Budget crisis
Texas legislature to cut funding to UTEP

BY DIANA ARRIETA
The Prospector

The University of Texas at El Paso’s budget, along with those of other universities in the state, could be cut by $1.7 billion due to the proposed state spending budget released during the 82nd Texas Legislative Session.

The proposal reduces the current budget for higher education spending by 7.6 percent. This does not include funding for increased student enrollment, but it does scale back financial aid for entering freshmen at public universities.

“It’s really frightening to think that the economic condition of the state is so bad right now. Most students here at UTEP and all throughout Texas public colleges and universities find themselves under some kind of financial aid program that helps pay for their education,” said Cindy Almeda, sophomore geology major. “The fact that we currently have a slow economy and that there will be large money reductions is scary to think about and depressing.”

It is because of this shortage of state funds that students may see a rise in tuition rates at public universities during the next couple of years.

“It is always difficult knowing there will be a shortage of money but the crucial thing that will be happening is an increase in tuition,” said Gregory Rocha, associate professor of political science. “If students are going to receive this service (education), they are going to have to pay for it without relying too much on state money anymore.”

Although the proposed budget, released by the Legislative Budget Board, has not been reviewed by the House Appropriations Committee, state Rep. Dee Margo said he would advocate for UTEP.

“I intend to advocate for UTEP to the best extent of my abilities, especially for the $100 million research building that will help the university attain tier-one status,” Margo said.

see BUDGET on page 5

Academic
Program guides aspiring entrepreneurs

BY BEATRIZ A. CASTAÑEDA
The Prospector

UTEP graduates have the opportunity to apply to The Odyssey Program, which is designed to teach women entrepreneurs to develop their own high-growth, scalable company.

“The program offers hands-on experience and close mentoring and consultations with experienced entrepreneurs, who have developed or launched their own companies in the past,” said Eli Velasquez, executive director of Innovate El Paso, a non-profit organization that coordinates and hosts the Odyssey Program.

Although the Odyssey program is open for both male and female participants, Velasquez said their curriculum is focused on teaching women how to develop their own scalable companies.

“Women are a largely underrepresented group of entrepreneurs in our community and our nation,” Velasquez said. “The focus is to help develop that demographic of entrepreneurs and we believe the program will grow to teach aspiring women expand their companies.”

The program runs for 35 weeks and is looking for 25 participants. Candidates must have a passion for entrepreneurship and live in El Paso or Las Cruces. They must have a college degree, have a few years of work experience, have served in an executive
The perspectives

By Sal Guerrero

So far this season, I have attended every men’s basketball home game at the Don Haskins Center. One thing that I found interesting is that the attendance numbers for students are not quite what they should be. The number of students who attend the games is far less than the average over the last couple years. I had to say that there are no more than a couple hundred students who attend every game—not counting Texas Tech.

Now, there are those rowdy guys who sit front row at every event, thank you for that. Besides the band, the Miner Maniacs—also 12 of them—are the only supporters who go and make their voices heard.

But then again, I think to myself, should I really be surprised with a fan base like the one we have here in El Paso? Even when we have two of the best players in the country, senior guard Julian Stone, who's on the Naismith watch-list and senior point guard Julyan Stone, the all-time assist leader at UTEP and in C-USA—we can’t get the Miners fans down and out about them.

Historically speaking, the Don Haskins Center averages around 10,000 fans a game. I feel that's a stretch that is in number that is weighed heavily by some great years at the Special Events Center.

This season UTEP has averaged a meagre crowd of 8,200 per game. That’s a stark contrast from last season's 8,700 mark, but it can be seen in the student section. The lone loss that I could give fans credit is the UCF game Feb. 21 when 9,824 showed up for a Monday morning game at 11 a.m.

Now I’ve heard all the pointless excuses, students are too busy with work and school, or my favorite, UTEP is a commuter campus. I see these excuses as nothing but that, students should be flocking to games even more so if they have access to cars everyday. "It’s not like you have to walk to the Haskins Center or better yet, its not like the school is making you wait out in the rain and snow to get to the best tickets possible. Students are reserved almost four full sections (excluding the band) at the Haskins Center, and each student is allotted one free ticket per game and is eligible to purchase two guest passes. And yet we have one percent of the student body represented at each game.

With only four games left in the year—two of those home games—students should embrace these last few because the acrobatics of Culpepper and the no-look passes from Stone will be nothing but a faded memory by this time next year. I don’t think students need more of an incentive to attend, but if there is one I can end with, this is it: Memphis at UTEP, 1 p.m. Feb. 26, ESPNU. The country will be watching.

Sal Guerrero may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

Art exhibit unites UTEP students

By Lucia Murguia

There is a diverse student body that walks the sidewalks of UTEP’s campus every day. Some head out toward Hudspeth Hall to their creative writing classes, while others head out to the Classroom Building to attend their biology labs. Whet hever a student is an English major or a pre-med student, it is interesting to see how different we all are, yet, how easily we can work together.

The UTEP Art Society along with the Student Government Association, two very distinct and different organizations, are joining forces to present the UTEP community with an art exhibition that will feature students’ work. The exhibition titled “Connected as One” will bring together different artists from the UTEP Art Society to form a site specific collaborative piece that spans many mediums. These different mediums work together across the site to create one piece, just as different students came together to create one art exhibition.

It’s about a group of artists that came together to create a piece, not as individual artists, but rather as a collaborative effort- each utilizing their strengths,” said Adriana Onate, president of the Art Society.

The opening ceremony to commemorate the artists and their art will take place in the SGA office, located in 304 Building East UTEP Feb. 24. The event is open to everyone.

In the long run, we all students. We can be of different shapes, sizes, majors and majors, we can walk into different buildings, and learn about different subjects, but in the end, we all go to UTEP to be students, working hard for what we believe in. And that is something to be proud of.

SPEAK YOUR MIND

Submit a letter to the editor! Letters will be edited for clarity and brevity. Letters over 250 words are subject to editing to fit available space. Please include full name, street address and telephone number and e-mail address, plus major, classification and/or title if applicable.

Address and phone number will be used for verification only.

Write to 105 E. Union, e-mail prospector@utep.edu, call 747-4747 or fax to 747-8031.
National
Congress and Hollywood team up against hydraulic fracturing

ODYSSEY from page 1
position or have started a company in the past.
UTEP is working closely with Innovate El Paso by recruiting participants, supporting the event and providing individuals to talk and explain to students the program’s curriculum.

Laura Busworth-Bucher, advisory board vice-chair of the College of Engineering, said this is an opportunity for people who are serious about pursuing their own business.

"Too many people think they just have to do it on their own and they won't go out and seek this out,” Busworth-Bucher said.
Velazquez said the major supporting partners include Texas State University, where the program originated. UTEP and EPCC have provided the venue for the event, while some of the other partners are the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, City of El Paso Economic Development Department, Arrowhead Center (NMSU), Paso del Norte Group and Mesilla Valley Economic Development Authority.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for women in this region, especially because not many women own their own business and I’m sure many are interested in the program,” said Vero Dominguez, senior economics major.

The Odyssey Program is also focused on women who already own a business, but would like to expand their ideas and take it to a next level.

Tuition for the program is $2,500 with payment plans available. In order to apply, participants must submit a resume and a letter of intent explaining why do they want to be an entrepreneur to ideas@innovateelpaso.com.

“W e are definitely open to considering any graduate students and see what kind of qualifications they have,” Velazquez said.

For more information on the program, visit odysseyelpaso.com.

BY MELVIN FELIX
Scraps Howard Foundation Wire
WASHINGTON - Three congressmen who support legislation to end what they say is a dangerous form of natural gas drilling brought out two celebrities to help argue their case Feb. 17.
Academy Award nominees Mark Ruffalo and Josh Fox join a Capitol Hill news conference to advocate a moratorium on hydraulic fracking until companies can prove that the practice is safe.

"Th ey know it’s impossible for us to prove it because we don’t know what chemicals they’re putting into the ground, then you don’t know what you’re looking for,” Ruffalo said.

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Balancing act: family and academic life proves to be a challenge

BY NICOLE CHÁVEZ
The Prospector

A panel of female academic leaders addressed students on balancing relationships and parenthood with a professional career. Feb. 18 during the 2011 Student Conference for Existing and Emerging Leaders, "Transform Your World: Shape Your Life. Shape Your Future," Union Building East. The conference featured more than 35 speakers, including some from the U.S. Navy, NASA, Hispanic College Fund, TWCA El Paso del Norte Region and various UTEP departments.

Danny Olivas, opening keynote speaker at the conference, talked to students about the path he took from being a UTEP student to a NASA astronaut. In his speech, Olivas stressed the importance of dedication, hard work and following your heart. "Follow your passions and use your talents to develop more talents and use those talents to help the world around you," said Olivas, UTEP alumnus, former NASA astronaut and current director of engineering at Raytheon Space and Airborne Systems. "There are no limitations, there is a universe of possibilities!"

The second keynote speaker was Jason Sabo, senior vice president for Public Policy of United Ways of Texas and chief operating officer of Frontera 501, who urged students to stay informed of local, state and national politics that will have an effect on them. He motivated them to take action against the policies that will have a devastating impact on them.

"What we are talking about is politics, but what we are also talking about is your lives," Sabo said. "The reality is that there are legislators making decision right now that will have a profound impact on your ability to continue getting an education. Additionally, these decisions will have an impact on members of your family and community to get an education."

As part of his effort to get students actively involved, Sabo gave the students the number to Texas Governor Rick Perry’s office and challenged students to call and tell the governor what they think about the current plan to cut the budget of higher education.

"The reality is, if the people of this state do not step up and say the budget being debated right now is them (the state) turning their back on our kids, our families and our communities, if they do not say this then next year there will be fewer African Americans and Hispanics going to college in Texas," Sabo said. "Use that number that I just gave you and call the governor and tell him what you think about the budget cuts. It will make a difference when all the students in this room call and tell him what they think."

The closing keynote speaker was David Ciemny, former tour manager for Lady Gaga and vice president of business development at Jusuru International. Ciemny started his career at the age of 16. After sneaking backstage after a Depeche Mode concert, he got an internship to work for the special events company that later became Live Nation.

Ciemny shared a book list he wrote as a teenager that later became a list of his personal and professional achievements. "Every two or three years I get back to this list and I have done something else, it has been literally a roadmap to my entire life since I was 16. It’s about having a vision for your own life." Ciemny said.

"It was very difficult to be taken seriously as a mother in the workplace, for this reason many women hide their maternalitas," Westman said. "I was afraid of the consequences that would happen if they found that I was two weeks away from delivering."

Westman cited a study by Forbes magazine that found that professional females between the age of 22 and 34 think they can be professionally and personally successful.

“They believe that they can achieve a balance between a successful professional life and a successful personal life and they don’t think there is gonna be any boundaries to achieving that,” Westman said. "The reality is that these women are living on a fantasy."

For Westman, ending the negative situation a mother may encounter in the workplace requires changes in the workplace. "The reality is that these women are living on a fantasy."

"Follow your passions and use your talents to develop more talents and use those talents to help the world around you," said Olivas, UTEP alumna, former NASA astronaut and current director of engineering at Raytheon Space and Airborne Systems. "There are no limitations, there is a universe of possibilities!"

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I was 17 when I had my daughter, she was part of my entire academic career,” Coronado said. “I was focused, I was determined to get a Ph.D. in political science and be a successful academician, that was the goal, so anyone or any obstacle that got in the way. I got rid of it.”

Coronado advised students to make some personal sacrifices as she did. “I missed a lot but I needed a time to study and time to work,” Coronado said. “I told them, no, I cannot go with this. I will not step up and say the budget being debated right now is them (the state) turning their back on our kids, our families and our communities, if they do not say this then next year there will be fewer African Americans and Hispanics going to college in Texas.”

Coronado suggested students create a network of supportive individuals, manage their time and learn how to say no.

“Everyone who surround you do not share your goals you do not need to hang out with them,” Coronado said. “This is an investment on your future, you need to set priorities.”

During the 2011 leadership conference, students listen to Irazena Coronado, associate provost and professor of political science, talk about balancing personal and professional lives.
HOLLYWOOD from page 3

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, hydraulic fracturing operations are exempt from restrictions on injection of fluids near drinking water sources.

Rep. Maurice Hinchey, D-N.Y., said companies that say hydraulic fracturing is safe should let the Environmental Protection Agency double-check their assertion. “If the chemicals they are using aren’t seeping into people’s drinking water,” Hinchey said, “why is the industry so afraid of a requirement that they tell us what they are injecting into the ground?”

Rep. Jared Polis, D-Colo., said the group intends to reintroduce the Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals Act. This legislation would require the exemption of hydraulic fracturing operations receiving revenue under the Safe Drinking Water Act and would require oil and gas companies to disclose the chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing operations.

Rep. Rush Holt, D-N.J., was also present and supports the legislation. “A block away, a separate group protested proposed cuts to water protection programs in President Barack Obama’s 2012 budget,” Holt said.

Holly Shulman, the Sierra Club press secretary, offered pedestrians free cups of water from two containers. There was a catch: one container was filled with what the group called EPA-certified water and the other, she was filled with what the group called ers. While the reduction of funds will impact the financial resources of universities, it may also limit students’ opportunities. “The economic conditions of the state and the cutting of the budget will limit students’ opportunities to study since many will not be able to pay for their education,” said Zaira Flores, junior pre-nursing major. “The increase in tuition can lead to a decline in higher education enrollment.”

Joe Garcia/Staff Photographer

Catholic Campus Ministry
University of Texas at El Paso
Brown Bag Lunch Series
Four English Converses and a “Rocking Horse Catholic”
Sponsored by Catholic Campus Ministry at UTEP

Fridays at 12:10-1:15 PM
Nicholas Center
2230 North Oregon St.
February 25
John Henry Newman: Saintly Intellectual
March 4
G.K. Chesterton: Man of Wonders, Jr., and Sixth
March 11
Ronald Knox: Wh. Scholar, and Popular Author
March 25
Graham Greene: Catholic Wittenber: Sorts
April 1
Caryll Houselander: Rocking Horse Catholic

For More Information Contact
UC Office: 845-3045 or e-mail gmoore48@utep.edu

While it is still too early to know the exact impact the shortage of funds will create on student enrollment and financial aid at UTEP, Vice President for Business Affairs Cyndi Villa said the entire university will be affected. “Right now it’s hard to say if tuition will change or if student enrollment will change, we are too early in the process to know. However, if funds are cut, it’s may be inevitable to raise tuition and it will affect the entire institution,” Villa said.

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Students get involved in Project Move

More than 1,000 Miners volunteer across El Paso

1) Paydirt Pete poses with members of the Student Leadership Institute.
2) UTEP President Diana Natalicio makes an appearance at the Project MOVE pep rally.
3) UTEP Students help organize and count donated jeans for Child Protective Services.
4) Volunteers help clean and beautify the El Paso Zoo.
5) Paydirt Pete amuses the crowd during the pep rally.
6) Volunteers work together to clean the El Paso Zoo.
7) UTEP students help organize and count donations for inventory at Child Protective Services.

Photos by Audrey Russell and Greg Castillo/The Prospector
entertainment

BY AUDREY RUSSELL

The Prospector

ONE Campus Club is dedicated to saving lives and making the issue of poverty history. “OCC is a grassroots organization that fights poverty worldwide, but has a primary focus on Africa. Basically, we work closely with activists and politicians to get them to push votes in our favor so that vaccines get where they need to go,” said Maegan Ramirez, president of the organization.

To educate students about poverty in the world, OCC will screen two documentaries, “Vaccines: An Injection of Hope” and “Vaccines: A Cure for Poverty,” which tell the stories of those who needed a simple helping hand. The films’ purpose are to spread awareness about common preventable diseases that can be stopped by vaccines.

According to the Johns Hopkins Public Health journal, diarrhea and pneumonia kill more children in Africa than any other disease. The cure is readily available through vaccination, but vaccines are needed in order to send help.

After the screenings individual can sign a petition to get these vaccines to families.

“I hope that the campus will become more aware of the world we live in,” said Ramirez. “We can use our good fortune to benefit others and hopefully more students will join us and fight the good fight alongside us. I hope they know they can do it.”

The organization is rooted in making a difference throughout the world by numbers. The more people that actively provide their support through this organization, the more help that can get to the areas in these countries that need it the most.

Every single individual believes that today is the day to make a change in history. OCC is a call for awareness not only in our community but globally,” said Gina Carrion, OCC secretary. “OCC has been a tool to foster and promote social and economic justice to my peers at UTEP. The two screenings will hold are only a window to a reality we often forget exists.

The documentaries will be screened at 5 p.m. Feb. 23 at the Academic Services Building. For more information on how to become actively involved with OCC visit one.org.

It is important for the UTEP community to see how these vaccines play an important role in saving the lives of children. ‘It’s giving them a literal shot at life,’ Ramirez said.

BY JAZMIN SALINAS

OCC holds bead parties to raise money for women in Uganda. For more information, go to their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ONEcampusUTEP.

Music

Radiohead’s latest too mellow for its own good

BY MATTHEW MUNDEN

“The King of Limbs,” Radiohead’s latest album, might be one of the first true disappointments of the year.

With “In Rainbows,” by the English rock band, was released in 2007 and brought about a novel way of getting albums to the customers. Fans were actually able to choose how much they wanted to pay for an album, anywhere from nothing to a million dollars.

The band could have possibly been scorned by that release method due to the lack of such an option this time around. Instead, customers have the option of buying physical CDs, $3.99 for WAV and over $58 for a physical CD and record set. However, even at the $9.99 level, there were only a handful of fans. Announced Feb. 14, “The King of Limbs” came as a surprise to most Radiohead fans because it was going to be released in only five days.

On Feb. 18, fans found that the band released it a day early, but the large surprise was that the eight-track album feels boring.

The problem with this record lies with the tone of the album. Lead singer Thom Yorke sounds like he whitesolt throughout the entire album. Even at its remarkably short run-time of 33 minutes, it felt like a drone on forever. It makes “In Rainbows,” an album that some fans had a similar problem with, feel like something Muse would have made by comparison.

The techno-synth sound of the music also does the album no favors. At times, the songs sounded like the band was singing in front of elevator music, apart from the tracks “Lotus Flower” and “Codex,” tracks five and six respectively, the album threatened to put me in a coma.

It is disappointing because Radiohead is one of my favorite bands, yet I found no song that I would want to listen to repeatedly like “Nude” from “In Rainbows” or “Creep” from “Pap- en Honey,” their album from 1993.

I plan to listen to “The King of Limbs” many more times, to see if maybe I might have missed something or to find the genius in this album that we so easily realized in their other projects.

With “In Rainbows,” Radiohead became a band that release music the way major labels do, releasing an album a month after the release of something. 

With “The King of Limbs,” they became a band to listen to help put you to sleep.

Tracks to listen to: Lotus Flower, Codex, “2 of 5 picks (Reddened)”

February 22, 2011
The UTEP community contributed over 5,000 hours of service to the El Paso community during the second annual, UTEP Project MOVE. During the day of service, 1,367 volunteers worked with 37 community partners at 48 project sites. Through UTEP Project MOVE students, faculty, staff, and alumni had an opportunity to serve others through projects which involved painting, gardening, woodworking, playing sports, knitting, crocheting, web design, and much more. Thanks to all the volunteers for making a difference!
Basketball

Shooting woes end Miners home streak

By Sal Guerrero
The Prospector

When the originally scheduled contest between UCF and UTEP was postponed Feb. 2 due to inclement weather, the Miners lost an opportunity to catch a Knights team that was struggling tremendously. With 19 days to recover, a different squad showed up on President’s Day.

It turned out to be the make-up game that the Miners wished they could take back.

In front of a morning crowd of 9,024, the men’s basketball team dropped their make-up game against the UCF Knights 74-68 Feb. 21 at the Don Haskins Center.

Instead of facing a team that was on a 6-game losing streak and in turmoil, UTEP played a UCF team in the midst of a turnaround, having won two of their last three contests coming into the game.

With the loss, the Miners fell into a five-way tie in the loss column with Southern Miss, UAB, Memphis and a fi ve-way tie in the loss column with

The Miners (17-9, 4-9 C-USA) shot the field in the fi rst half, shooting 33.3 percent. Senior guard Randy Cul- pepper was the primary catalyst for the team shooting 6-of-11 from behind the arc. Jordan and

The Miners (19-7, 8-4 Conference USA) opened the game with senior point guard Jelan Holiday stealing the ball from UCF sophomore guard Julyan Stone stealing

That should have been key for UTEP, swinging the momentum in their direction, but from that point on the Miners were on their heels the entire game.

“I thought the (steal) was going to help us out, but we kept rescoring back,” Stone said. “We were taking steps backwards. We have to look at ourselves in the mirror, everyone has to look in the mirror and just make some self-observations. As far as us as a team, we are terrible.”

UCF (17-9, 4-9 C-USA) shot the UCF Knights 74-68 Feb. 21 at the Don Haskins Center.

They were on their heels the entire game.

“I thought they shot it exceedingly well in the first half,” head coach Tim Floyd said. “This could be a great awakening for our team that you just don’t show up for a game and rely on a crowd to get you over the top.”

UTEP went 10-for-30 from the field in the first half, shooting 33.3 percent. Senior guard Randy Cul- pepper was the primary catalyst keeping the Miners in the game.

“With the loss, the Miners fell into a five-way tie in the loss column with Southern Miss, UAB, Memphis and a fi ve-way tie in the loss column with

Don Haskins Center.

The Prospector

BY KRISTOPHER RIVERA
The Prospector

With an opportunity to go over .500, UTEP softball experienced some growing pains when they lost on their home field.

The relative inexperience of the Miners showed in the second homestand of the season as the Houston Baptist Huskies were able to take advantage and take the series with a tough loss 10-2, but responded in the second game of their doubleheader Feb. 19 by burying the Huskies in the capper with a score of 10-1. With hopes of winning the rubber game, the Miners came out flat, could not come back from the early deficit and fell in the fi nale 6-3.

Houston Baptist (4-4) got out to a fast start, scoring two runs in the opening inning on three hits courtesy of a home run by outfielder Callie Herrington. UTEP trimmed the defi cit to 2-1 in the bottom half of the inning as Kayleigh Watts hit a one-out double to bring home Chelsea Troupe, but could not add to that score as Walts was stranded at second base.

The Huskies added two more runs in the second inning on an RBI double by Jasmin Himmel and later scored on a run-scoring single by Daniella Bodarte to take a 4-1 lead. Houston Baptist then added another run in the third after a home run to right fi eld by Mollie Mil- cak to pad their lead to four runs.

After another Houston Baptist run in the top of the sixth inning, the Miners responded in the bottom half as Kasi Moore blasted a 2-run homer over the right fi eld wall, scoring Kayla Black in the process to trim the defi cit to 6-3.

In the seventh inning, UTEP managed to put the tying run at the plate with runners on fi rst and second and one out, but infi elder Samantha Alvillar grounded into a 4-3-6 double play to end the rally and the game.

“When you let them put up a 6-spot it’s a tough hole to dig yourself out of. Our pitchers have to do better,” co-head coach Kathleen Rodriguez said.

Recognizing the youth within the team, Rodriguez knows that she has to be patient.

“The speed of the game is (like) night and day compared to anything else they have ever done in the past. We are going to take our licks for a while until we fi gure it out, but by the time it’s all said and done, we’re going to be pretty darn good. It’s just a matter of them catching up,” Rodriguez said. “Every day at practice we’re fundamental. I’m looking forward to bringing great and just taking this one game at a time.”

Softball

UTEP humbled by Houston Baptist
Disappointed with the loss, the team came off the field thinking about the adjustments that need to be made. "We work hard at practice. It's just sometimes we have it and sometimes we don't and that's something we definitely have to work on," Moore said. "We have to learn how to be consistent with our hitting."

Freshman pitcher Laura Ramos struggled early in the game to keep the Huskies off the bases, allowing 3 runs on 4 hits in just 1 inning of action. "I guess they saw too much of me yesterday. Maybe my spins weren't working as well," Ramos said. "It was an off day, they were hitting me and that's all there is to it."

While the Miners had mixed results over the weekend, the team is hoping that the growing pains that are going on will eventually pay dividends on the field as the season progresses. "It's been tough but we're getting there and working really hard in practice, making sure that everything is right and that we hit our spot," Ramos said.

Kristopher Rivera may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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**SHOOTING from page 9**

had 11 points in the first half, shooting 5-of-9 from the floor. "Randy really came to play, he came with extraordinary effort," Floyd said. "The first possession we got a pick and steal from Jordan. I think they thought it was going to be easy from that point on."

The Knights closed out the first half on the shooting effort of P.J. Gaynor, who hit a 3-pointer with 30 seconds left, giving UCF a 39-23 lead. Gaynor finished the game with 10 points, while shooting 80 percent from the floor. "We talk about Gaynor being a guy that could really play and I thought he played well," Floyd said. "His first three shots, he counted the seams on the ball and knocked them down from 15 to 16 feet."

UTEP came into the second half shooting, but they still could not find their rhythm due to fouls and a lack of rebounding. The Miners were outrebounded by the Knights 16-30, but the Knights had a total of 26 defensive rebounds, with 16 coming in the first half. "When your teams get their head up, let them hang around and their patient, they’ll make you pay," Floyd said. "The easiest thing in the world is to guard the 3-point line and we didn't do that. I didn't like not rebounding the ball off missed free throws...they'd miss free throws and get them back and make us pay in the back end."

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**HUMBLED from page 9**

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Culpepper scores 33 in win over Houston

BY WILLIAM VEGA
The Prospector

With the Houston Cougars ready to take the home-court advantage from the Miners, senior guard Randy Culpepper took the game into his own hands Feb. 19 leading UTEP to a 76-64 win.

“I thought we were really efficient tonight because of the way Randy scored it,” head coach Tim Floyd said. “I thought the shots he took were in rhythm, some of them were backdoor cuts. His percentage of 3-point shooting en route to a 13-point UTEP lead during the second-half. Culpepper went 6-for-7 from the field in the first half including nine-consecutive points in a span of two minutes leading to a 36-28 Miner lead at the end of the first. “These past few games I’ve been struggling. I even had to call my mom and my family and vent to them,” Culpepper said. “She just told me to go out there and do what I do. I’ve been coming an hour before and after practicing putting up shots. I told my teammates I was in the lab so tonight was going to be ugly.”

The Miners defense was part of Culpepper’s control. Houston was not going to come here and lay down so we had to come out with that intensity especially at home,” Bohannon said. “We knew Houston was going to be ugly. “Th e Miners defense has been part of Culpepper’s control. Houston made their attempts to get back in the game during the second-half trimming a 13-point UTEP lead into fire with just under six-minutes to play. But UTEP’s veterans showed they learned from their recent loss to Southern Miss in which they gave up a 13-point lead to loss by that amount.

The Miners swept the Houston Cougars this season beating them 57-52 Jan. 22 at the Hofheinz Pavilion and 76-64 Feb. 19 at the Don Haskins Center.

GAMES

BOB CORRAL / The Prospector

Call for UTEP Volunteers to Staff the UTEP Miner Country Water Station for the 5th Annual Michelob Ultra El Paso Marathon Sunday, March 6th 2011

• Volunteers needed for the UTEP Water Station located at the corner of OREGON and HAGUE STREET In front of Providence Hospital near Burger King.
• $200 fundraising opportunity to registered UTEP clubs/orgs.
• There will be a cash prize for the best spirit/theme water station and a cash prize for the cleanest station after the race.

Must contact the University Relations Office at 747-6244 or via e-mail to icubilla@utep.edu for sign up or information.

The Prospector may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
The Prospector
BY WILLIAM VEGA

The Miners will have to show how quickly they can regain their composure when they take on the East Carolina Pirates two days after falling to UCF Feb. 21.

“We have to regroup and see if we can get it right,” said head coach Tim Floyd.

“We have to regroup and see if we can get it right,” said head coach Jeff Lebo because of his style of play. This team fits his style with a talented team by all accounts. It’s a skilled team with UCF but may have an easier time finding the basket against the Pirates.

Senior guard Randy Culpepper fell 14-points shy of matching his 39-point output during his 2010 regular season meeting with UCF but may have an easier time finding the basket against the Pirates. Culpepper scored a career-high of 45 points against East Carolina Feb. 13 in a 100-76 victory that was part of the Miners’ 16-game win streak last year.

East Carolina has not fared well with the top-scorers in C-USA this season. The Pirates gave up 21 points to Tulsa’s senior guard Justin Hurtt Feb. 16 and 32 to Southern Miss’ senior forward Gary Flowers Feb. 19, the top two C-USA scoring leaders.

Both games have been part of East Carolina’s current three-game losing streak in which they have allowed 78.7 points the last three games while only scoring 62. Floyd’s main concern will be his lack of height—a fall back UTEP has had to deal with by getting out rebounded 36-30 against UCF and allowing their opponents a conference-high 36 rebounds.

“They have a couple of big guys in there that can rebound it and score on the block,” Floyd said. “It’s a talented team by all accounts. It’s a team that fits (East Carolina head coach) Jeff Lebo because of his style of play. This team fits his style with guys that can hit shots.”

The Pirates will be led by senior guard JonTar Sherrod and junior forward Darrius Morrow, two of the eight East Carolina players averaging more than 40 percent shooting on the team. Sherrod is twelfth in C-USA in scoring averaging 15 points per game while hitting 39 percent of his three-pointers attempted. Morrow leads the team in rebounding averaging 5.3 while connecting on 53.5 percent of his field goals.

Feb. 23 will also be the final game of the Miners three games in five days stretch. UTEP is 1-1 during that span that started with a victory over Houston at the Don Haskins Center 76-64 Feb. 19.

“(Playing three games in five days) shouldn’t be tough because we’ll have to play three-games straight in the conference tournament,” Floyd said. “This could be the greatest thing that ever happened to us. We may look back on this and say it’s nothing.”

UTEP will hope to keep its stride with only two weeks left in the season but are looking to play better compared to how they have been since Jan. 29. The Miners have gone 3-3 in their last six games, which have seen deficits by as much as 19 to UCF Feb. 21, a 13-point lead that was erased in a 64-51 loss to Southern Miss Feb. 16, and first-half deficits against Tulsa Jan. 29, Rice Feb. 5 and SMU Feb. 12.

“We’re looking to win a game. We’re still yet to prove anything in this conference,” senior guard Jully-an Stone said. “After the (UCF) loss, hopefully our guys understand that we have to be ready to play.”

Both teams enter the contest Feb. 23 in a tight Conference USA race with East Carolina (13-13, 5-7 C-USA) sitting just three games back of UTEP (20-7, 8-4 C-USA) with only four games left in both team’s seasons.