of boy meets girl, boy messes up and reaches an epiphany and then wins girl back. Films have depicted female characters as being the unattached and emotionally honest characters, and men being more emotionally involved than previously represented in our culture.

There is no simple solution to defining cheating, only that it seems to be relative, especially in a society that values individualism. Whether being in a satisfying relationship or a casual friends-with-benefits scenario, temptation will always rear its ugly head, leading to the betrayal that so easily causes individuals to lose love.

“It depends on the individual’s perception of what betrayal is,” said Samantha Garza, physical therapy graduate student. “The lines are fuzzy, and that’s what makes it a touchy subject.”

Special to The Prospector

Y ol-Itzma Aguirre, senior multidisciplinary studies major, “The library was sold out everywhere, “ said winter storm.

UTEP officials are unsure of the cost of damages caused by the winter storm.

had signs posted to bring your own water because they ran out.” According to McNicol, the staff required to make the repairs may not necessarily add extra cost to the university.

“It (cost of repairs) is hard to tell right now because we are still working on it,” McNicol said. “We had 2,000 man-hours that we have probably put into addressing leaks across campus, but most of this was done during what would have been normal working hours, so we are still working out the details on how that will be handled.”

For the most part, McNicol believes the worst is over for the university as the predicted storm that is expected to hit the city this week will not bring below-freezing temperatures for a long period of time.

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Online dating possess chance at love

BY ANOUSHKA VALODYA
The Prospector

Some students have probably heard their parents stories in which couples first met in person, would call—not text—each other on the phone, give each other real gifts and maintained a lot more privacy.

Obviously, things have changed significantly with the lightning speed of technological advances. For busy college students, many who work as well as attend classes, the option of online dating websites is seen as a bright beacon for those seeking serious relationships. One of the pluses is that it can be done anytime and anywhere.

Websites such as eHarmony and match.com claim more than 500 of its members marry partners found through their services everyday in the U.S.

Even as early as 2003, a U.S. News & World Report article entitled “Love.com,” written by Anna Mulrine, reported that 40 million Americans, which at that time was half the number of single adults in the U.S., visited an online dating site within a one month’s time span.

Most online dating websites claim that just by answering some in-depth questions, you will be able to filter people who could be your potential mate, similar to shopping online for clothes. People can specify certain characteristics and what they want in terms of education, physical appearance, money, religious affiliation, age and occupation.

Online dating sites claim that people may have the chance to connect with several new matches per day. It seems that love, for some students, can bloom online.

UTEP junior Jenna Portillo said she’s happily married to a man she met online at the free online dating website plentyoffish. After two months of dating, they got engaged and are now married.

“IT’s chancy and creepy at some points, but in the end I loved it,” Portillo said. “You get to screen people before having to go on date, after date, after date.”

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Students hit and miss when looking for love

Relationships

BY KRISTOPHER RIVERA

By the time college rolls around most individuals have dipped into a few relationships and experienced the emotional roller coaster. However, college is a place to learn new things (in places other than the classroom) and meet a diverse group of people. For many men and women romantic liaisons begin in school, but before that special someone is found, students have to sort through what it is they are looking for exactly.

"I look for a good girl. She has to be smart, funny, easy to talk to and I can tell her anything and everything," said Bernabe Nunez, freshman music major. "If she flirts around, it shows she is not the faithful type, not my style."

Everyone has their own preferences, and finding that special someone is a matter of trial and error. Having a relationship that actually works for the college student, who usually has little money and time, is an even harder feat to manage. But when that perfect match is made, it’s important to hold onto that theme.

"(My girlfriend) took care of me when I hit rock bottom and helped me get up," said Ronald Rober, sophomore nursing major. "She’s smart, she’s beautiful, sexy, she’s a social butterfly, she can cook, I love her family values and she’s stubborn when she needs to be."

Maturity seems to be a popular request in the dating scene. Burdens of immaturity and stress caused by the actions of a significant other are not worth it for many.

"I’m not at all attracted to guys who try to be someone they’re not, always negative, don’t look at the bright side of things and don’t have a sense of humor," said Krystal Rivera, senior marketing major. "I look for a guy who is confident, smart and knows what he wants. I don’t like players. I like guys that don’t have to try to be cool, awesome and hip. They are just naturally great."

According to Amanda Gonzalez, senior microbiology major, four simple words make up her checklist for the perfect relationship.

"Honesty, love, fun and trust," Gonzalez said.

Dealing with relationships can get serious after a few months and things
BY JACKIE DEVINE

The Prospector

With Valentine’s Day around the corner lovebirds all over El Paso are deciding which romantic getaway is just right for an evening of good food and romance.

Romantic hot spots around the city like Ardovino’s Desert Crossing, Café Central, Susaki Lounge and more serve up great food but they all offer different atmospheres and environments.

Ardovino’s Desert Crossing, located in Sunland Park, New Mexico, has built up a good reputation over the years as being one of the best when it comes to service. Their slogan is “Enchantment awaits you” and they definitely deliver. While dining at the restaurant, guests relish in the beautiful scenery and lavish their taste buds with delicious cuisine, which includes a large variety of tasty desserts. It’s a great spot for couples, who can talk under the enchanting candle light or outside on the patios. Ardovino’s also offers visitors a passenger train that winds its way around Mr. Cristo Rey.

“I think the peaceful ambiance and our unique setting, which is a historic property, sets us apart from other restaurants, it gives off a very romantic feeling with the desert as our landscape,” said Marina Ardovino, owner of the restaurant. “Our quality of food is also great. We use organic ingredients and we make all of our desserts.”

This Valentine’s Day, Ardovino’s will offer a dinner special that consists of a four course dinner, champagne and dessert for two for $65 dollars a person from Feb. 11 to Feb. 14. The restaurant will also have live music for this special occasion. So if you’re looking for an elegant night out, Ardovino’s Desert Crossing is the place to go. After dining with your significant other, sip a few cocktails at their casual 1950’s Mecca Lounge. They have an extensive wine collection where you can marvel at their open fireplace and chat the night away.

Another top romantic eatery is Cappetto’s Italian Restaurant. For over 55 years, Cappetto’s has been serving authentic Italian food.

“What makes Cappetto’s special is our history and tradition. We have that old Italian feel and that gives us a real character,” said Edward Davis, proprietor of Cappetto’s. “Also we make everything from scratch, it’s quality that people expect and they definitely get their money’s worth.”

Cappetto’s prices tend to be comparable reasonably, which is one of the many reasons why customers keep going back. According to Cappetto’s, they won’t be taking reservations on Valentine’s Day because they believe they’ll become completely booked and want to try and seat everyone. It’s advised that visitors get to the restaurant early if they want to get a good table.

Cappetto’s located on Montana Avenue boasts about its home-like atmosphere. It’s small, warm and perfect for enduring conversations, something that couples look for when it comes to a romantic date night. The dim lighting gives it that amorous aura that people just love. Another spot that’s hard to leave out in Café Central located in Downtown El Paso. This restaurant has an essential cafe vibe and prides itself on their award-winning entries and fine wines. Established in 1918, Café Central, with its charm and downtown vibe, is still a favorite restaurant for locals and visitors to El Paso.

“Our service is up to par and we focus on customers’ feedback, whether they are from here or out of town,” said Darlene Barajas, junior pre-business major and hostess. “Our service is up to par and we definitely get their money’s worth.”

The weird and the bad gift s all leave their marks, but Aldrich said the best gift s can’t be bought. “For that special someone on Valentine’s Day, the best Valentine’s gift I received was from my boyfriend in high school,” said Autumn Aldrich, sophomore psychology major. “He got me red roses, a box of captain crunch and a ring from James Avery. To anyone else all of this seems really random, but…he took the time to find out my favorite flower, cereal and jewelry.”

Good stories do not end with just one account of someone getting it right. UTEP students have stories to share about their partners’ approval of their Valentine’s Day gift.

“I think the best gift is another commercialized holiday that was made up to make money by selling chocolates, flowers, and large stuffed animals,” said Laura Herrera, junior communications major. “But if this is an excuse to show your other half how much you care about that person and how special they are to you, then so be it.”

Putting the pressure on couples to make their significant other feel special on this day contradicts some of the stories that UTEP students share about the “dark” side of Valentine’s Day.

“I imagine realizing that you received the exact same gift as another girl from the exact same person,” Herrera said. “The same stuffed animal, same chocolates and the same damn card?”

Along with the horrible gifts that come on this romantic holiday, come the weird gifts that have people scratching their heads.

“I was excited to receive my gift from my first Valentine in middle school,” said a student who asked for their name not to publish. “I had heard that this girl got me a good gift, but when I opened it I was embarrassed and confused. She gave me a tampon and tried to make it a cute cliché thing by saying ‘Your love fills me up’.

“Even worse than a weird gift is a weird gift accompanied by an embarrassing story. ‘I dated a girl during my freshman year and it rained on Valentine’s Day,’ said Jean-Phillipe Sanchez, freshman kinesiology major. ‘We’re walking around and of course it’s wet. I tried to be sick and surprise her with her gift and I slipped and went flying! If it wasn’t bad enough for everyone else to be laughing at me, my own girlfriend cracks up.’

“When I got a weird gift I feel like they just aren’t trying. They don’t put in the effort to think about what you like.”

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do, there still has to be some acknowledgement of what we would like. The only way to really know what the majority of males want on this day is to ask.

It comes down to one common answer – sex. Most of the guys I asked wanted to get some action on Valentine’s Day. The next most common answer was a watch, something that has been imposed by the market and media. The third and last most common answer was an object that dealt with electronics, whether it was movies, a video game console or a cell phone – all of it came up.

It may be hard to figure out what the perfect gift for your man will be, but it’s not hard to identify what it shouldn’t be. Unless you’re dating a man suffering from frost bitten toes, avoid buying him a pair of socks. You should also refrain from buying him a tie, a pack of boxer shorts, or giving him a Valentine’s Day card, regardless of how many lipstick smears and “I Love You’s” you put in it.

So, no matter what you end up getting for your boyfriend, lover or husband, remember, in the end it is indeed the thought that counts.

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**MEN from page 7**

own in a westside apartment complex. But the two are constantly with each other and enjoy simply relaxing together.

“They are with each other and enjoy simply relaxing together,” Obi said. “One good thing about her was that she didn’t always want to go out. She was more mellow and laidback.”

Junior soccer player Jessie Pettit and Cooper Brock, a UTEP football red-shirted freshman, were also brought together through Facebook. Pettit remembers meeting Brock for the first time while playing soccer at the Sun Bowl. While playing in the stadium, Pettit injured herself just as Brock and his parents were visiting the Sun Bowl. Brock offered Pettit help but she was too embarrassed to even make eye contact with him. Pettit and Brock became friends on Facebook but she initially thought Brock was rude. The two continued talking, started hanging out and haven’t stopped for the last 10 months.

According to the couple, their schedules haven’t affected their relationship as student athletes. Spending time with each other during and after the season has been easier than expected as well.

“Playing other sports doesn’t affect anything because we work out about the same time every day so then we hang out at night,” Pettit said. “Our games were different times (in 2010). Mine were on Friday and Sunday and his were on Saturday. He actually red shirted this year so he didn’t have to travel and it was easier.”

The couple lives on campus and is able to balance social pressures and commitments with other friends. According to Obi, short-term relationships are more common than long term relationships among college students, and the same is true about athletes.

“Maybe it will (change) as we get older because right now our teams are very young and enjoying college, being single and being athletes.”

William Teguo may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

**ATHLETES from page 7**

G-star Raw

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**MEN’S BASKETBALL**

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UTEP SOFTBALL HOME OPENER

DOUBLE HEADER VS NORTHERN COLORADO | THIS THURSDAY | 3:00 & 5:00 PM
Blame love on brain chemistry

BY CRYSTAL ROBERT

Column

I want my Ph.D. I have stated this desire in many columns. As I prepare for this venture (re- taking my GRE, applying for grants), scholarships and various programs), I’ve done my best to avoid stress, illness, pregnancy, but most of all, falling in love.

Recently I have found myself giving up my dancing shoes and late night social butterfly tendencies. I have exchanged jammies and endless parties for intimate dinners for two at home. Even when the object of my affection is not near, I have opted for mud masks and fuzzy socks.

Although I have an inkling of what may have caused such an unexpected change in my behavior, my need to find an answer persists. When my sleepless nights are not dedicated to a hypochondriac’s obsessive study of sexually transmitted diseases on the web, I took some time to look in to what scares two people to fall in love. What happens when the brain is overtaken by what Gabriel Garcia Marquez once described in “Of Love and Other Demons,” as the greatest demon of all?

I’ve done my best to avoid arrest, illness, pregnancy, but most of all, falling in love. What happens when the brain is driven by sex hormones that occur in both men and women known as androgens and estrogens. The second is attraction, also known as romantic or passionate love. During this time euphoria may ensue when things between two paramours are going well, but may also lead to mood swings, obsessive thinking and craving for the individual when they are not as pleasant. Scientists believe that at this time the brain is being affected by high levels of adrenaline, dopamine and norepinephrine.

Adrenaline is the activation of a stress response that may occur when you encounter your new love unexpectedly. Your mouth goes dry, heart begins to race, stomach flutters and possibly breaks out in a sweat (emotions000lying profoundly, as was my case).

Some scholars and scientists have found that levels of dopamine present during lust have effects similar to those of cocaine on the brain. The surge of dopamine in some couples is shown through less need for sleep or food, increased energy, focused attention and overwhelming pleasure over the smallest incidents and details in the relationship.

Finally, the third category in Fischer’s findings is attachment. For those who may believe themselves truly in love, attachment is the desired sense of calm, peace and stability that occurs when one is with a long-term partner. Attachment is also described by Fischer as the bond that may keep couples together long enough to have and raise children. There are two major hormones oxytocin and vasopressin present in the brain at this time.

Oxytocin is the hormone that is released by both men and women during orgasm. Oxytocin may deepen feelings of attachment between a couple after they have had sex. This prompts the theory that the more sex a couple has, the deeper their bond grows.

Vasopressin is the other hormone found in the attachment stage. When suppressed, Vasopressin deteriorated the bond with some mammals and their mates, causing them to lose their devotion and failing to protect their partner from possible new suitors.

While my inquisitive mind has been satiated, my romantic side consists in a notion I have borrowed from a close friend. There are times when the universe conspires to bring two people together. Now all I can do is wait for the oxytocin and hope to be accepted in a program close to home. Happy Valentine’s Day and I hope this weekend finds you all under the influence (of adrenaline and dopamine, of course).

Crystal Robert may be reached at propsector@utep.edu.

Crystal Robert
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INTERNET from page 9

Although some may worry that online dating sites may invade your privacy, Portillo said that in actuality it’s easier to be in control of your personal life. “Online dating gives you the chance not to tell everything about yourself right away,” she said. “You can talk as much or as little as you want in e-mail, phone or in person.”

Portillo highly recommends online dating and said it’s not much different from the old ways of meeting people.

“There are so many sites that mean there are so many chances to meet different kinds of people,” Portillo said. “It has the same chance as a friend or family member setting you up on a blind date or meeting someone at a bar.”

SQUEEZE from page 11

up to its hype and satisfies their most recurrent guests, people in love.

A more exotic but still romantic getaway, the Sushi Lounge offers delicious sushi and other Asian cuisine. This stylish restaurant is a trendy and stylish hot spot on the east side of El Paso. Its modern and sophisticated look, along with its service is popular with younger couples. Many people rave that it is soon becoming one of the best sushi places in El Paso.

Cattleman’s Steakhouse, located just outside of El Paso in Fabens, is known for its fresh cuts of meat and real, working ranch. They have antique wagons and stage coaches to immerse people in the Wild West décor and includes a petting zoo, lakes, an amazing view and a maze.

It has been hailed by many critics as the best steak in Texas. This is a great restaurant for couples that are active and looking for something to do other than passively eating dinner.

Another more urban-centered steakhouse is Dane’s Steakhouse, located in the center of the Cincinnati Entertainment District. Their contemporary setting, customer service and excellent wine list makes Dane’s a favorite on Cincinnati. If you want to enjoy a small private setting with your loved one, then Dane’s is the place to go.

The Dome Bar, located inside the historic Camino Real Hotel, is boast-ed as being one of the top dozen bars in the world, according to GQ Magazine. The bar is actually crowned with a dome, a Tiffany Glass dome that is. The Dome Bar is a highly sophisticated, elegant and ideal place for any couple to have a drink and good conversation.

Whether you’re looking for a quiet dinner in the Sunland Park desert, an exciting night at the ranch or drinks at a historic bar, El Paso offers a variety of romantic getaways for any couples looking for an amorous Valentine’s Day.

Anoushka Valodya may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

• Do not dump waste, chemicals, paint, custodial waste and general rubbish items (tires, old car parts, shopping carts, etc.) into storm drains, channels or ditches.

• Keep materials out of the stormwater conveyance system (curbs, gutters, sidewalks, streets, drains, culverts and arroyos.) Dispose of grass, leaves, yard waste and construction debris properly.

• Leave natural vegetation in place where possible to prevent erosion.

• Recycle oil, anti-freeze and other vehicle fluids, or dispose of them properly to prevent the pollution of stormwater, groundwater and the Rio Grande.

• Properly dispose of hazardous wastes, pesticides and fertilizers. Call UTEP EH&S to schedule waste pickups. (www.utep.edu/ehs)

• Pick up and dispose of pet waste.

• Storm drains are easily identified with “NO DUMPING” decals at stormwater inlets.

• Report illegal dumping in storm drains, culverts or arroyos to UTEP EH&S.

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• No tirar basura, aparatos electrodomésticos, muebles, llantas y chatarra a canales y asequias del sistema de drenaje pluvial.

• No tapar el flujo pluvial a canales, alcantarillas y arroyos con basura. Disponga correctamente de basura vegetal (césped, ramas y hojas) así como basura de construcción.

• Si es posible, deje crecer la vegetación en forma natural para evitar la erosión.

• Recicle aceite, anti-congelante y lubricantes o disponga propiamente de ellos para prevenir contaminación del sistema de drenaje pluvial, mantos acuíferos y el Río Bravo.

• Deseche correctamente los residuos peligrosos, pesticidas y fertilizantes. Llame al departamento EH&S en UTEP y agendé fecha para recoger los desperdicios.

• Recoja y deseche apropiadamente los residuos de su mascota.

• Alcantarillado de aguas pluviales es identificado con anuncios de “NO DUMPING”.

• Reporte el vertido ilegal de residuos en los drenajes o arroyos al departamento EH&S en UTEP.

Anastasia Valodya may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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THE PROSPECTOR
February 10, 2011
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Most romantic dining

The Dome Bar, Camino Real Hotel
01 South El Paso St.
534-3010
Cattleman’s Steakhouse
3430 South Fabens Cardwell Rd.
764-2283
Dane’s Steakhouse
2711 North Stanton
313-9705
Café Central
109 N Oregon St # 1
545-2233

Cappetto’s Italian Restaurant
2718 Montana Ave.
566-9877

Ardovino’s Desert Crossing
1 Ardovino’s Dr.
(575) 589-0655

Sushi Lounge
1590 N Lee Trevino
Dr # B1
581-0266

Jesse Devine may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
LOVE from page 10
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"Lack of communication, that’s
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