Graduation

**UTEP goes all out**

Commencement ceremony awards 100,000th degree

Crime

**Drinking and driving: the sobering truth**

As the community nears the celebratory events associated with Fat Tuesday—events that can take place anywhere from three days to one week prior to March 8—sobering statistics for the year 2010 illustrate the dangers of drinking and driving.

A total of 62 fatal traffic collisions, with 33 of the 62 collisions being alcohol-related, combined with 10 fatalities in January 2011, prompted El Paso Police Department Chief Greg Allen to increase the Driving While Intoxicated Task Force.

"Chief Greg Allen initiated the supplemental task force in January," said Daryl Petry, public information officer for EPPD. "The El Paso Police Department always runs a unit called the DWI Task Force, but the January 2011 supplemented task force began because of 62 fatalities as a result of traffic collisions in 2010."

Petry also provided staggering numbers during the task force's first week in operation. On their first night in operation on Jan. 27, 10 people were arrested and charged with DWI and arrested three minors for possession/consumption of alcohol.

"They work Thursday, Friday and Saturday and they work 6 p.m. to 4 a.m.," Petry said. "The effectiveness, if based just on the number of arrests and citations issues, looks good. The one thing that cannot be measured is how many alcohol related collisions have been prevented. That's just impossible to measure."

The brunt of having an alcohol-related offense on a record reaches deeper than just receiving a paper citation.

"I have a friend who got a DUI," said Joseph DiMaggio, junior multi-disciplinary studies major. "Their life wasn't affected that much. They only lost the trust of their family and their friends and also had to show up in court."

Joining forces with EPPD’s DWI Task Force is the non-profit organization MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving).

**El Paso Police DWI Task Force**

- 122 people arrested for DWI
- 23 for Minor detectable
- 1,499 citations
- 29 minors in possession/consumption of alcohol
- 39 pedestrian violations

Totals from Jan. 27 to Feb. 26

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**DRUNK**

see page 5

**UTEPIA**

starts March 7

**SPRING BREAK BASH**

Miners beat Marshall on Senior Night

**SPORTS** • 7

By Nicole Chávez

The Prospector

UTEP president Diana Natalicio held a press conference March 1 to announce special plans for the spring 2011 commencement.

By Nicole Chávez

The Prospector

UTEP will roll out the red carpet as they hand out the 100,000th degree during the 2011 spring commencement ceremony May 14 at the Don Haskins Center.

"We are going to recognize the entire May 2011 class as collectively receiving the 100,000th degree at UTEP," said Natalicio said in a press conference.

All of the 2011 spring graduates will receive a commemorative t-shirt and a special medallion.

"We designed (the t-shirts and medallions) and they will be given to every single May 2011 graduate," Natalicio said. "A special medallion that would serve as a lasting memory of both their individual achievement and their participation in this collective institutional milestone."

Over the next few months, graduates will be encouraged to share their stories, the importance of getting a degree from UTEP and what that represents on the path of their future through a short video interview.

As part of the 100,000 degrees commemoration, a new mace will be used for the ceremonies. Traditionally, the mace is carried by a distinguished faculty member and leads the procession to the Don Haskins Center.

The new mace has been designed by Beverly Penn, a 2010 Gold Nugget recipient and art professor at Texas State University in San Marcos. The design will reflect the El Paso region and will mark the award of UTEP’s 100,000 degrees.

see UTEP on page 3

BY JAZMIN SALINAS

The Prospector

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It's still an uphill battle

BY VANESSA JUAREZ

The Prospector

I’m certainly not diminishing the struggles of early feminism. The passing of legislation, the battle for women to be recognized as equally valuable and just as capable as men had just begun. In 1963, the Equal Pay Act made it illegal for women to be paid less than men, but nearly 50 years later, U.S. women still earn only 77 cents for every male dollar, according to the latest census statistics. In other words, changing the laws to reflect that women’s voices and work are just as important as men’s is easy compared to actually changing the hearts and minds of people.

I’m a proud feminist. A lot of people, including individuals I work and have class with on a daily basis, immediately cringe when I say that. I think that because they instantly imagine a God-loving, man-hating, radical, ugly, bra-burning bitch. Now, I’m none of the above (although I have fantasized about burning those annoying underwires) and I tell those individuals that they’re a feminist too if they believe that both men and women, of all races and genders, are socially and intellectually equal. Men and women are different, of course, but those differences shouldn’t translate into inferiority.

March is Women’s History Month and any one who believes that women no longer have anything to fight for or that all the battles have been won are ignorant or just not paying attention. Gender roles, sexism and patriarchy are so deeply ingrained in our psyches and society that sometimes it’s hard to imagine how and when women won’t be seen as inferior in their bodies, in terms of their connections to men or in terms of how many children they have. For anyone who hasn’t been listening, sexism is alive and well.

That doesn’t mean, however, that both men and women, of all races and genders, are socially and intellectually equal. Men and women are different, of course, but those differences shouldn’t translate into inferiority.

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For Natalicio, reaching the amount of degrees awarded is another step toward Tier-one status. "Reaching this major milestone is another indication of our progress in becoming the first national research university with a 21st century student demographic," Natalicio said.

According to the 2010 Economic Impact report by the UTEP Institute for Policy and Economic Development, UTEP graduates are expected to earn between $423,000 and $540,000 during their entire careers. Also, the report shows that UTEP adds a total of 7,050 local jobs and $452 million in household income. "Think about what these 100,000 graduates have collectively made to the economic development and quality of life in this Paso del Norte region," Natalicio said.

Some students said they are nervous about the end of their college education, but also feel prepared for their future endeavors. "I never imagined I’d finish a master’s degree, now I feel prepared to confront the real world with a master’s degree in my hand," said Devon Johnson, industrial engineering graduate. During the press conference, Natalicio recognized senior finance and accounting major Alex Muñoz, who is graduating this May after completing an internship last summer with the financial firm JP Morgan and Chase in New York City. "It’s something important not only for me, also for my family, especially my mother, who has supported me all the way," Muñoz said. "I’m grateful for the opportunities the university has given to me. Now, my duty as an alumnus is to help other students to achieve their goals and be successful."

For Mary Helen Padilla, UTEP Alumni Association president, the fact that UTEP is awarding its 100,000th degree is a major accomplishment for students, graduates and also for alumni.

C-SPAN’s “Washington Journal” traveling bus visited UTEP March 2 to give students a chance to participate in hands-on demonstrations that featured the C-SPAN video library and the network’s social media offerings.

Four English Converts and a “Rocking Horse Catholic”
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March 4, G.K. Chesterton: Man of Wonder, Joy, and Faith
March 11, Ronald Knox: Wit, Scholar, and Prolific Author
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April 1, Cary® House: Lancaster Rocking Horse Catholic

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National

Obama budget would cut utility assistance for the poor in half

BY MELVIN FELIX

Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama's 2012 budget proposes to cut in half funding for home energy assistance to poor households in Texas and across the country.

The budget, released Feb. 14, would allocate $2.57 billion to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance program, down from the $5.1 billion it was allocated in 2010 and 2011. The program assists households that pay a high portion of income on heating and cooling bills.

The cuts would come at a time when a record number of households are expected to request LIHEAP funds, according to Mark Wolfe, executive director of the National Energy Assistance Directors' Association.

In Texas, for example, he expects 30,000 households to apply for help in 2011, a 17 percent increase from the year before.

Under the 2012 budget, Wolfe said Texas would receive $49.7 million in 2012, less than half of what it received in 2010.

"That's an awful lot of money to take away for families in Texas," Wolfe said. "Cutting LIHEAP is asking for the poorest families to contribute significantly to cut the deficit, which doesn't really make sense."

In 2010, Texas was allocated a $183.6 million LIHEAP block grant as well as $27 million in contingency funds, released during extreme weather conditions or energy price increases.

The budget reflects a government that is tightening its belt and looking toward the future, Office of Management and Budget Director Jacob Lew said at a news conference the day the budget was released. He said the cuts to LIHEAP would bring funding for the program to 2008 levels -- before "a huge spike in energy prices" led to doubling-up funding -- because home energy price levels are now closer to what they were then.

According to data published by the Energy Information Administration, natural gas prices will go down by 2.3 percent this winter.

"Looking at our fiscal challenges, we can't just straight-line the program at $5 billion," Lew said. "We have gone back to the level it was at when prices were roughly the same."

The home energy assistance program received the largest cut in Obama's budget proposal within the Administration for Children and Families. Other programs within this branch of the Department of Health and Human Services, such as Head Start, would receive millions in additional funding.

"We've been very clear that we need to create more opportunities to invest in education, in innovation and in building the infrastructure for the future," he said. "We've had tough tradeoffs.

"Department of Health and Human Service Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said the cuts would not have been made in better fiscal times.

"Where we found waste, we cut it," Sebelius said Feb. 14 at the department's budget briefing. "We can't build a lasting prosperity over a mountain of debt."

In Texas, the home energy assistance program is administered by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. Most of the money is allocated to the Comprehensive Energy Assistance program, which helps eligible households pay up to eight of their highest utility bills per year. The department sets aside 15 percent of the funds for the Weatherization Assistance Program, which helps low-income households control energy costs through weather-stripping, caulking, wall and ceiling insulation and heating system improvements.

To be eligible for LIHEAP assistance in Texas, a household's income must not exceed twice the poverty level, which is equal or less than 60 percent of the median income level.

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**Seniors halt Thundering Herd**

**BY WILLIAM VEGA**

*The Prospector*

On a night dedicated to the Miners’ largest men’s basketball senior class, the record-breaking group stepped up when they most needed to in an 82-74 win against Marshall March 2.

Five seniors finished in double figures, with two of them, guards Julian Stone and Randy Culpepper, finishing in amazing fashion, as they have their entire careers. Culpepper led all scorers with 24 points and Stone nearly completed a triple double with 12 points, 12 rebounds and seven assists.

“I don’t know what to say, I mean, I’ve been close before but I’m just glad to rack up the win. There are definitely things we need to improve on,” Stone said. “A triple-double would have been great, but we were able to beat a really good team, so I can’t dwell on it.”

Rebounding may be the adjustment UTEP will have to fix. As they have all season, the Miners struggled on the glass, getting outrebounded 47-31, including 24-5 on the offensive side.

But what UTEP lacked from their frontcourt presence, they made up from the field, shooting 59.6 percent, while holding Marshall to 38.9 percent. Two of the top four C-USA three point defenses took the court with the Miners winning the defensive battle by shooting 41.7 percent, compared to the Thundering Herd’s 25.

“Fighting an injury is never easy, but nonetheless some treatment could ease the pain,” assistant athletic trainer Brandon Burris said. “But others require a serious change up.”

It is a serious change indeed for Green, who will not be able to return this season. She will be receiving surgery to recover from her second knee injury and will be back for the next season.

“We’ve been working with Brandon, and he’s going to get us right,” Green said. “We’ve been starting from the basics and working our way up.”

Houston, a senior guard who transferred from Colorado, injured her knee at the beginning of the season. During practices, instead of joining the team for drills, Burris has Houston working on exercises to help strengthen her lower body.

“As a trainer, (he) knows what he’s talking about. He pushes us hard,” Houston said. “On the days we’re hurting we come in for treatment and days that we don’t want to do stuff, we still know that we have to workout.”

Even with a grueling workout routine Burris pushes the players through,

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**Injuries take out vital players as tournament nears**

**BY KRISTOPHER RIVERA**

*The Prospector*

The women’s basketball team has suffered through a handful of injuries, greatly affecting the team.

With the Miners 6-9 in Conference USA, the injuries could not have come at a worse time. Three starters, senior guard Sviatlana Trukshanina, junior point guard Briana Green, sophomore forward Anete Steinberga and senior transfer guard Whitney Houston, who comes off the bench, have suffered injuries during this season.

“The pressure is always there to get them back on the court. It doesn’t change how I do things no matter what our season is looking like,” head coach Keitha Adams said. “I’m very aggressive in my approach, I always push them, I never let them sit back and just have a day off. We don’t have time for that in collegiate athletics.”

Sports takes a toll on the body, and when something goes wrong there is a consequence. Athletes competing at the collegiate level can expect intense contact, whether it is a hit from an opponent or a fall to the floor.

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**Softball**

**New face on the field learns quickly**

**BY KRISTOPHER RIVERA**

Freshman utility Kayla Rae Black is a new face on the field and comes to UTEP with some impressive titles under her belt.

Before her college career, Black was able to clinch the El Paso Times All-City selection three times as a pitcher and outfielder. She also played on club softball for the Texas Sluggers, where she was selected as an All-American USA and named the Texas State Tournament Most Valuable Player.

"The team here is like family, especially with mama and papa here, my parent's and everybody else is like sisters here," Black said.

Black has already developed a deep connection with her coaches and teammates.

Junior outfielder Courtney Ware said she was impressed with Black's performance when they faced Northern Colorado in a double header Feb. 2.

"She's doing really, really good. She's come a long way, she's gotten a lot more confident," Ware said. "She's the only freshman in the outfield with us, so she gets a lot of pointers and we encourage her.

In the game against Northern Colorado, Black went up to bat on a pinch-hit and made her way to home plate, helping the Miners win 6-2.

"She's doing some really exciting things, not only in pitching, but in hitting and fielding. She's an all around utility player and there are not a lot of times you can say that," softball co-head coach Kathleen Rodgriguez said. "She has every single tool possible to be able to be an incredible ball player by the time it's all said and done."

Black seems to exceed her expectations as a freshman considering all the experience and achievements she has reached. Although she is among the youngest of her team-mates, her skill is improving as she enters the upcoming seasons.

"A lot of freshmen are really not aware of the pace of the game, but I think she's come in and done a good job," Rodriguez said. "She's come to camp since she was 10 and understands and knows the way this program runs and the way we coach."

Black, who had a .714 batting average in high school, has been involved in the game of softball since early childhood. Her family has roots that run deep into the sport. Black's father coaches Texas Sluggers Travel Ball, her two older sisters Janelle and Angela coach softball at Clint High School and her sister Candace played softball at New Mexico State.

Rodriguez said she sees the potential Black can reach. Even though she may not see as much action on the field, they clearly seem to be getting enough work done during practice.

"They have very high expectations, they expect us to beat out the seniors as freshman so they make us earn our spot," said Black.

Black said her family has helped her to be successful not just in softball but in life.

"My parent's morals and how hard they made us work helped me," Black said. "Average was never good enough, they made me work to be the best at everything."

UTEP's current record this season is 9-6. The softball team will face play in the North Texas Courtyard Classic March 4-5 in Denton, Texas.

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

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**BOB CORRAL/ The Prospector**

Freshman utility Kayla Black was a three-time El Paso Times all-city selection in high school as a pitcher and outfielder.

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**BOB CORRAL/ The Prospector**

Freshman utility Kayla Black attempts a hit March 2 at the Helen of Troy Softball Complex.
Senior guard Julyan Stone has been a starter on the men’s basketball team the minute he arrived as a freshman in 2007 from Goleta, California. In his four years as a Miner, Stone has become the all-time assist leader in Conference USA and UTEP basketball history, surpassing Miner-great Tim Hardaway. The Prospector sat down with Stone for a Q&A after practice. His answers were edited for length.

Born: Dec. 7, 1988
Classification: senior
Position: point guard
Height: 6-feet, 7-inches
Weight: 200 lbs.
High School: Dos Pueblos Senior High School

Favorite T.V. show?
“SportsCenter” and “Boo-ndocks”

Most played artist on your iPod?
J. Cole

Favorite movie?
“Boys in the Hood,” “Above the Rim” and “Love and Basketball”

Who would be your dream date?
Alicia Keys

What was your first job?
Working as a referee at youth basketball games.

Favorite meal?
Steak, salmon and shrimp scampi

Favorite athlete to watch?
Lebron James

Who are your heroes?
My mother and brother

I would like to spend a day with...
Denzel Washington or Magic Johnson

What’s your worst habit?
Walking around with no socks, my feet are terrible.

Dream job?
Play professional basketball or coaching Division 1 basketball

Favorite place to visit?
Miami, Florida

Favorite hobby?
Writing poetry

Favorite restaurant?
Landry’s Seafood

Favorite video game?
Anything from NBA 2K series

What car do you drive?
Right now, an ‘03 Chevy Impala, but my baby is my ‘85 Cadillac. I left it back home.
Marshall thrived off second-chance points during the run, outscoring UTEP 8-2. Kane finished with 20 points and Baines completed a double-double with 22 points and 11 rebounds. The Thundering Herd's leading scorer, 6-foot-7 junior forward Johnny Thomas, was held under his average, finishing with 15 points.

“I thought Randy did a great job on Pitts, which was a big part of their game,” head coach Tim Floyd said. “He was also barking out signals, in terms of changing our defenses, which we haven’t heard all season long. We just wanted to disrupt their rhythm as much as we could.”

The UTEP seniors were honored 12 minutes prior to tip off, starting with three team managers. El Paso native Eric Muñoz was given his framed honorary jersey first, followed by Isaac Gordon, Wayne Portalatin, Claude Britten, Jeremy Williams, Christian Polk, Stone and Culpepper.

“It’s a bittersweet feeling for it to be our last game, but we had to play unconscious because Marshall is a good team,” Stone said. “Senior Night would have meant nothing with a loss.”

weekly
SUDOKU

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Featured UTEP Alumni.

Marshall's leading scorer, guard Damier Pitts, was held under his average, finishing with 12 points.

“My mom was emotional but that’s how she is. That’s how all moms are,” Culpepper said. “Seeing her son on Senior Night, of course she’s going to get sensitive. But because of the conference tournament being here we didn’t look at it as Senior Night.”

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

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The Geology lawn will be the place to party just before classes let out for spring break from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 7.

UTEPIA, formerly known as Miner Fest, began about 11 years ago by the Campus Activities Board. The event originated as the spring version of Minerpalooza and is now in its third successful year.

"This year's event will be a little different from last year," said Sam Rodrigue, registered student organizations intern and senior organizational and corporate communication major.

"We're having different student organizations participate and there will be many activities. One of our biggest is the fashion show!" Rodrigue said the purpose of the event is to teach students how to have fun in a responsible way just before they set off for their spring break vacations.

This year's theme is Futuristic, featuring various attractions such as a fashion show, music by DJ Ottomatic, games, a Mandi Gra mask-making run by the Future Leaders in Public Relations, a health fair, inflatables, an involvement fair to help student organizations recruit and fundraise and lots of food will also be provided.

"It's nice to have an event that will be entertaining for students just before spring break because some of us are stressing out with classes," said Lope Delacueva, junior criminal justice major.

In collaboration with the Women's Resource Center, UTEPIA will celebrate National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. Shannon Osburn, coordinator of the Women's Resource Center, said one of the big differences this year is that UTEPIA will feature a health fair.

"We're going to have various agencies that will promote health awareness towards HIV and AIDS," Osburn said. "Part of this event is for students to be prepared for wherever they decide to go and we want to defer some of that by having a fun environment with some educational resources."

Some student organizations will also be there to recruit. The UTEPIA committee is encouraging students to attend and is expecting about 3,000 people throughout the day.

For some students, their attendance to the event will depend on their schedule availability.

"For me, it depends what my work schedule looks like that day," said Francisco Castañeda, sophomore political science major.

"Part of this event is for all UTEPIA students and lunch is provided. CAR also encourages students that are interested in volunteering and participating. For more information, visit the CAR office located in Room 111 of Union Building West, contact Israel Nava at cab2@utep.edu or call 747-7906.

Students at 2010’s UTEPIA got a week of activities that show them how to have fun responsibly before their Spring Break.
La Parada adds to El Paso’s art scene

Nurturing the art and music of local El Pasoans, La Parada takes place the first Friday of every month. They welcome everyone to come and enjoy a friendly and safe environment for both the viewers and the artists. Watch artists at work or expose your art to the public.

Above: Paintings are often on sale at La Parada. Middle: La Parada is also a social meeting place for artists and art lovers. Below: A crowd looks on as artists work. The next event is scheduled for March 4.