C-USA Tourney is here

BY WILLIAM VEGA

The Prospector

It came as a surreal feeling to El Pasoans when it was announced in May 2010 that the Sun City would be the site of the 2011 Conference USA Men’s and Women’s Basketball Championship. Nearly 10 months later, the much-awaited event is finally here.

“This is heaven if you’re a basketball fan,” said Edward Davis, UTEP alum and owner of Cappetto’s Italian Restaurant. “It starts Wednesday morning at 11 and it’s going to go all day for the next two days. I’m going to love to be able to go to the (Don) Haskins Center and watch basketball all day.”

UTEP and El Paso are doing their parts to accommodate C-USA visitors. Locally-owned Cappetto’s has supplied pre-game meals for the UTEP men’s basketball team all season and will now open their doors for visiting fans and teams.

“People don’t come to El Paso to eat Italian food, they come to eat Mexican food. We did some Internet advertising with the school athletic departments to let fans know we’re here,” Davis said. “I will be hosting teams for dinner and work with the hospitality room, so whatever we can do to help make this a success. High tide lifts all boats and this is great for the city.”

Memorial Gym has been prepared for the C-USA Women’s Basketball Tournament.

C-USA Tourney Preview

Dark-horse teams could dominate

SPORTS • 13
Mean what you say, say what you mean

BY AARON MARTINEZ

A word is just a word and nothing more. Most of the time when we speak we really don’t think about the literal meaning of what we actually said. But once that word has been printed, published, recorded or repeated in any manner, it may not sound like what we meant it to.

Whether for good or evil, once a word is put down for all to see or hear, the one who said it may not like the way it comes off. Although, everyone has their own take on what a word actually means or what they believe it to infer, I like to believe that anyone with common sense can tell the difference between what words were used and what the actually message of those words were intended to mean.

Last week, a professor of mine said something that really stuck a chord with me. So much so, I had to write something that really struck a chord with me. So much so, I had to write something that really struck a chord with me. So much so, I had to write something that really struck a chord with me.

Language is a smokescreen; we rarely say what we are truly thinking. We hide our thoughts behind a wall of words,” my professor said.

The truth of this statement may become painfully obvious when a person is being interviewed for a news story. Whether it is a controversial issue or a puff piece, the individual will almost always hide the way they truly feel due to the fear of saying something politically incorrect.

And when the words they have said loud and clear do not come off as profound and righteous as they believed they would, they always blame the people who published them.

While I am trying to be as vague as possible about the situation we are currently dealing with, I truly wish I could scream it out loud so everyone could hear. For I know most, if not all, would find it amusing and a waste of a lot of people’s time.

As editor-in-chief, I try my hardest to write and assign stories that bring light to the struggles that students face every day on campus. So far during my tenure, as being my toughest critic, I believe I have done a respectable job at covering these issues.

Whenever a situation is brought to our attention that impacts the health and safety of the UTEP community, we will always cover it. Not just to “controversial,” not just to get students to pick up the paper, but because it is an important issue that should be people be aware of and so that changes can be made to correct the problems.

Whenever any newspaper covers a big issue the emotions this brings up are passionate, and may even incite anger and fear. But, the worst thing it can bring forth is the lack of caring about the issue at hand or people who care more about what someone may think about them because of what they said.

Although, drama and hassles may be caused by our coverage, we will never stop reporting about the important issues concerning the health and safety of students. In the end, as journalists, we all know that “no good deed goes unpunished.”

The Prospector wants you!

The Prospector is looking for correspondents (sports, entertainment and news) for spring 2011. If interested, please apply at The Prospector’s office, Union Building East, Room 105 or visit www.utepprospector.com.

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.

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This week’s poll question: Will you spend spring break out of town?

POLL RESULTS

Should the Texas Legislature adopt a bill similar to Arizona’s SB 1070?

21% yes

79% no

Column

Students want to keep guns out of UTEP

BY LUCIA MURGUIA

After hearing about the Virginia Tech shooting in 2007 and the Northern Illinois shooting in 2008, the thought of students carrying concealed weapons on campus is daunting to many.

With more than half of the members of the Texas House signing as co-authors of a proposal that would allow concealed handguns on college campuses, many UTEP students wonder how safe the classroom will be.

“I wouldn’t feel safe knowing that the person sitting next to me in class could be armed,” said Diana Gloria, SGA president.

Because of the high risk that guns would pose on campus and in the general well-being of students, the UTEP Student Government Association feels that it is by all means necessary to prevent the legislature from passing such a law. SGA has taken the initiative to begin a petition and a resolution for UTEP students to be a part of.

There will be a rally on campus for students, faculty members and the public to attend March 9 at noon in Leach Grove. The rally will consist of an information session along with a live signing session.

“We believe that if we attain at least 2,500 votes opposing concealed weapons on campus, we can push Governor Rick Perry away from the signing the bill,” said Pablo Padilla, junior, a member of the SGA organizing committee of the event. “Students have the power to make that change happen.”

The petition was created by students who feel that having concealed weapons on campus could pose threats for everyone at UTEP. The rally will give students a chance to voice out their opinion and initiate a change in the state legislature. Once enough votes are attained, the petition will be sent to Governor Perry. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

“We feel that guns have no business being inside the classroom,” said Padilla. “Student safety comes first.”

Lucia Murguia may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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For some students, parking in certain areas of the R-5 lot, also known as the former Rudolph Chevrolet Lot, will become prohibited as UTEP begins to develop a plan that will transform the land into a retail center.

For the past few years, the university has been planning and seeking outside consultation on what to do with the lot and is currently envisioning its transformation.

“We are currently in discussions with the developers on terms and conditions for us to sign a long term contract,” said Cynthia Villa, vice president of business affairs.

According to Villa, UTEP issued a request for proposal for a mixed-use development to local developers last year and has now received those proposals back. Different proposals included retail operations with market rate housing and financial packages dealing with concepts and ideas for the site.

UTEP has selected North Campus Investors to negotiate and design the site. Villa said they are still in the early stages of discussing how the land will be developed. The retail center would include housing on some levels, office space, stores, pedestrian-friendly areas and restaurants.

“We originally envisioned something that enhances campus community, campus life and the neighborhood,” Villa said. “So we felt that is what best achieved those goals.”

If terms are kept with the investors, UTEP would ground lease the property so the group would have the rights to develop the site. In the process of development, the lot would lose six acres of parking spaces. However, Villa said the parking spaces are not heavily used.

“The parking lot is never full, and part of it is used for Miner Metro shuttles and for trailers for construction,” Villa said. “Most faculty and staff are willing to pay a little more to park in an area that is more convenient.”

The R-5 parking lot is one of the furthest away from campus and the parking decal for the entire remote parking lots cost $90 for students. Amanda Zepeda, sophomore physics major, owns a green R-5 decal and parks there every morning before class.

“I like the parking I have because I’m used to a routine of coming here,” Zepeda said. “Now I will probably have to park somewhere else or get a more expensive decal.”

Some students chose to buy that decal because it is one of the lowest priced. Despite the loss of parking spaces in the future, some students think it will be a positive addition to the campus community.

“I really hate all the hassle of parking here but on the other hand, I think it’s great they’re expanding this lot to become something better for the community,” said Steven Sambrano, senior civil engineering major.

Villa said the project has been a work-in-progress that has taken years to be at the point where it is now and said the community will be satisfied with the finalized project.

“I think the campus community and the El Paso community will be very well served by this project,” Villa said. “It’s well conceived and as I see it developing, all of us on campus and the community will be very proud of it.”

Beatriz A. Castañeda may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

Nearly six acres of parking lots are expected to be closed off in the R-5 lot as the university begins to develop the land.
Students plan to avoid Juárez for spring break

BY AMOUNSHA VALODYA
The Prospector

Texas Department of Public Safety Director Steven McCraw recently cited violence near the border as a reason for Texas college students to avoid traveling to Mexico.

"Drug violence has not discriminated - innocent bystanders and people who may have been in the wrong place at the wrong time are among the casualties," McCraw said in a written statement on March 1. "Our safety message is simple: avoid travelling to Mexico during spring break and stay alive!"

Although the U.S. Department of State has also issued travel warnings for Americans planning to go to Mexico, many UTEP students, who reside on the border between the U.S. and Mexico, have no choice but to go to Ciudad Juárez because of work and family.

Many other students have elected not to go across the border because of the rampant drug war violence, even during spring break, a time when college students usually travel for pleasure.

"Juárez is not what it used to be. It was a nice, peaceful place with a good family environment," said Armando Armendariz, junior business major. "Now, there's no telling what can happen. There's a lot of violence. You don't feel safe, even with the federal police."

Abdulrah John, sophomore pre-pharmacy major, said he would be going to Virginia to visit family. John adamantly said there was no way he would go across the border to visit Juárez.

John wasn't referring to the recent spate of violence he's heard about, but rather a first-hand experience that happened years ago when he and his family visited Juárez.

"I was sightseeing with my family when we saw five men chasing a guy across the street. They were shooting at him," he said. Although John and his family were inside a car, he said they were still fearful.

Martin Rodarte, senior mechanical engineering major, said he was planning on studying and catching up with his course work over spring break. He said he visited Juárez two months ago and wasn't afraid.

"The last time I went, everything was okay. I took precautions and avoided public places," he said.

Marcela Diaz, freshman nursing major, said she would be staying in El Paso because of work. Although she's visited Juárez in the past, she said that she would feel too insecure to return.

"A couple of weeks ago, my former classmate was found dead in Juárez, lying in the middle of the street. Her mom was killed too," Diaz said.

Area travel agencies say that Mexico was a hot-spring break spot, especially during spring break. Patricia Morales, travel consultant from the Rio Grande Buck Rogers Travel agency, said her clients don't book trips to Mexico as much as they used to.

"Now people are really scared because of the violence," Morales said. "Before, the number one spot was Cancun. Now it's Florida or California because of Disneyland."

Rosa Carrasco, senior education major, said that because of work and her young daughter, she would be staying in El Paso during the break. Carrasco said it's been three years since she's been to Juárez and she doesn't plan on going there soon.

"Friends of my friends have been killed in Juárez. It's kind of scary with all the violence going on there," she said.

Elizabeth Dominguez, sophomore psychology major, said that she's never been to Juárez and doesn't plan on going there because of the violence she's heard in the news and through coworkers.

"I'm afraid that I'll get abducted or held at gunpoint," she said. For spring break, she plans to hang out with friends in El Paso and spend time with her 2-year-old daughter.

Carlos Rodriguez, sophomore electrical engineering major, said that he would be going to Ruidoso to camp with friends. It's fear, he said, that keeps him away from Juárez, although he hasn't experienced any problems there.

"For Christmas, I went to Juárez, and at first, I was scared because of all the violence that's been happening," he said. "But I didn't see any violence during the entire trip."

Alejandro Sandoval, sophomore industrial engineering major, is planning to go to Los Cabos, Mexico, with her family for spring break. Sandoval lives in Juárez, but she doesn't recommend that students go there unless they have to.

"It's dangerous, even with the military presence. You don't even know if they're involved (in the drug cartels) too," she said.

Mariah Villasenor may be reached at prospectordx. edu.
Question of the week

What are your plans for spring break?

JASON NEWSON
junior mechanical engineering major

“I will be sleeping, drinking and maybe studying.”

REBECCA JUAREZ
senior biology major

“I’m going to be visiting family members in Mexico.”

CLAUDIA CRUZ
sophomore marketing major

“I’m going to Arizona for a friend’s wedding.”

TERRI LUNA
senior pre-nursing major

“I’m roadtripping to Austin with friends.”

EDGARDO PEREGRINO
senior applied mathematics major

“I’m going to be visiting family members and possibly go to Six Flags.”

JASON NEWSON
junior pre-nursing major

“I plan to travel to San Antonio with my family and friends.”

REBECCA JUAREZ
sophomore biology major

“I’m going to be visiting family members in Mexico.”

CLAUDE HURLOCKER
junior pre-nursing major

“I’ll just (be) chilling, spending time with family and friends.”

THE C-USA from page 1

The El Paso Marriott will be short on vacancy the week of the tournament, as the hotel will host the men’s C-USA basketball tournament for the first time ever. The tournament is scheduled for March 8-10 at the Don Haskins Center and will feature 11 teams vying for a spot in the NCAA tournament.

Tickets will be sold in terms of sessions so that one ticket will allow entry to either the first two games March 9-10 or the last two. Purchasing just one individual ticket to either the semifinals or the finals will allow entry into any game each day. A men’s ticket gets you into any women’s game for all four days.

“What (the conference tournament) is doing is big. The national exposure El Paso will get is huge,” Wickstrom said. “It will impact El Paso and hopefully bring in the $3.5 million revenue they are expecting. We are bringing in 11 schools and we hope their fans will take back with them the observation that El Paso has great weather, community and hospitality.”

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

The C-USA tournament will be played in the Don Haskins Center and Memorial Gym.

Games will tip off for the men at 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on March 9-10. The women’s tournament will be hosted at Memorial Gym at 12 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. for the first round and the quarterfinals. All four semifinal games will be played at the Don Haskins Center at 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. for the women and at 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. for the men March 11. The men’s championship game will start at 9:30 a.m. and the women’s will be at 6 p.m. March 12.

Single game tickets for the conference tournament range from $18-$53 and went on sale March 6. Individual tickets can be purchased through the University Ticket Center or at their offices located on 2901 N. Mesa St., directly adjacent to the Don Haskins Center.

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The C-USA from page 1

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7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

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Mexican President Calderón projects optimistic future for U.S.-Mexico relations

WASHINGTON March 3.

Obama held a joint press conference following their summit in Washington March 3.

David Acosta
Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

WASHINGTON – Mexican President Felipe Calderón expressed optimism about Mexico’s economic progress, its fight against narcotics-trafficking and organized crime, and U.S.-Mexico trade relations during his visit to the United States.

Obama and Calderón also announced they have reached a proposed agreement on international trucking, which would allow Mexican trucks to operate in the United States.

Obama said that the proposed agreement will strengthen safety, expand exports to Mexico and create jobs on both sides of the border. Mexico is the second largest importer of U.S. goods—a fact, which Obama pointed out, provides one million American jobs.

At a public forum, which followed the press-conference, held at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, Calderón said that while he is committed to his current policy in Mexico’s war against organized crime, there is a need for “co-responsibility” by local authorities.

"The worst case we have in Mexico is Ciudad Juárez, in terms of violence," Calderón said.

He also said that he has kept federal police in Juárez and "they are organizing control step by step."

His administration has also used an aggressive social policy, building new schools and university campuses as well as providing health care to the citizens of the city, which had more than 3,000 murders in 2010. The Mexican government is currently addressing these problems, according to senior communications studies major Marcela Aguierre. "This year I am going to spend my spring break in Cancun, which I feel is a highly touristic site and a safe place to go compared to other areas of the country."

"Diana Arrieta may be reached at prospector@utep.edu."
Wind couldn’t stop UTEPIA

Despite high speed winds, students still came out to the Geology Lawn March 7 for UTEPIA. The event included food, information and student organization tables, rides, games and fun activities.

HERITAGE COMMISSION
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

Open House
Tuesday, March 8, 2011
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Open To All Students
Free Refreshments and a Chance to Win a $50 Prize!
Come tour the Heritage House and learn about UTEP’s history and heritage!

Heritage House
(corner of Randolph and Kurbey)
Pinter’s ‘The Homecoming’ staged at UTEP

BY JAZMIN SALINAS

The critically-acclaimed play "The Homecoming," written by Harold Pinter, will be performed by the UTEP Department of Theatre and Dance.

"It’s one of my favorite plays written by one of the greatest playwrights over the past 100 (plus) years," said Joel Murray, director of "The Homecoming," and chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance. "Until his death a few years ago, he was considered by most as the greatest working playwright. 'The play is true craftsmanship.'"

"The Homecoming" is about an American professor, Teddy, who takes his wife, Ruth, and two sons to meet his family in northern London, but the play twists with sexual tensions and an odd outcome.

"Of Pinter’s plays, I would put it pretty near the top of (the list). A lot of people say it is his best," said Tony Stafford, English professor. "In the English language, Pinter is recognized, of course, as one of the major playwrights along with Shakespeare and Shaw."

Murray also said "The Homecoming" falls into a group of plays that have been called comedies of menace, which have a dark side to them and are painfully funny.

"It's all about dominance and territory—human and material," Murray said. "The winners are often those who appear to be victims, and in the end nobody really wins anyway, who wins means who wins the game."

This semester’s performance is not the first attempt to stage the play. Murray said they had tried to bring "The Homecoming" to UTEP before, but rights to the play couldn't be acquired.

"We tried to do it a couple years ago to celebrate Pinter’s Nobel Laureate award," Murray said. "But it was being done in London and was headed for Broadway, so Pinter froze the rights. He was one of the few playwrights who kept close watch on who was doing his plays."

The unique aspects of the play include Murray speaking about them. "It's all very funny and still unique in many ways—especially in its use of language. Generally, three of the main considerations for play selection are audience, director and materials."

"The entire play lists a total of six characters, a sparse cast compared to more traditional multi-character plays."

"I find that the play only having six characters is interesting, but I don't know why (the did that?)," Alejandro Lopez, freshman theater major, said. "My guess would be because Harold Pinter loved the number six itself or because he wrote the play in the '50s and that was customary during that era." see HOMECOMING on page 12
New Releases

Hitting store shelves

BY MATTHEW MUNDEN
The Prospector

“Dragon Age 2”

Predator”?

This is the age of dragons… and dwarves…and elves…and a lot of fantasy shit. No, we aren’t “The Lord of the Rings.” See all the blood… that gives us street cred.

Pokemon Black and White”

Nintendo DS

MSRP: $34.99

Can they open a store that I can buy this in without feeling like the cashiers are thinking that I’m only one step away from being “To Catch a Predator?”

“The Walking Dead: Season One”

DVD/Blu-Ray

Best Deal: Amazon.com; Best Buy

$22.99 (Blu-Ray), $17.99 (DVD)

Walk Dead Walk. Forty minutes an episode.

7 episodes a year. Walk Dead Walk.

“Morning Glory”

DVD/Blu-Ray

Best Deal: Not buying it.

A woman in a news room? How original!

“The Next Three Days”

DVD/Blu-Ray

Best Deal: Phone to the head!

I’ll take the time to apologize to Russell Crowe. Sorry I said you threw phones in my joke columns on Charlie Sheen, when you only threw one phone. I’m sorry to offend you, dear gladiator, and your inability to understand the artistic use of hyperbole.

“Hannah Montana Forever: The Final Season”

DVD

Best Deal: Burn it

I loved the final season that had Miley’s smoking pot and having the pictures uploaded on the internet.

“Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind”

Blu-Ray

Best Deal: Who cares?

“Morning Glory”

Nature, nature, nature.

Now in HD!

“Grindhouse”/“Machete” - Films that are fun to laugh at the sheer audacity and violent glee of them. Want to see some repudial down a building using an intestine? These are the way to go.

“The Room” - So awful, it is great. “You’re tearing me apart, Lisa!”

“Rango” - Not spring break, not stupid. This has nothing to do with spring break other than being in theaters during it. Please see this movie. It’s funny and original, everything that most movies this year won’t be.

Spring break has a lot of terrible movies made about it every few years. Be it “The Real Cancun” or its ilk, few movies are able to tackle the week that students do a lot of dumb things and forget everything they learned from the first half of the semester. To take this list with a grain of salt. Only one has anything to do with spring break, the others are just about people being stupid.

“Piranha 3D” - the lone spring break film. “Piranha 3D” was a film that honored the drunken stupidity of spring break, while adding tons of gore.

“Jackass” (any of them) - Any of these films (including part 3 which is released on March 8 on DVD/Blu-Ray) are about a bunch of idiots doing really dumb-things and catching it on video. Just like all the videos you will find if you google Spring Break on Dailymotion with the safe search off.

SEAN MATHIS / Special to The Prospector

SXSW from page 4

the hundreds of music artists from around the world who play in various venues across town. In 2010, almost 2,000 bands performed on 89 stages within a five-night period in Austin.

By working in conjunction with the conference, SXSW offers local businesses the opportunity to host international acts. Besides the official SXSW venues, there are also multiple after parties where artists often play past 4 a.m. This year, Moby will be playing at 2 a.m. at The Pure/Volume House. While for most students, going to SXSW is an opportunity to party during spring break and take in some live shows, Elizabeth Derczo, publicist for SXSW, said the conference isn’t just about attracting tourists.

“This is a music industry event, not just a spring break destination,” Derczo said.

The event is designed to showcase up-and-coming talent and provide networking possibilities for individuals within the music, film and technology industries. Still, the festival continues to be a hot destination for spring breakers.

Though money may be an issue for Cristobal Chavez, sophomore civil engineering major, he said he is going to Austin to catch the free shows.

“I’m going because Levi’s is having a free Strokes show. Last year I got to see Kanye West,” Chavez said.

Indeed, SXSW features free outside shows at Auditorium Shores, located on Lady Bird Lake every year. This year’s lineup includes The Strokes, Bright Eyes and Otamatton, among many others.

Those who favor hip-hop may be interested in the Atlantic and Elektra Records show featuring Cee Lo Green, Lupe Fiasco and Wiz Khalifa, whose recent hit single “Black and Yellow” topped the Billboard Hot 100 chart. The full schedule of events is available at www.sxsw.com.

†College المواد may be marked at prospector@utep.edu.}
Drug-war violence has crippled the economy of Cd. Juárez, sending many business owners packing along with their customers to the safer sister city across the border.

A business in west El Paso, Ke’ Flauta, is one of many businesses that has fled from its original location in Juárez.

"Unfortunately, Juárez has gotten hit very badly with the violence," said Raul Aguilar, owner of Ke’ Flauta. "The economy is greatly affected and there are scary threats from extortionists against businesses all the time."

Aguilar started his Juarez business about four years ago and February marked its second anniversary in El Paso. At Ke’ Flauta, customers have their choice of typical Juarense delights – flautas and a selection of tacos and different tortas (sandwiches).

Juárez Chamber of Commerce President Daniel Murguia said that at least 6,000 city businesses closed in 2010, according to Mexican Interior Ministry figures.

"We came to El Paso for the expansion," said Franz L. Ortega, general manager of Pockets. "It wasn't so much because of the violence, and it's nice because people can have fun without going to Juárez anymore."

La Red, an organization made up of Juárez business owners who are now doing business in El Paso, provides support to Mexican exiles so they can begin their business activities anew.

José Luis Mauricio, president of La Red, said this immigration is also bringing lawyers, architects and engineers to El Paso.

"I believe this opportunity is contributing much with entrepreneurs and this situation will make El Paso better," Mauricio said. "With the incorporation of these new businesses, El Paso will be expanded and will create much opportunity and innovation, which will have creativity as well as competition."

Local real estate broker and developer Walter Passero said this is something beneficial for El Paso’s community.

"Regardless of the circumstances, we are very fortunate for people to be coming to El Paso, investing their money, hiring people and venturing into our economy," Passero said. "(This migration) Definitely puts more money in our economy and there is no question about that."

Beatriz A. Castañeda may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
Murray said the play’s language structure and use of silence will test lots of pauses and silences, learning sensitivity to language, economy of movement, making absolute sense out of pauses and silences, learning the rules of the game,” Murray said. “Those characters use language in bizarre ways that seem almost surreal—out of pauses and silences, learning to make a performance one must know.”

DANIEL ROJAS / The Prospector

The publication, El Paso Art Alive, feature stories about local artists, exhibitions, and events...

El Paso Art Alive is in need of reporting, marketing and design interns. “The internships definitely made me interested in working for the website,” said senior Zyanya Dickey, multimedia journalism major. “When I read it was going to be an art newspaper I thought that would be really cool because I am very passionate about art. I want to base my career on writing, but I’ve always secretly wanted to be an artist.”

Dickey is the reporter for the website and is responsible for covering all stories. “The best part of working here is getting to meet the artists,” Dickey said. “Getting to talk to them and definitely getting the experience.”

In the future, Brown hopes to expand El Paso Art Alive and create a television broadcast that would air once a week. “We’re going to need anchors and co-anchors and reporters,” said Brown. “I would allow students to get a diversity of experience; it doesn’t have to be just in the studio. We’re going to need video-editors and this opportunity should give intern to many students.”

The exhibit and the fundraiser will take place April 2 on the second floor of the Art Junction, located at 500 W. Paisano. Deadline for artists to participate in the event is March 25, and all proceeds will go to the Paso Art Alive. Information on internships at El Paso Art Alive is available on elpasoartalive.com.

For more information contact Candice Marlene Duran maybe reached at prospector@utep.edu.

PAGE 12 ENTERTAINMENT

March 8, 2011

THE PROSPECTOR

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WHERE'S PITE?
The C-USA regular season title wasn’t decided until the final day of the regular season, a feat that has not been seen since the first year of realignment. In the 2005-06 season, Memphis finished a game ahead of second-place UAB and just two games ahead of third-place UTEP. For the first time in C-USA history, the men’s tournament will be without an AP top 25 school. Memphis was the national star from 2006 to 2009 an AP top 25 school. Memphis finished a game ahead of third-place UTEP.

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BY SAL GUERRERO
The Prospector

With the opening round of the Conference USA tournament right around the corner, the UTEP wom-
en's basketball team has been prepar-
ing for the opening round match up against the SMU Mustangs March 9 at Memorial Gym.

“We’re very excited about the tour-
ament. It is great that it can be held in El Paso,” head coach Keitha Ad-
ams said. “SMU is a great team and we know we are going to have to play extremely well.”

The Miners (15-13, 7-9 C-USA) have not fared well against the Mus-
tangs (14-15, 7-9 C-USA) this season, dropping both meetings. Their last match up came only a week and a half ago (Feb. 27) on Senior Night when the Mustang's guard Raquel Christian shot 8-of-12 from the 3-pointer, lead-
ing SMU to a 70-64 victory.

With less than two weeks removed from the last meeting with the Mus-
tangs, the Miners will have to rely on better defense to get out of the first round C-USA tournament.

“We have to get out there and guard a little better,” Adams said. “(Christian) was in the zone—there’s no question about that. They (SMU) have several guards that can shoot on any given single day. We understand that we have to guard and get a hand in their face.”

The Miners have fared well in the last few seasons of the C-USA tourna-
ment. Last year they beat Rice in the opening round and lost in a close 57-
55 battle against Houston in the quar-
terfinals. In the 2008-09 season they lost in the quarterfinals to Marshall in a 72-70 overtime game.

This year El Paso has vied for the C-USA tournament, giving UTEP the home-court advantage, which should prove well for the Miners in tough situations down the stretch.

“It is a home game for us, so we’ll have the crowd on our side,” junior guard Dietra Caldwell said. “The sixth man is always important, with them cheering us on and the fact that we’ve lost to (SMU) twice already, that is enough said right there.”

Caldwell didn’t seem like herself in the last meeting against the Mustangs,
**Home court advantage plays into Miners favor**

BY WILLIAM VEGA

With a number-three seed and first-round bye, the UTEP Miners will enter the Conference USA Men’s Championship with momentum and home-field advantage on their side.

“Of course we feel like (a number one team). We have home court advantage,” senior forward Jeremy Williams said. “It’s always great playing as the home team. Our fans are looking forward to it and we’re looking forward to it.”

From Feb. 16-23 UTEP lost three out of four games. However, the Miners immediately rebounded from the losses, finishing the regular season with a three-game winning streak.

“We had some ups-and-downs…everyone has some by this time of the year,” Williams said. “We had a few lapses but we got it together over the last couple of days and we’ve been successful. If we play the way we’ve been playing over the last few games I feel like we’ll be fine in the postseason.”

The Miners may get to witness that success if history is able to repeat itself. UTEP will enter the C-USA tournament hoping to win a postseason event for the first time since they won the Western Athletic Conference tournament in 2005, having never won or hosted the C-USA tournament. UTEP held three WAC postseason playoffs, making the finals in all three and winning two of them. This will be El Paso’s first postseason tournament since the Miners won the 1990 WAC tournament.

Head coach Tim Floyd is well acquainted with the Miners’ accomplishments during the first three WAC tournaments from 1984-88. He was an assistant coach under former head coach Don Haskins and saw UTEP take home two WAC tournament titles while making all three finals. The first two postseason playoffs were held in El Paso where Floyd has succeeded in his first year.

“We’ve played well at home and we’ll be coming back (in the tournament),” Floyd said. “But I don’t think it’ll have anything to do about anything. It’ll have everything to do with who we’re playing and how we match. That’s how tough this league has become.”

The Miners’ guards have stepped up as of late against some streaking conference teams. UTEP snapped the Marshall Thundering Herd’s five-game winning streak March 2, behind seniors Randy Culpepper’s 24 points and Julyan Stone’s 12 points, 12 rebounds and seven assists. Against an SMU team that had previously lost their last two games by a combined five points, senior guard Christian Polk caught fire en route to a 59-56 victory March 5. He finished with a team high of 18 points going 7-for-11 from the field including 4-for-6 from 3-point range.

“We know that momentum is everything. We know if we’re playing well everything will be going good for everybody. We know the things we have to do like defending, rebounding and getting the ball moving, and when we do that we’re really hard to beat.”

- Christian Polk, senior guard
but would rather have his team continue doing what they have been doing all year long.

"I think we're playing well right now, but I don't know how big of a deal that is right now," Floyd said. "I've never understood the word momentum. I think more often than not it has a lot to do with how hard you're playing on defense."

If the Miners continue to take each game one at a time they will have to see improvement where they needed it most this season. Against the six conference teams ahead of them in the offensive rebounding category, UTEP went 3-4 against those squads. The Miners finished dead last in defensive rebounds and next to last in rebounding margin in C-USA.

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

**ADVANTAGE from page 15**

**BOB CORRAL / The Prospector**

UCF sophomore guard Marcus Jordan dribbles around UTEP point guard Julyan Stone.

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**SMU from page 14**

going 1-7 from the field, totaling three points on the night that came off a lone 3-pointer. In the Miners' first match up against SMU, Caldwell recorded 12 points and pulled down four rebounds, but UTEP came up short losing in overtime 81-79.

SMU and Houston are the only two teams in conference that UTEP has lost to twice this season. But even with that, the Miners are self-assured in their game.

"We've played them twice so obviously we should know what we're going up against," freshman point guard Kelli Willingham said. "It was a lot of little things we didn't do in the last game and we're just going to have to do them this time around."

Willingham has been a key part in Adams' offense this season. With point guard Briana Green out for the season with a knee injury, she has taken over the starting role, leading the team in assists with 116.

For her efforts this season, Willingham has been tabbed to one of five spots on the C-USA all-freshmen team. Along with Willingham, junior transfer forward Gloria Brown received conference recognition being named to the All C-USA second team.

The Miners will face SMU in the opening round of the C-USA tournament at 7:30 p.m. March 9 in Memorial Gym.

"Third time's a charm. We've played them twice and know what mistakes we made," Caldwell said. "We're getting prepared for them here... we should be ready."

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**Sophomore forward Kristine Vitola passes the ball to a teammate against SMU Feb. 27 at the Don Haskins Center.**

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**DIANA AMARO / The Prospector**

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