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TUITION INCREASE DEBATE
Students could face rising education cost

BY JASMINE AGUILERA
The Prospector

In the wake of a 9 percent national unemployment rate and ongoing wide budget cuts of $15 billion, UTEP has plans to raise student tuition beginning with the fall 2012 semester.

Tuition is expected to increase 2.6 percent for undergraduates and 3.6 percent for graduate and out-of-state students. A forum will take place at 7 p.m. Nov. 22 at the University Suite on the third floor of Union Building East. Students are encouraged to attend and express their opinions about the increase. Another forum will take place at 1:30 p.m. Nov. 30 at the Acadia Room on the first floor of Union Building East.

“The cost will extend for the next three years,” said Gary Edens, vice president for student affairs. “If we want to grow as a university, we must invest in our faculty and add more classes. We also want to help students graduate faster.”

Administrators at the university have noticed that a large number of students had to delay graduation because some courses were only offered during one semester and they would fill up quickly.

see TUITION on page 12

Favorite picks to eat, party and study

The Lowbrow Palace was among the best selected music venue based on students popularity. Lowbrow is located at 112 E. Robinson Ave.

The music scene in El Paso has changed over the past year. Within this category, local businesses triumphed, leaving local businesses selected based on students' popularity. Once again, corporate businesses triumphed, leaving local businesses set-up for second place.

With over 45 categories to choose from, these three categories bring in-sight into the choices a typical college student makes: music, coffee and a place for studying.

The Prospector's 2011 Best of El Paso survey winners have been selected based on students' choices. Once again, corporate businesses triumphed, leaving local businesses set-up for second place.

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Column
Lack of notice again...

By Aaron Martinez

As another important financial decision that will affect all students, little notice has been sent out to inform the student body about it and give them a chance to voice their opinions.

This is nothing new for UTEP; this has happened in the past and the way things look it will continue for some time. Today, an ad for a forum to discuss a possible raise in student tuition, 2.6 percent for undergraduates and 3.6 percent for graduate and out-of-state students starting in fall 2012, was placed in the student newspaper.

Most students will find out about the fee by picking up this issue of The Prospector. As of 6 p.m. Nov. 21, no true announcement has been made to the student body.

University officials are hosting the first forum the day the ad is being run. The first forum will be at 1 p.m. Nov. 22 at the University Suite on the third floor of Union Building East and a second will be at 1:30 p.m. Nov. 30 at the Acaia Room on the first floor of Union Building East.

This will give students little time to alter their schedule in order to attend the forums. The first forum is also being held when most students are on spring break when many students were out about the fee weeks before the actual elections. Also, the announcements and forums for the fee were held near spring break when many students were going to be out of town.

The way the whole situation was handled confused students on what the initiative actually was and how it would affect them. As all the facts began to come out about the fees, students rose up and made their voices heard. The initiative was easily voted down 2,339 to 1,267.

Once again, it seems like university officials are trying to sneak their agenda past the student body. But what is more disappointing is the supposed “student body-representing” SGA is once again falling in line with whatever the administrators want.

Earlier this year, I wrote a column about the 2011 SGA elections and how little effort was made by the SGA and university officials to even inform students there was an election.

I ended my column with two simple sentences: “Let’s hope university officials acknowledge their mistake this year and give students more time to be well informed about the candidates and the election. But I would not count on it.”

I was clearly right. Nothing has changed and apparently nothing will ever change. Since we really don’t get to vote this time, maybe we should start an Occupy UTEP Movement.

Aaron Martinez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
Adopt a student for the holidays

BY AMBER WATTS
The Prospector

With the anticipation of Thanksgiving and finals on the horizon, the Student Alumni Association prepares for the first time ever Adopt-A-Miner program that offers students food and an adoptive family during the holiday break.

"I think it's a really great idea because last year I was just lucky and ended up with my advisor's family," said Ivan Montes, a senior international business and marketing major. "Before I didn't do anything for Thanksgiving, I would just go with my girlfriend and just go shop." Distance, work, preparation for finals or other activities keep some students from going home for the holidays.

As of Nov. 16, Claudia Vargas, president of the Student Alumni Association, said that the Adopt-A-Miner program has seven households open to students or take them out for dinner during the Thanksgiving break.

"That would be room for 14 students and each household is given two students and I believe we had nine students signed up," Vargas said.

While the Adopt-A-Miner program is in its beginning phases, Vargas said that this year the program is focusing on international students, although they are open to all students.

"The international students were actually really surprised that someone was thinking about them, and that someone wanted to help them," Vargas said. "When they were presented with the opportunity a lot of them jumped on it." The Adopt-A-Miner program works by trying to match alumni adopters and student adoptees on their area of study.

"Sometimes that doesn't always work out, but it gives area of study first and then, if (the student) has signed up at the same time as the alumni, then that's how they'd be matched as well," Vargas said.

Both the student and alumni are also given ground rules on how to be-bare during their interactions.

"They've given a lot of guidelines as far as etiquette at the alumni's home, and vice versa. The alumni are also given rules for hosting the student," Vargas said.

Last year, Montes had Thanksgiving dinner with his advisor and other international students, and said it was the reason he decided to sign-up for Adopt-A-Miner.

"I had a pretty good time," Montes said. "This year, I signed up with my girlfriend and we're both going to go to a family for Thanksgiving... we don't have much family here. I think it's a pretty important thing to have a gathering with somebody's family, because it's the same kind of energy and you're with a bunch of people that are really nice." Communication between the alumni adopters and students are handled between themselves after the sign-up and matching stages.

"Sometimes that doesn't always work out, but it gives area of study first and then, if (the student) has signed up at the same time as the alumni, then that's how they'd be matched as well." Vargas said.

The Adopt-A-Miner program is a way for students to learn more about the world around them, while also enjoying a beverage and having a little fun.

The organization hosts many social events including movie nights, fundraisers and group gatherings to play the board game RISK. They also hold many forums to discuss world events, such as political uprisings in the Middle East, Darfur and Afghanistan, as well as the Lebanese War.

Jose Duarte, GRO secretary and freshman pre-engineering major, said that because world affairs involve just about everything from communica-tion, economics, philosophy, ethics and political science, all majors can benefit academically from being in GRO.

"Being an officer in GRO has helped me strengthen my abilities to succeed through email or phone, students and alumni decide how transportation and scheduling are going to work. Montes said that his adopter quickly sent her contact information and they're being emailing and making plans for the day.

"They seem pretty nice. They actually invited us in the morning around 9 a.m. since there's going to be a parade, so we get to go with them," Montes said.

With a new option for students during this Thanksgiving holiday, and another opportunity to band together again in the spring, the Student Alumni Association has provided a bright prospect for the break, giving students the opportunity to meet new people, enjoy the holidays, and have a little fun in the process. The organization is encouraging everyone to sign-up to Adopt-A-Miner and get involved in their community.

THE PROSPECTOR
November 22, 2011
PAGE 3

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cell: (915) 241-9610

MINERS!

Thanksgiving

BY REBECCA GUERRERO
The Prospector

Whether it's unrest in the Middle East, drug-related wars in Colombia and Mexico, or the Occupy Wall Street Movement, members of UTEP's Global Relations Organization is attempting to bring awareness and start discussing important issues affecting the world.

"GRO provides an unthreatening environment for students to talk about things they've seen on the news or conversations they've had about certain issues," said Jennifer Berlin, GRO president and junior political science major. "It's a way to voice your opinions without being graded, judged or critiqued. This aspect is great because sometimes it's just hard to raise your hand in class."

GRO has been active on campus since 2003 and aims to be a place where faculty and students can come together through a shared interest in global affairs. Charles Bohemer, GRO faculty advisor, said the organization is a great way for students to learn more about the world around them, while also enjoying a beverage and having a little fun.

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Jose Duarte, GRO secretary and freshman pre-engineering major, said that because world affairs involve just about everything from communication, economics, philosophy, ethics and political science, all majors can benefit academically from being in GRO.

"Being an officer in GRO has helped me strengthen my abilities to succeed in the professional world," Duarte said. "It taught me commitment and responsibility. I encourage everyone to join, especially if you're interested in politics or seeking a related career."

The most recent topic GRO has discussed at meetings and forums was the worldwide Occupy Wall Street Movement. GRO was visited by an organizer of the El Paso branch of the Occupy Movement, who explained to members what the people camp-ing in San Jacinto Plaza were hoping to achieve as well as the basic rules of protest. Duarte said this is "a way to voice your opinion. The experience of GRO aims to give their members to help expose global and political affairs that affect every-thing right down to their immediate community.

Bohemer said that GRO is particularly important to UTEP students because they live in a border city. The group discusses issues that many
Sasha Chacon, creative writing professor, was announced Oct. 16 the winner of the Before Columbus Foundation award for her poetry book “Insides She Swallowed.”

**Faculty Spotlight**

**Creative writing professor’s poetry earns top honors**

**Sasha Chacon, creative writing professor, was announced Oct. 16 the winner of the Before Columbus Foundation award for her poetry book “Insides She Swallowed.”**

**BY AMBER WATTS**

Sasha Chacon, a newly-recognized tenure creative writing professor and author of “Insides She Swallowed,” was recently announced the winner of the Before Columbus Foundation award.

Chacon received the award Oct. 16 for her book of 31 poems that rely on images in her work. They’re always at the service of something greater than the image itself, it’s at the service of the poem,” said Chacon. Much of Chacon’s award-winning book, “Insides She Swallowed,” centered around her mother.

“She seems very autobiographically close to my mother, who all her life has had this log that she’s just kind of dragged behind her with this weird sickness that nobody’s ever known of,” said Chacon. “Sometimes she’s been bed-ridden, sometimes slightly paralyzed, and we’ve just had to deal with it.”

Chacon said that she employs the idea of a mother dragging her leg as a symbol for the immigrant, explaining that the image illustrates the idea of when you don’t want to move forward, but you have to anyway.

Carlos Espinoza, creative writing graduate student, said the images Chacon uses in the book are something related to parts of her life, but they are also related to social issues and social class.

“(Her poems) have this slight undertone in it, that’s not what her book is really about, but I find that there in her poetry,” Espinoza said. “As a Chicano writer, that’s the first thing that I pick up.”

Chacon was born in the Philippines, but was raised in various places around the world, including Saudi Arabia, Georgia and Oklahoma. She says that being distanced from the Filipino culture was the reason for all the food in her book.

“When you’re away from your homeland, when you can’t even return, because it’s an ocean away, when you can’t call home because it’s long distance, and everyone is dying—food is all we have left,” Chacon said. “In ‘Insides She Swallowed’, Chacon discusses the Filipino culture, one that accepts eating brains and intestines.

“It’s about how we consume what is living, in order to live,” Chacon said. Saenz said Chacon’s images are very arresting and always drive home a point, both an intellectual and emotional level that a reader can see and feel.

“She doesn’t write ‘nice’ poetry, she wants to challenge a reader,” Saenz said.

When she writes her poems, Chacon said she writes about what is important to her and what has had big influences on her life.

“When I write a poem, I don’t worry about showing a reader anything, nor do I worry about trying to show an immigrant story. Those are simply just my obsessions,” said Chacon. “The obsessions of food comes because I’m a pig (she said laughing), the obsessions of mother come up because that’s a very big part of my emotional life. What I try to show is that those are my obsessions.”

Chacon’s husband and creative writing professor, Daniel Chacon, received the award in 2009, and Saenz received it for his first book.

“At UC Berkeley, they were making a big deal that they had two American Book Award winners, and when I was talking to the American Book Award foundation, they were very excited that both my husband and I had won awards. They said that we were the first couple,” Chacon said.

Sebastian Vargas, junior creative writing major, said while taking a class with Chacon he appreciated her enthusiasm and her encouragement in his personal growth in poetry writing.

“I thought that was one of the best things about her, because I wasn’t really familiar with poetry when I went into the class, and she made me want to keep practicing,” Vargas said. While taking one of Chacon’s classes, Vargas noticed poetry was her passion immediately.

“I just remember her saying that she sits in her office and repeats words over and over, and sometimes people in the other offices would ask her, ‘what were you doing that whole time?’” Vargas said.

Through Chacon’s charm, passion and commitment, she has impressed colleagues and students alike, acquired the American Book Award with her first book and already made headway for her next book, “Bodies and Other Natural Disasters.”

“I really know that she’s going to be the kind of poet that’s always going to be stretching herself,” Saenz said. “She’s never going to be writing the same things. She’s going to do something different every time because that’s just the way she is, that’s the way she learned.”

**Carlos Espinoza / The Prospector**

**GRO from page 3**

students have seen first hand living in the border area.

Berlin said one of the best things about GRO is the ability to bounce ideas off of people with different perspectives.

“Once we were discussing the legalization of drugs and a girl from Colombia had some interesting ideas I’d never heard before,” Berlin said. “That’s one of the things I enjoy most about GRO. It lets me challenge myself, not to look at the world with blinders on.”

Looking to the future, GRO has big plans for the organization, including a possible journal that would serve as a forum for students to get their political opinions published before graduation. Next semester, they hope for larger-scale activities than the group has seen before.

“Don’t be intimidated if you don’t know much about politics, curiosity is reason enough to join,” Berlin said.

For more information, contact Charles Bohemer at cbbohemer@utep.edu.
Students live off a dollar a day to experience poverty

By KRISTAL OBLINGER
The Prospector

Reena Beggs wakes up in the hon-
ners house, jumps into a cold shower,
fills her stomach with a bowl of rice and
then heads to class, and that’s only if she beats out the other people
sharing the building with her.

“To be completely honest, I am a
little bit high maintenance, so I
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but I didn’t know it was going to be
as tough as it was,” said Beggs, sopho-
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Political science professor receives Border Heroes award

BY JASMINE AGUILERA

The Prospector

Every year, the non-profit Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center awards El Paso citizens the Border Heroes award for their service to the center. This year, Kathleen Staudt, UTEP political science professor, was one of two recipients.

The award was presented to Staudt Nov. 6 at an awards dinner: “I got a call from the director in the late summer and I was elated and honored by this fine organization,” Staudt said. “I have long held Las Americas in high esteem.”

Staudt believes she received the award because she founded UTEP’s Center for Civic Engagement 10 years ago, which aims to promote student and faculty engagement in the El Paso community.

“It was a no-brainer choosing this years’ Border Heroes,” said Louie Gilot, executive director at Las Americas. “Dr. Staudt has been dedicated to the community and immigration issues. She’s shown through her teaching and writing. She is extremely dedicated to non-profits and she inspires her students to get more involved with the community.”

Staudt has been involved with several community-based organizations in the region and has published 16 books, seven of which dealt with border issues including human rights, citizenship, violence and activism.

“I feel proud that we have someone like Dr. Staudt working at UTEP” said Tael Padilla, sophomore communication major. “She makes me feel proud to be a UTEP student and glad that I decided to stay here. We definitely need more people like her in our community.”

Staudt hopes that through this recognition, awareness will spread about immigration issues and more people will want to get involved. “I hope that more people will contribute their time to this sound non-profit organization with a strong track record of accomplishments in our community.” Staudt said. “The organization works with unaccompanied minor immigrant children, with people seeking political asylum fleeing violence and with advocacy for long overdue immigration reform.”

Paulina Castillo, freshman mechanical engineering major, said the work of Staudt has helped and shined a light on immigration issues that have had a big impact on the El Paso community. “This is a harsh time for a lot of immigrants, especially with so many politicians here in America that make it hard for people to immigrate,” Castillo said. “I think Dr. Staudt is a great person for helping immigrants because they do go through a lot.”

Along with Staudt, Jacob Heydemman, local orthopedic surgeon, received the award for his volunteer services to hospitals and clinics in several parts of Mexico, including Ciudad Juarez. “This is a harsh time for a lot of immigrants, especially with so many politicians here in America that make it hard for people to immigrate,” Heydemman said. “Their selflessness has had such a positive impact on so many lives and the least we can do for them in return is present them with this award.”

Jasmine Aguilera may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

Kathleen Staudt, UTEP political science professor, received the Border Heroes award for her service at the non-profit Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center. Staudt won the award along with Jacob Heydemman, local orthopedic surgeon.

TUITION & FEES

2011 OPEN FORUMS

Pick your date!

Tuesday
November 22, 2011
Union Building East
University Suite - 3rd Floor
1:00 p.m.

OR

Wednesday
November 30, 2011
Union Building East
Acacia Room - 1st Floor
1:30 p.m.
NASA calls for aspiring astronauts to apply to fly

The space agency held a briefing on November 22, 2011, in Washington, DC, to announce the selection process for the 2013 class of astronauts.

Janet Kavandi, flight crew operations director, said NASA goes through the selection process about every two to four years. She said NASA selects astronauts to preserve the pool of qualified individuals needed to fly into space and to operate the International Space Station. The 30-year-old Space Shuttle program concluded July 21 when Atlantis landed for the last time.

"We’re extremely proud of the trailblazing accomplishments of our shuttle astronauts over the past 30 years, but with the end of the shuttle program, we’re now setting our sights on even more distant horizons," Bolden said. "We are once again ready to go where no man or woman has gone before.”

Interested individuals are encouraged to apply before Jan. 27. at USAJobs.gov. The page lists requirements, qualifications, duties and the evaluation process. The annual salary is from $64,724 to $141,715. A bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution in engineering, biological science, physical science or mathematics is required.

NASA usually gets between 3,000 and 4,000 valid applications and expects the same number for this class. Michael Curie, NASA public affairs specialist, said in an email.

"Training takes about two years to complete. Kavandi said the training process has gotten harder because at the International Space Station, everyone needs to know how to do every job. Astronaut Serena Aunon, of League City, Texas, a member of the class of 2009, which trained differently than previous classes, spoke about her training. Their training will be similar to future classes.

"We were one of the first classes that came in knowing we would never fly in the shuttle," she said.

Aunon said the training her class went through focused on three main areas: international space station systems, robotics and extravehicular activities.

Four other 2009 astronauts also spoke about their experiences: Kjell Lindgren, of League City, Texas; Kathleen Rubins, of Cambridge, Mass.; Scott Tingle, of Hollywood, Md., and Mark Vande Hei, of El Lago, Texas.

Teachers and sixth to eighth grade students from Whittier Education Campus in D.C. attended the announcement. Nine National Science Foundation Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellows and more than 20 graduate-level student ambassadors were also in the audience.

Bolden spoke to the importance of education in the so-called STEM disciplines – science, technology, engineering and mathematics - and said the students and educators were the key to NASA’s future.

"For space exploration and education go hand-in-hand, after all that’s what space exploration is all about," he said. "Expanding our knowledge of the solar system and our relationship to it so that we can make life better here on earth."

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What is your favorite place to hang out at around the UTEP campus?

Photos by Candie Herrera, Veronica Chaparro, Justin Stene and Greg Castillo

ALAN PEREZ
Freshman mechanical engineering major
"I like to hang out at Toro Burger with a few of my close friends because not only do I get to hang out with my friends but I get to eat their sweet potato fries which are delicious."

ANGELICA RAMIREZ
Biology graduate student
"Sinbad's off of Mesa has really good Mediterranean cuisine. It's a nice change from the typical Mexican food. I like to go there often with my friends and family."

BALTAZAR HERRERA
Freshman business major
"I like going to grab something to eat with a group of friends at Panda Express because I like Chinese food and Panda Express is the best Chinese food in El Paso."

ESTEFANIA GARCIA
Freshman general studies major
"I like to go out to Toro Burger and Crave because they have really tasty food and it is near campus so I can go before or after class."

DIANA MACIEL
Freshman biochemistry major
"I love going to Kinley's, especially for their Mexican Horchata Frappe. I usually go with friends to just hang out, but sometimes we study."

ALFREDO ROMAN
Freshman cellular & molecular biochemistry major
"I really like going to Chicago's. The food is great and I like the way it's decorated. It gives the place a nice feel."

DAVID GUTIERREZ
Freshman business major
"I like to hang out at Crave because it is one of my favorite places to eat and I get to go with my friends."

CARLOS PADILLA
Freshman liberal arts major
"Panda Express. It's delicious and I love that it's close to campus."

JENNIFER SALAS
Freshman studio art major
"My favorite place to be when I am not on campus is Kinley's. I like the atmosphere and the food is so good. I usually hang out with friends."

ANGELICA RAMIREZ
Biology graduate student
"Sinbad's off of Mesa has really good Mediterranean cuisine. It's a nice change from the typical Mexican food. I like to go there often with my friends and family."

TAYLOR HINES
Freshman mechanical engineer major
"I like to go eat at Toro Burger and Crave because they have really tasty food and it is near campus so I can go before or after class."

CRISTINA PIMENTEL
Freshman general studies major
"I love Panda Express. Their food is delicious. My friends and I go there at least once a week."

CARLOS PADILLA
Freshman liberal arts major
"Panda Express. It's delicious and I love that it's close to campus."

CRAZTIYA PIMENTEL
Freshman general studies major
"I love Panda Express. Their food is delicious. My friends and I go there at least once a week."

YI-TING CHOUL
Sophomore art major
"The movies because in college there's a lot of pressure. It's a chance to relax and be entertained."

JAVIER GONZALEZ
Junior business and accounting major
"I like to play pool with my friends at The Tequila Garage. It's free and it's never too crowded and pretty close to campus."

MADREICA YOSHAWIRJA
Sophomore studio art - graphic design major
"Shopping at Sunland Park Mall because I love shopping."
“(The students) were really just touched and really happy that they had an adoptive family for Thanksgiving.”

- Claudia Vargas, president of the Student Alumni Association

Home from page 3

some students something to truly be thankful for.

“(The students) were really just touched and really happy that they had an adoptive family for Thanksgiving,” Vargas said. “And so many alumni love doing it for their students.”

Plans for the future with the Adopt-A-Miner program involve gaining more supporters and all kinds of students to become engaged in it.

“We’re hoping by the time we get to 2014, that we have at least 100 alumni coming back to take students to dinner or take them home for Thanksgiving,” Vargas said. “I think what we’ll have to do next year is initiate the program a little earlier because a lot of (students) had already found friends to go home with for Thanksgiving.”

Amber Watts may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

Thank you for making us your number one sports bar & billiards!

ALL NIGHT MADNESS!

All stores open at 10 pm
Thanksgiving evening! Join us for the best shopping, music, and fun!
Visit our newest stores Oakley Vault & Lids Locker Room!

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 24TH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>#1</th>
<th>#2</th>
<th>#3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BEST PLACE TO WORK</strong></td>
<td>UTEP</td>
<td>LACIT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BEST PHONE SERVICE</strong></td>
<td>T-Mobile</td>
<td>Verizon</td>
<td>AT&amp;T (TIED)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Walmart</td>
<td>Albertsons</td>
<td>Ranch Market</td>
</tr>
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<td>Bowie Bakery</td>
<td>Corner Bakery</td>
<td>Valentine's Bakery</td>
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<td><strong>BEST TATTOO SHOP</strong></td>
<td>House of Pain</td>
<td>Sun City Tattoos</td>
<td>Ink Spot Tattoos</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BEST BANK</strong></td>
<td>Wells Fargo</td>
<td>GECU</td>
<td>Chase</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>BEST PLACE TO BUY TEXTBOOKS</strong></td>
<td>Amazon</td>
<td>UTEP Bookstore</td>
<td>CBA Textbooks</td>
</tr>
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<td>Barragan’s</td>
<td>Segovia’s</td>
<td>Ishmael</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BEST PLACE TO DANCE</strong></td>
<td>The OP</td>
<td>Don Quintin</td>
<td>Peoria</td>
</tr>
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<td>Pockets</td>
<td>Applebee’s</td>
<td>Wing Daddy’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BEST DRINK SPECIALS</strong></td>
<td>Sonic (Happy Hour)</td>
<td>Hope &amp; Anchor</td>
<td>915</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>BEST BAR TO END THE NIGHT</strong></td>
<td>Hope &amp; Anchor</td>
<td>Nova Luna</td>
<td>Spice Bar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BEST MARGARITAS</strong></td>
<td>Applebee’s</td>
<td>Carlos &amp; Mickey’s</td>
<td>Cheddar’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BEST WINGS</strong></td>
<td>Wing Stop</td>
<td>Wing Daddy’s</td>
<td>Buffalo Wild Wings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BEST COFFEE</strong></td>
<td>Starbucks</td>
<td>Kinley’s House</td>
<td>McDonald’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BEST INTERNATIONAL FOOD</strong></td>
<td>The Olive Garden</td>
<td>Cappeto’s, Pho Tres Bien,</td>
<td>Tara Thai, India Palace,</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>&amp; Hong Kong Buffet (TIED)</td>
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<td><strong>BEST MEXICAN FOOD</strong></td>
<td>Lee’s, Julio’s, Carnitas Guere-</td>
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<td><strong>BEST CHINESE FOOD</strong></td>
<td>Taco Tote</td>
<td>La Terraza, Los Gallegos,</td>
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<td>&amp; L&amp;J’s (TIED)</td>
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<td>Panda Express</td>
<td>Grand China Buffet</td>
<td>Chopsticks &amp;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hong Kong Buffet (TIED)</td>
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<td>Souper Salad</td>
<td>Luby’s</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sinbad Restaurant &amp;</td>
<td>Salad Creations (TIED)</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>BEST SUSHI</strong></td>
<td>The Sushi Place</td>
<td>Okazuri Floating Sushi</td>
<td>Yamato</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>BEST PIZZA</strong></td>
<td>Peter Piper Pizza</td>
<td>Pizza Hut</td>
<td>Papa John’s &amp; Pizza Joint (TIED)</td>
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<td><strong>BEST BURRITOS</strong></td>
<td>Crisostomo</td>
<td>Rafa’s Burritos</td>
<td>Bonnie’s Café</td>
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<td>McDonald’s</td>
<td>Whataburger</td>
<td>Wendy’s</td>
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Congratulations to our survey winners!

Ana E. Madrid
Ann Anaya
Anthony E. Maese
Maritza Borrego

Not Pictured: Scot Johnson, Ashley Sheffer

BEST BREAKFAST
1. IHOP
2. Village Inn
3. Denny’s

BEST SPOT FOR A ROMANTIC DINNER
1. Café Central
2. Ardovino’s Desert Crossing
3. The Olive Garden

BEST ICE CREAM
1. Baskin Robbins
2. Coldstone
3. Marble Slab

BEST MUSIC VENUE
1. The Lowbrow
2. Tricky Falls
3. The Percolator

FAVORITE MODE OF TRANSPORTATION
1. Car
2. Sun Metro
3. Walking

BEST PLACE TO EAT ON CAMPUS
1. Union Bldg. East
2. Chopsticks
3. Quizno’s

BEST PLACE TO HANG OUT ON CAMPUS
1. Union Bldg. East
2. Library
3. Leech Grove

BEST PLACE TO TAILGATE
1. Outside Sun Bowl
2. Geology Lawn
3. UTEP Parking Lots

BEST CAR SHOP
1. Ford Dealership
2. Volkswagen of El Paso
El Paso Honda (TIED)
3. Alamo Auto & Rudolph Dealerships (TIED)

BEST BIKE SHOP
1. Crazy Cat Cyclery
2. Harley Davidson
3. Mr. Motorcycle & Yamaha of El Paso (TIED)

BEST HAIR SALON
1. Sally's Beauty Supply
2. Barragan's, Segovia, & Ishmael (TIED)
3. Foliage, Milan, & Super Cuts (TIED)

BEST SHOPPING CENTER/MALL
1. Cielo Vista
2. Sunland Park Mall
3. Las Palmas

BEST GYM
1. UTEP Student Recreation Center
2. Planet Fitness
3. EP Fitness

BEST SPA/MASSAGE
1. Barragan’s
2. Mirage
Milan, Spa Envy, Foliage, & West End Hair Co. (TIED)

BEST MOVIE THEATRE
1. Tinseltown Cinemark
2. Premiere Cinemas

BEST BOWLING ALLEY
1. Oasis
2. Bowl El Paso
3. Fiesta Lanes

BEST BILLIARDS
1. 915
2. Bowl El Paso

FAVORITE STORE
1. Forever 21
2. Target
3. Kohl’s

BEST CAR WASH
1. Mister Wash
2. Vintage Car Wash
3. H&H Car Wash

COLOR KEY

SERVICES

PLAY & SHOP

EAT & DRINK

ON CAMPUS

Library
LACIT
UTEK Student Recreation Center
"We want to add classes so that students won't have to change their plans," Edens said. "Obviously, no one likes increases in tuition, but that is what the forum is for. Students have the opportunity to provide feedback and voice their opinions."

A student-majority committee, chaired by Edens and Student Government Association President Pablo Padilla, met Nov. 8 and 9 to determine tuition and fees rates for the next two years. Based on information provided by the Office of the Vice President for Business Affairs and due to the legislature's budget cuts, the committee decided they were willing to pay a little extra in tuition in order to better the university, Edens said.

The increase in tuition will also help provide revenue for the university. According to Edens, UTEP will face a 15 percent cut in its budget over the next two academic years by the state legislature, which is about $37 million.

Student loan debt increases

As tuition has increased, more students have found themselves in financial need and many have resorted to taking out federal student loans.

"I think that even though there is less to pay each month, I'll still end up paying off the loans for a longer period of time," said Michelle Ramirez, freshman creative writing major. "Even though it's less money each month, I'll be paying more in the long run, I think, since loans come with interest.

Luisa Havens, executive director of admissions and recruitment, said she does not see any negative effects from the change.

"With time, we will know for sure. But right now, it seems like a really good thing for our students, anything that can help is a good thing," Havens said. "I don't particularly think this will encourage more students to start attending school, but I still think this could only have a positive impact."

The effects of this plan are going to be very interesting to see. They don't actually take effect until 2012, so all we can do is guess as to what will actually happen."

According to a study done by non-profit organization Generation Opportunity, 77 percent of people ages 18 to 29 either have or will delay a major life change due to the poor state of the economy. Additionally, the study showed that 27 percent of this demographic said they will delay paying off student loans or other debt.

"If students delay paying loans, that could do serious damage to their credit," Havens said. "That is another reason I believe this new plan will have a positive outcome."

The Generation Opportunity study also found that 44 percent of young people delay buying a home, 38 percent delay getting married and 23 percent delay starting a family.

The heart of the matter here is that young Americans need jobs in order to repay any debts, including student loans, and to plan for the future," said Paul Conway, president of the non-profit and former chief of staff at the U.S. Department of Labor in a press release. "The poor economy and the lack of jobs are the central reasons why millions of young Americans have delayed their dreams of buying a home, getting more education, saving for retirement, getting married or starting a family... Elected officials in both parties should put as much energy into allowing the private sector to create jobs for the next generation as they do preparing for the next election."

Debt, some feel it may not be such a good idea.

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Debt, some feel it may not be such a good idea.
A season of trends. 2011 brought brights, colors, neutrals and whites. Sheer blouses and lace were among different styles for women and for men.

**Fashion**

**BY NATALIA AGUILAR**

The Prospector

The year comes closer to an end, it's nice to reminisce about a few of the top fashion trends of 2011. Within the year, designers showcased their new collections presenting the audience with innovative ready-to-wear designs.

This year brought along plenty of brightness and color blocking that was balanced out with neutrals and whites. Sheerness and lace were also big trends for 2011 as well as the men's white suit that made a comeback.

Although most trends come and go, some stay and become classics. Women: Coloring blocking. One of the top spring fashion trends of this year began with brights and color blocking ensembles.ucci had an amazing turnout this year with their vibrant colors and color blocking pant suits, skirts, crop tops and blazers. The energizing hues were absolutely captivating for the spring season.

Talk about sexy when it comes to sheer blouses and lace. This year, it was about showing some skin under those two kinds of tops. Worn with only a neutral toned or black bra, the tops were nearly crossing the line into tacky, but the fabrics created a transcendent sensual look. It's important to keep the bottoms less flashy and perhaps a light jacket or blazer can be added to perfect the look.

Over-sized blanket coats/ponchos

Now that it's finally nippy but not quite freezing ponchos and blanket-type coats keep women warm without feeling too heavy or bulky. They're something different to wear other than a regular coat and they have a chic hippeque vibe that styles great with boots, booties, or oxford-type shoes.

**Men:**

White suit

While the black suit is a must for every man, the white suit made a comeback this spring with looks from Dolce and Gabbana and Bottega Veneta. In contrast to the bright color trend, whites and neutrals were also a major trend for men this spring. The white suit looks great with white jeans as well.

Bright colored skinny trousers or jeans

Men are currently wearing bright-colored pants that make an excellent pair with camo-toned coats or sweaters. It's nice to have some color during the fall/winter season other than black and gray. H&M and Urban Outfitters have a variety of colors to choose from and a fitted series of skinny jeans for every guy.

Cardigans should be a basic element in every guy's closet for their comfort and multi-use as dressy or casual. This is a classic trend that never goes away. The cardigan is a light sweater that can easily be worn under a coat and that can add an instant oomph to a simple t-shirt and jeans look. Topman carries a variety of styles and colors perfect for an upcoming holiday look.

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**Style watch: best trends of the year**

**Movies**

**Cinema on the road to Oscar nominations**

**BY ANDRES RODRIGUEZ**

The Prospector

It is unusually early to begin Oscar predictions, and rightfully so. Most of the real contenders have yet to release outside the limited and festival circuits. Films like "The Artist," "The Descendants," "War Horse," "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close," "The Iron Lady" and "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy" are all those with the right Oscar pedigree to land a nomination.

So far, many have stood their ground. The following list compiles what I think have been the best films of the year released nationwide so far.

1. "The Tree of Life"

Terrence Malick's creation story/family drama is uncomfortably broad and fragmented, yet intense and undeniably beautiful. The film blantly asks life's greatest questions and although it does not concisely answer them, it's a beauty to watch it try.

The film is poetry on screen. Nature, the violence is shamelessly frantic and well executed.

2. "Midnight in Paris"

Woody Allen's love letter to Paris tells the story of writer, Gil (Owen Wilson) on a trip to Paris with his fiancée Inez (Rachel McAdams). Gil is a hopeless romantic who wants to experience Paris in the rain. He is transported to 1920's Paris where he meets some of the most influential writers of the Lost Generation. The film's comedy comes from the whimsical idea of time travel, yet the nostalgia adds sentimental depth to the mix.

3. "Drive"

To some, a pretentious indulgent visual exercise by director Nicolas Winding Refn, "Drive" is a violent and thrilling ride. The film's strength lies in its meticulously driven and stylized direction. But the film is also outstanding in its relentless violence, soundtrack and heart. Ryan Gosling gives a quiet but powerful performance as a stunt driver turned mobster chauffeur. Gosling falls for Irene (Carey Mulligan), the wife of an ex-prisoner, whom Gosling attempts to help get out of trouble. This film is eye candy to the art house aficionado.

Los Angeles is depicted with a life-night full of bright neon lights and warm sunsets all matched perfectly with a score of cool 80's synth. The film is absolutely captivating for the spring season, with their vibrant colors and color blocking ensembles. DOLCE and GABANNA and BOTTEGA VENETA.

I think it's safe to say the decade long journey we "muggles" (non-magic folk) went through, was fantastically capped.

I will not get into the books vs. movies argument, but Part 2 as a piece of film making was heartfelt, action packed and visually stunning. David Yates, director of the latest four Harry Potter films, picks up with the trio of wizards as they attempt to destroy the last of the horcruxes to forever end the war against Lord Voldemort. Perhaps it's my geeky lighting-star-wearing-seltalk-ing, but I truly found the film magical. After I left the theater I felt like a kid again, with my heart racing. As I read the ultimate battle scene under the blankets with a flashlight.

Other films worth mentioning are, "Martha Marcy May Marlene," "Bridesmaids," "The Skin I Live In," "Hanns" and "Beginners."

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*Aguilar, Natalia may be reached at prospector@uq.edu.*

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*November 22, 2011*
The best of this year’s technology innovations

BY JERRY ALDAZ
The Prospector

As the year witnessed the creation of memorable gadgets such as, iPhone 4S, Kindle Fire and Motorola Xoom, it also condemned the continual decline of Blackberry Playbook, the struggling Kobo e-readers, and the slow-to-ignite Windows 7 phones. Although many forward-thinking products could be praised for pushing the digital age, only those with mass appeal, long-term practicality and future-proof adaptability could rise above the saturated ocean of consumer electronics.

5. Chromebook
Blending cloud computing with the simplicity of the highly-popular Chrome browser, Google’s Chromebook could signify the initiation of a computing renaissance. Utilizing Google’s cloud storing and Sandboxing to isolate threats, Chromebook users have peace of mind knowing data loss and viruses are a thing of the past. Even if one’s laptop is damaged or stolen, since information rests in the cloud and not the hardware, owners can simply log in through a new Chromebook and resume their work. Beyond fast boot times (10 seconds) and automatic updates, Chromebook anchors all its web-only services within the browser and versatility is infinitely expandable through the thousands of available apps.

4. Spotify
A must-have for music enthusiasts, Spotify’s straightforward interface makes discovering music an effortless task while its generous business model allows individuals to legally stream millions of tracks with minimal commercial interruptions. Although playback is restricted at 10 hours per month in the free version, subscribes may bypass all ads and streaming caps by joining the unlimited version ($4.99/month). For shakers and movers, the Premium membership ($9.99/month) enables streaming on mobile devices, ranging from iPhone to all Android devices, and is capable of storing music for offline listening.

3. Barnes & Noble Nook Simple Touch
The first major digital reader to incorporate touch capacity with battery-saving e-ink technology, the Nook Simple Touch’s improved page-turning, minimalist design and convenient navigational interface make it the best e-reader of the year. Sold at a retail price of $99, its 6-inch screen is capable of displaying fonts in seven sizes and six styles, while multiple color scales provide optimal contrast. For large libraries and avid readers, its onboard 2 GB memory is expandable up to 32 GB and the Nook is functional for two entire months on a single charge.

2. T-Mobile G2
The anticipated sequel to the game-changing G1, the HTC G2 unifies the best of both worlds by placing a finger-friendly Qwerty keyboard underneath its cornea-exhilarating 3.7-inch display. Merely 14 mm thick, this impossibly-thin device houses a rugged 5 MP camera, capacitive buttons, 4 GB internal storage and an 8 GB expandable port. Preloaded with Android Froyo (2.2), it supports flash web-content and grants access to the comprehensive Android Market. Its stylish design, compact flexibility and supported eco-system make it a noteworthy choice for casual consumers in search of a dependable smartphone.

1. iPad 2
Considered the holy grail of tablets, the successor to the wildly-successful Apple iPad builds upon the original to deliver the best tablet dollar for dollar. Keeping its 9.7-inch screen, the new iPad lost weight and width around the waistline while adding new components such as front and rear facing cameras. Loaded with a hefty A5 dual-core processor and upgradeable to Apple’s iOS 5, the iPad 2 offers solid build quality and a responsive operating system at the starting price of $499. With more than 140,000 apps in-store, it’s bound to offer something for everyone.

Jerry Aldaz may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
Column

Whether it’s an acquaintance or a total stranger, one-night stands in college are just as popular as burritos and beer. But how many students actually think it’s a right choice?

One-night stands can be risky, both physically and emotionally. You had a long week, two exams and just want to let loose at the end of the week. After you do what you do, you have unemotional sex. This is good for those that don’t want any strings attached or for those that don’t have a committed relationship that requires time. They’re just simplex in it for the sex. I know many students that go by this rule and it is nothing to be ashamed of. But is it really for you?

According to a college study done by researcher Amanda Holman, a doctoral student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, men are 18 percent more likely to say they had a hookup than women.

Out of the 274 queried students, 84 percent of students reported they’d talked with their friends at school about hookups. People who talked about hooking up were more likely to approve of and take part in them, Holman found. In the research, only 37 percent of people reported having two or more but 90 percent of students believed that at least two hookups during the school year were “typical” for their peers.

Many students do not find one-night stands to be rewarding or fulfilling. Some students choose not to partake in these situations because of the feelings of attachment that happen after two people have sex.

For some girls, including myself at times, we can get attached more often than men since sex may just create emotional feelings. However, there are some girls that just do it for the sex and claim that they don’t get attached easily. Women often receive validation from feeling sexually desired. If a guy wants to have sex with them, they may feel better about themselves.

Some guys that hookup with girls for one night may be extremely insecure and feel they should have a different girl to fit their sexual needs.

In a Live Science online article, researcher Anne Campbell, psychologist...
Dining Review

**Beef off the billboards: hole in the wall diners across town**

By HEINRY ARRIAGADA and KRISTAL OLIVER

The Prospector

Large billboards of burgers and slogans attempting to entice the pass- ersby to stop for a dollar burger litter I-10, but if one ventures off the long stretch of road, many new and hidden gem restaurants wait nestled between street corners.

These are just a few of the best hole-in-the-wall food establishments across town. The list ranges from sushi to cafe dining. These are not the only places that offer consistent good food and service, just the ones we tend to venture to. Places such as these take time to find, but in many cases, they turn out better than most franchises.

**Sushi Samba**

One of the top places to go for something good Japanese-style sushi is located at 9861 Dyer St. at Hamachi Sushi. The menu features a variety of styles such as the basic California roll and their signature specials such as their lobster roll, which has small bite-sized lobster tails on top of the lobster filled sushi.

Hamachi triumphs in taste and presentation, but its environment can be a bit too high-end. Sumo Shi, located on 1344 N. Zaragoza Rd. mixes both. They offer about the same as Hamachi, but at a more comfortable environment. Both places serve top of the line sushi at an affordable price. Hamachi, however may seem a bit more pricey because their sushi comes in combos with miso soup and salad.

**Diner dishes**

Elmer’s is a diner located at 6305 Montana that was established in 1959 and hasn’t changed much since – which is not a bad thing. As most diners do, they serve a wide variety of food and dinner plates, including the American diners that are common in large cities. This type of diner makes this restaurant an interesting hybrid. The service is fast, consistent and always friendly.

If Elmer’s menu is a bit broad, or a place closer to campus is your thing, then there is always Lucy’s, a small diner located at 1305 N. Mesa that is a bit more personal.

**Pizza places**

Pizza is one of the top comfort foods in any city. It’s cheap and easy to make, so where the real competition begins is in the taste and originality – not just in the food, but also in the location. Pizza Joint, located across from the Don Haskins Center at 2800 N. Mesa, offers just that. Locally owned, Pizza Joint allows for customizable pies and features styles such as the pepperoni – (the classic). Any pizza can be customized for the customer as Pizza Joint offers toppings like tomatoes, fresh basil and holding in the back.

The location is vegan friendly, offering a specific sauce for vegans and vegetable options. Café 101, located further down on Mesa, offers a different twist. All their pizzas is cooked in a brick oven, their dough is made fresh and mozzarella is made in-house. The location is small but inviting with the smell of the cinnamon fire filling the dining area. The only downside is that since it is baked over a fire, the pizza can come out a bit burnt. Their menu selection is a bit small as well, but it’s worth trying everything they have to offer due to the freshness of their product.

**Cafe Comfort**

Tom’s Folk Cafe is a fine newcomer, located at 204 Boston Ave. right around the corner from UTEP. It’s a small restaurant that offers up a unique style and variety of food and drink. Their bacon chipotle brie burger is a notable item on their menu as well as their shrimp brie appetizer.

If Tom’s Folk Cafe is a bit too dinner oriented for your cafe wants, Buon Giorno is a little Italian place located at 4727 Hondo Pass. Savoring up purini, sandwiched, and homemade foods. There are a few we tend to go to more often. For the first, you have to travel a ways out into Socorro. El Meson De Oro located 5999 Socorro Rd. serves the basic Tex-Mex cuisine. The food tends to be pretty consist- ent and the servers are very friendly. The other side of town is what makes this place a three-course meal for three people can cost over $100. Dolce Lupé, located on 2919 Pershing Dr., has an intimate atmosphere and serve up pizzas tossed in flour, their own style of type, unlike most places in El Paso. The mural on the wall greatly adds to the atmosphere. While the food, such as the chicken DJs, leaves a feeling of warmth at the bottom of your stomach.

There is a problem with picking the best of the best for Mexican food. First off, there are a lot of different restaurants of this type popping up all over the borderland. The norm for these places is service with a smile and homemade food. There are a few we tend to go to as well. For the second, you have to travel a ways out into Socorro. El Meson De Oro located 5999 Socorro Rd. serves the basic Tex-Mex cuisine. The food tends to be pretty consist- ent and the servers are very friendly. The other side of town is what makes this place a three-course meal for three people can cost over $100. Dolce Lupé, located on 2919 Pershing Dr., has an intimate atmosphere and serve up pizzas tossed in flour, their own style of type, unlike most places in El Paso. The mural on the wall greatly adds to the atmosphere. While the food, such as the chicken DJs, leaves a feeling of warmth at the bottom of your stomach.

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Bowl eligibility on the line in final game

This will mark only the third meeting between the Knights and the Miners with each team winning at home in each of those games.

The last time UTEP traveled to Orlando, UCF beat the Miners 36-20 Nov. 24, 2007. The Miners beat the Knights 36-13 in the Sun Bowl Sept. 27, 2008. The Miners have struggled traveling east holding an all-time record of 0-16-1 in the Eastern Time zone.

The Knights are averaging nearly 27 points per game while allowing less than 19 and are outgaining their opponents by over 99 yards per game. Despite the statistics, they hold a 4-7 record and cannot qualify for a bowl game for the first time since 2008.

"They're a prideful program. They have won our conference before, they've been in bowl games. They're going to play hard and they're going to give us everything they got and not take us lightly," defensive coordinator Andre Patterson said. "I guarantee you they're not practicing today saying we got nothing to play for. They have a football game and they want to get their fifth win."

UTEP has been outgained by opponents 94 points to 79 in the first quarter and starting off fast against UCF will be a priority for Price's team.

"They pride themselves in starting every game strong and scoring early, that's one of their emphasis. It would be nice to meet them head-to-head on that, for us to start fast," Price said. "They're only giving up 18 points a game. If we can start fast and get 18 points in the first quarter, that would be good. But I think it's going to be a really close game."

This could be the last game played in a UTEP uniform for 22 seniors, but coaches hope emotions are set aside for after the game.

"Just go play, don't get caught up in the emotion that this could be the last time to ever put a football helmet on," Patterson said. "You deal with the emotion of it after the game is over. You can get yourself totally drained before the game because you're so concerned about not being able to play again."

UCF leads the nation in yards per kickoff return averaging just over 27 yards per return and that will be a focus for the Miners.

"We're going to have to be able to cover the kickoff much better than we did (against Tulsa)," Price said. "But we can do that, we can get a plan together and our players can rise to the occasion."

Senior safety Travain Nixon will miss the rest of the season with a PCL injury that he suffered in the loss against Tulsa, marking the fifth game he will miss this season.

Junior quarterback Nick Lamaison is still nursing a groin injury he suffered against ECU. According to Price, if he can't return, sophomore Carson Meger would make his second consecutive start and third of the season. Lamaison did participate in Monday's practice while Meger rotated with the starters.

"We're going to have to be able to make adjustments as we go, as the game progresses," Price said. "If we can go out there and not make mistakes if we want to beat them."

-- Daniel Ornelas may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

Women's Basketball

Miners looking to go 4-0 against UTPA

The second-leading scorer, senior forward Donna Jackson, is also the team's leading rebounder. She is averaging 9.3 points and 7.3 boards a game, but is shooting 29.6 percent from the field.

Other than those two players, assistant coach Eva Laskowska said the Broncos are athletic and like to run the break. Stopping that is their emphasis for this game.

"All of them like to put the ball on the floor and drive so that's an area where we focus on. That's been the area that we've been working on," Laskowska said. "So that's driving, transition offense, transition defense and when the ball is in play that is going to be huge."

Where they hurt the most is in their low-post presence with only two players taller than six-feet. That has translated to an average of 15 points in the
Defensive-minded SFA heads to the Don

By FRANKIE RODRIGUEZ

The Prospector

UTEP will have to wait a week before they get a chance to redeem themselves from their loss to NMSU Nov. 19 when they host Stephen F. Austin in a defensive showdown at 7 p.m. Nov. 26 at the Don Haskins Center.

Despite a 1-2 record, the Lumberjacks are averaging 66.3 points per game, while holding opposing teams to 58.3. Stephen F. Austin is holding their opponents to 45 percent shooting and 27 percent from the three.

The Lumberjacks’ success on defense has translated into 10.3 steals per game and 2.3 blocks. Leading the way with steals for the Lumberjacks is junior guard Antonio Bostic with 2.7 Per game.

Bostic is one of two starters returning from last year when Stephen F. Austin went 18-11 and 9-7 in Southland Conference. The other returner is senior center Jereal Scott who had a double-double against UTEP when the two met last year Dec. 20 at the Don Haskins Center.

Scott finished with a team-high 14 points and a game-high 15 rebounds while shooting 60 percent from the field. On this year’s team, sophomore guard Michael Perez and sophomore center John Bohannon saw action last year against the Lumberjacks. Bohannon finished with four points and six rebounds while Perez had just one rebound in six minutes of play. The Miners took the meeting 61-52 that ended a six-game winning streak last year.

This year, it’s Bostic who has taken over. Bostic is the leading scorer for Stephen F. Austin averaging 16 points per game and has three consecutive double-digit point games. Texas Tech had success against Bostic as they only allowed him to score 10 points shooting 26.7 percent from the field. Only sophomore guard Tremond Hammon is averaging double digit scoring besides Bostic.

The Lumberjacks have a turnover margin of +8 and are causing opposing teams to turn over the ball 23 times per game. They also have a positive rebounding margin of four, averaging 33.3 per game. Junior forward Jonathan King and junior forward Taylor Smith are the leading rebounders at 5.3 per game.

Seeking Volunteers

Sunshine Outreach is looking for volunteers to assist in food/clothing drives and various outreach activities. Please Contact: (915) 449-1196.
MINERS from page 19

Kimaiyo finishes 25th at NCAA

TERRA HAUTE, Ind. – Junior Risper Kimaiyo crossed the finish line in 25th place, finishing in the top-25 for the third consecutive year in the 2011 Cross Country Championships Nov. 21 in Terre Haute, Ind.

“This year’s competition was very competitive,” head coach Paul Ereng said. “We wanted to bring back two All-American awards but we fell short of that goal. I am very proud of their performance today.”

The All-American clocked in a time of 20:12 at the LaVern Gibson Championship Course to improve her time from last year’s national meet of 20:16. The Iten, Kenya, native earned her third cross country All-American honor of her career awarded by the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association.

Kimaiyo was also named the 2011 Mountain Region Athlete of the Year for winning the Nov. 12 regional meet. She won a total of four events this year, came in second at the Conference-USA Championships Oct. 31 and third at the Notre Dame Invitational Sept. 30.

Junior Elkana Rotich posted a time of 32:07 to finish 222nd in the 10K race. He won the Kachina Classic Sept. 17 in Las Cruces, placed second at the C-USA Championships and was named to the all-Mountain Region team for finishing in 14th place.

“UTEP is making a quick turnaround since that game and had only one day to review tape on the opposing team. We just have to make sure that we stay focused and have a really good practice (Nov. 21). Make sure we know enough about them (Nov. 22) to go into the game,” sophomore guard Kelli Willingham said. “Competition is competition. Once you hit the floor, it doesn’t matter who’s out there, it’s time to play.”

In addition to the lack of knowledge of the opposing team, UTEP went through practice Nov. 21 without head coach Keitha Adams. She was attending the memorial service of the late Oklahoma State women’s basketball head coach Kurt Budke and assistant coach Miranda Serna in Stillwater, Oklahoma. The two were killed in a plane crash Nov. 17 near Little Rock, Arkansas. Adams will be back in time for the UT-Pan American game.

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

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Punter’s journey ends as semi-finalist

BY DANIEL ORNELAS
The Prospector

Despite being a top-three punter in average yards all season, junior punter Ian Campbell was not named one of three finalists for the Ray Guy Award Nov. 21.

Campbell is having his best season as a Miner in 2011, averaging nearly 46.4 yards a punt, the third best average in the nation right now. His efforts made him one of 10 semi-finalists for the award, but that was as far as his quest for national best punter would go.

Campbell missed the cut behind Louisiana Tech's junior Ryan Allen, Auburn's sophomore Steven Clark and Oregon's junior Jackson Rice.

"It is a little (disappointing), but I have to look forward and I definitely need a couple of more fair catches to persuade the Augusta council," Campbell said.

Campbell improved his average of 45.1 yards from a year ago, which placed him 11th in the country. Of the 51 times Campbell punted the ball in 2010, 17 were over 50 yards and 15 were placed inside the 20-yard line.

In 2011, Campbell has punted the ball 42 times with 16 of them over 50 yards and 15 inside the 20-yard line. His longest for the season was of 71 yards against Stony Brook Sept. 3 in the season opener, a yard short of matching his career long as a Miner of 72 against Rice in 2010.

Special teams coordinator Jeff Banks said that setting goals for Campbell has helped him improve his stats over one year and helped the team with their goals.

"We want to be number one in the nation in net punting and the way we can do that is if he punts the ball high, far and places it correctly," Banks said. "Last year, he averaged about 45 yards per punt and I said, 'hey, you're not that far behind the leaders if you continue to work hard for next season and that's exactly what he did.'

Campbell played his freshman season at Mt. San Antonio College, the same college that junior quarterback Nick Lamaison, junior wide receiver Mike Edwards and junior lineman James Martin attended the last two years. Campbell came to UTEP in 2010 and had to endure an adjustment to the Division-I level. One year later, he feels he has finally found his niche.

"Last year was kind of my getting used to Division-I playing with all these crowds, playing in hostile environments," Campbell said. "This year, it's just me getting into a rhythm. I've gotten into a pretty good rhythm this season and I'm just trying to ride it out throughout the rest of the season."

Fellow kicker and freshman Steven Valadez, who also serves as punter, feels like the competition among the kickers have helped the play of the special teams.

"Ever since I got here, I remember coach Banks talking about competing, especially at (Camp) Socorro. I felt like I made both (Campbell) and (junior kicker) Dakota (Warren) work a lot more compared to last year that they didn't really have any competition," Valadez said. "He worked his butt off at Socorro and it's how hard work pays off. He's just someone I look up to. Hopefully I can do the same thing in years coming."

Banks said Campbell's confidence has allowed him to be more consistent and place the ball where he needs to, which has helped in coverage.

"We're a directional punting team and that's not easy to do. Most guys can just walk down the middle and punt it down the middle as far and as high as they want," Banks said. "He's doing this, leading the country most of the year being as successful as he's been and having to directional punt. Our coverage has been phenomenal because of his ability."

Campbell said he worked on his technique throughout the offseason and has seen the improvement he's made. Being named a semi-finalist is something he's aware of but he's trying to keep his focus on the games and not the award.

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