Town-hall meeting on drugs
Officials to discuss marijuana offenses at residential areas

By Aaron Martinez and Krystal Obinger
The Prospector

As drug-related incidents have increased in UTEP residential areas, university officials are altering the way they handle the situations and working on how to prevent occurrences on campus.

“We went from four to 17. Seventeen is not good, but it is not a whole lot. It isn’t good and neither is four, one is even too many,” said Ricardo Adauto, executive vice president of legal affairs and oversight. “I do think it is over exaggerating the problem, (housing services) are looking at it, because of the increase of numbers, but the increase is not dramatic or huge. It is not a ramped problem that is getting completely out of control. Housing services has a good sense of what they are doing, how they are doing it and looking at what they need to do in the future to curtail this issue. I think this is more of a housing issue than a police issue.”

Omar Hernandez, sophomore pre-nursing major, said he witnessed UTEP Police responding to a reported drug-related incident Jan. 26 at Miner Village on the first floor of Hueco Hall. He said that it is not a problem for him since he avoids any area that has the odor of marijuana, but that it could be for some residents because of the weekly occurrences that seem to be happening.

Whenever I walk to class, it’s really pungent. It doesn’t really bother me, but I would understand why someone else would get really bothered by the smell, especially it being every once or twice a week,” Hernandez said. “I do hope that some people have to be around that when it’s illegal.”

As of press time, there was no report of the event on the UTEP Police’s incident and crime log.

The UTEP Police Department is initiating new training for officers on procedures of handling drug-related situation after two citations given to two residents Jan. 20 were revoked due to officers not following standard procedures.

“They (UTEP police officers) have to meet certain standards during a search and the supervising officer felt like these standards were not met. One is whether there is an exigent circumstance that (the officers) thought they had to get in immediately for whatever reason and was there enough probable cause for them to go in. The supervising officer apparently felt it was a bad search and they revoked the citation,” Adauto said.

The Jan. 20 incident allegedly involved women’s basketball players Rhay Lacy and Christauna Parkert, where UTEP police responded to an apartment in Hueco Hall at Miner Village in reference to an odor of marijuana, and where narcotic paraphernalia was found.

“(UTEP Police officers) knocked at the door initially and went around the back and looked in to the window and from what I understand, they saw what looked like a couple of half-smoked of what looked like joints, they went back to the front door and went inside the apartment,” Adauto said. “Basically, the two occupants were given a citation, which were then reviewed by the supervising police officer back at the campus police office, who then decided it was a bad search in essence and revoked the citations.”

Charlie Gibbens, director of Residence Life, said Residence Life is planning a town hall-type meeting to discuss any drug-related problems affecting students living at Miner Village or Miner Heights. As of now, there is not a set date as to when the meeting will take place, but an e-mail and paper notifications will be sent out to students.

“We’re taking a community-based approach. Everyone has a role in making a community you want to live in. So something we have scheduled is a town hall meeting to talk to residents about the benefits of an education,” Gibbens said.

“It is disappointing to think that students make bad choices. I tend to think all UTEP students are as close to perfect, so it is really hard to think about that, especially scholarship athletes who are getting the benefit of an education,” - Diane Nitschke, UTEP President

For more information contact Union Services at 747-5711 or visit www.utep.edu/union

Controversial NDAA law sparks debate at UTEP, nationwide

By Henry Arrambide
The Prospector

On Dec. 31, President Barack Obama signed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2012 into U.S. law, which authorized $662 billion in funding for the defense of the United States and its interests abroad. The law has stirred up criticism and debate both worldwide and among UTEP faculty and students.

Included in the act are controversial provisions contained in subsection 1021 of the bill, stating that “Congress affirms that the authority of the President to use all necessary and appropriate force pursuant to the Authorization for Use of Military Forces includes the authority for the Armed Forces of the United States to detain covered persons pending disposition under the law of war.”

Covered persons as defined by part B of subsection 1021 include persons who substantially supported Al-Qaeda, the Taliban, or associated forces through committing belligerent acts.

“One of the problems particularly concerning many American citizens about this bill is the provision that would allow for Americans to be detained without being charged or presented without any kind of legal representation,” said Charles Boehmer, associate professor of Political Science. “In particular, this is something that could be applied very broadly, because some of the other provisions in the law about how to identify a terrorist have been extremely broad and vague.”

Critics have called the language of the bill vague because of the use of terms such as “all necessary and adequate force.”
it’s because this story was printed as real news by the University paper.

ANONYMOUS: “What truth? The girls were involved in a situation where there was drug paraphernalia found in their dorms. They were suspended from the team for it and the legal process will take over from here. If they’re guilty, and there is any further action taken, they will be kicked off the team and expelled from the university. What is there to uncover?”

ANONYMOUS: “I commend The Prospector for their valiant efforts at uncovering the truth!”

ANONYMOUS: “Sorry you all, this here is a terrible choice of an article. Sounds like you all are jumping to a ton of conclusions and when you have no idea what you are talking about. The university didn’t sit there and try to hide these girls from the law. They made a mistake; the police were called and now let the legal process run its course.”

Keitha Adams, Bob Stull and Diana Natalicio have nothing to hide, nor are they protecting anyone by not coming out and telling the media the specifics of the situation. That’s typical of what happens anytime a situation like this arises. You want specifics, go to the law enforcement, not UTEP. And, good luck with that. After they don’t answer your questions you can write an article about them being involved in a massive cover up and conspiracy to protect two students who were smoking pot. Ridiculous.

“Call a meeting...”

ANONYMOUS: “In the original article, female athletes are suspended until everything plays out, and then a decision can be made as to what their future with the program looks like. If this kid that reported the stuff was fired, I’m sure there was a reason, and not a conspiracy. If it is a conspiracy, this kid should get a lawyer, and slap the university with a serious lawsuit. If he doesn’t, obviously his firing was justified.”

Bottom line: just because you have a source doesn’t mean you know anything about the situation. Don’t start jumping to conclusions and misleading your readers. If you think Natalicio is looking out for the good of the student athletes and not the entire student body, just look around. Look at all the buildings that are going up, the fight that she has put on to get this university to Tier-1 status, all the improvements for student life and many other projects that are still in the works. Please don’t write garbage like this anymore. You all are better than that.”
Academics

Occupational therapy students may get chance pediatric field experience

BY REBECCA GUERRERO

The Prospector

NeuroRehab, a relatively new concept to the city of El Paso, is a type of brain treatment the therapists and staff of the Omega Rehab Center work with every day to treat patients ranging from pediatrics to adults who suffer from Autism or related developmental delays. UTEP’s occupational therapy students may soon have the opportunity to witness their innovative methods firsthand, while gaining their necessary pediatric field experience.

At the Omega Rehab Center, students would be exposed to a wide range of therapies, including physical therapy, speech therapy and occupational therapy. But perhaps the greatest learning experience will come from observing the therapists engage their child patients in Neuro-Feedback, a practice that monitors brain waves and displays them back to the child in the form of a video game or movie. Sensors are attached to the scalp with EEG paste which then picks up brain waves.

“Not all brain waves do something they’re not supposed to do; black dots will appear on the screen,” occupational therapist Diane Hayashi said. “The child won’t like this and attempt to make them go away by getting up and hugging the staff when he comes in. He was at our unit’s end.”

She said, “All of my son’s medication had horrible side effects and I will tell you that the slowing of growth hormones. Then our pediatrician told us about Neuro-Feedback. We did our research and decided to get certified and buy the $10,000 of equipment. My son is 13 now, has just graduated middle school on the A/B honor roll, and plays sports. We were even able to gradually take him off of his medication.”

So far, the method has displayed good results in the greater El Paso community as well, not only in children, but in teenagers dealing with depression and suicidal tendencies. One of the staff’s greatest success stories is of a young boy who was previously non-verbal and was extremely tactile-defensive,” meaning he did not like to be touched, and he was almost completely non-verbal.

“After about four weeks of treatment his giving his mother hugs, telling her he loves her and hugging the staff when he comes in,” Hayashi said. “Our team has helped all of our children here with self esteem, and now when you ask this boy what he is, he replies, ‘I am a champion.’”

Children reportedly begin to see their therapists after treatments having won ‘most-improved’ awards at their schools, causing their teachers to wonder what new medication they must be on. But there is no new medication at all. Their improvement can be attributed to Neuro-Feedback treatments.

“When the students come in they will get a ‘case-load.’ Hayashi said. “They will start off slow with a few of our easier cases, and then learn to do evaluation of new patients to determine whether they qualify for service. They’ll learn about areas developing situations, and the results we have achieved are undeniable.”

The bill has received criticism from multiple media outlets and politicians. Glenn Greenwald of Salon.com wrote an extensive article titled “Three myths about the detention bill,” which criticized President Obama’s rationalization for the controversial provisions. Congressman Ron Paul of Texas introduced HR3785 to the House, a piece of legislation that seeks to overturn section 1021 of the NDAA.

“Section 1021 essentially codifies into law the very dubious claim of presidential authority under the 2001 Authorization for the Use of Military Force to indefinitely detain American citizens without access to legal representation or due process of law,” said Paul in a statement. “Section 1021 provides for the possibility of the US military acting as a kind of police force on US soil, apprehending terror suspects–including Americans–and whisking them off to an undisclosed location indefinitely. No right to attorney, no right to trial, no day in court.”

While the law is controversial, part D of section 1021 states that “Nothing in this section is intended to limit or expand the authority of the President or the scope of the Authorization for the Use of Military Force.”

“Of the problems particularly concerning many American citizens about this bill is the provision that would allow for Americans to be detainted without being charged or presented without any kind of legal representation…”

- Charles Boehmer, associate professor of political science

“I’m not necessarily going to sleep better at night because the president says, oh well, this is a power that in theory we have but we’re not going to use,” Boehmer said. “I mean, what does that mean? Those are empty words.”

Henry Arrambide may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

NDA from page 1

appropriate force,” “associated forces” and “belligerent act” when describing terrorists. Part C of subsection 1021 allows for detention of said persons without trial.

“It’s not just right. It allows the president to have unreasonable amounts of power,” said Phillip Gonzales, freshman pre-business major. “World courts fight over what’s right and wrong with human rights, this National Act is completely wrong; it destroys civil liberties of people. The assumption of terrorism is so vague that anyone doing any small crime from smoking weed to stealing from a store could be sent away without trial today.”

However, in a public statement, President Obama said that his support of this bill doesn’t mean that he agrees with everything in it.

“In particular, I have signed this bill despite having serious reservations with certain provisions that regulate the detention, interrogation, and prosecution of suspected terrorists. Over the last several years, my Administration has developed an effective, sustainable framework for the detention, interrogation and trial of suspected terrorists that allows us to maximize both our ability to collect intelligence and to incapacitate dangerous individuals in rapidly changing situations, and the results we have achieved are undeniable.”

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The Occupy D.C. protesters defiantly slept in on Jan. 30. After police revoked their camping permits on public grounds, protesters vowed to continue their presence. The U.S. Park Service had told them to leave by noon on Thursday, Feb. 16.

As mid-afternoon Jan. 30, police had made no arrests. Park Police would not give a timetable for issuing citations. Over the weekend, police handed out fliers and posted them on tents warning they would enforce the camping ban Jan. 30. The ban applies to people sleeping in the park, the long-term storage of items such as stores or sleeping bags and tents that are not open on at least one side.

Frank Bumb, senior journalism major at The Ohio State University, is an intern at The UTEP Prospector. He may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

As Occupy D.C. sign advertises the noon deadline the U.S. Park Service gave for them from picking us off one by one.

"If they want to arrest one of us, they have to arrest all of us, or none of us," said Michael, of New Orleans. "If they want to arrest one of us, they have to arrest all of us, or none of us," said Michael, of New Orleans.

"We dream of a better world," one protester said, using a "mic check.

After he spoke, others relayed their own words of protesting against economic inequality, and as a more practical matter, of aiding the people who don't have anywhere else to go," said Mike Isaacson, a 24-year-old master's student at Howard University. "I feel like the least the Park Police can do is allow people who have nothing else to have tents against the weather."
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amazon.com/textbooks
Do you think student athletes receive the same treatment as regular students?

Question of the week

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

ESAU A. MENA
Senior computer science major
“No. As soon as you see a person being helped with their classes and being treated differently than other students, you can tell they are athletes.”

SAMANTHA GOMEZ
Junior education major
“Yes, I believe they are treated the same.”

ALFREDO ESTRADA
Senior computer science major
“No, because they have the most attention from the school and they give them benefits that I believe are unnecessary.”

YAZMIN RIVERA
Junior math major
“I don’t think so. The athletes represent the school. If they don’t get the grade needed to play, it affects the treatment of them all.”

ALEXIS ORTIZ
Sophomore digital media production major
“I don’t think that they are treated differently by the teachers. Teachers are aware of their responsibilities for the teams and they still have the same amount of work as the non-athletic students.”

DIANA SAUCEDO
Freshman pre-nursing major
“I think they are treated differently because they give them many opportunities and advantages to pass the classes they will be able to play and not lose their scholarships.”

ERNESTO SANTILLAR
Sophomore computer science major
“Yes, I see that athletes are treated with certain privileges in some of my classes.”

Alicia Kohli
Junior chemistry major
“I do believe athletes get treated differently. In the past, I’ve noticed teachers can be lenient with them in terms of attendance and grading.”

ADRIAN SOBRINO
Freshman general studies major
“Yes, I don’t believe that they receive the same treatment as ‘regular students.’ I had an injured ankle and had to endure going to classes by myself on crutches. Having a parking spot so far away from campus I asked for help and I was told that the golf carts were only for athletes to use.”

CECILIA MARIN
Sophomore business major
“No. They get more opportunities and privileges. It’s a lot more popularity in social levels. It’s like high school never ended.”
Lusitania

Local band to open for Frank Turner and The Sleeping Souls

By Kristopher Rivera

The Lusitania features (from top to bottom) Mike Duncan (guitar/vocal), Blake Duncan (bass), Charles Berry (drums), Will Daughtery (guitar) and Adi Kanlic (keyboard). The band performed May 20, 2011 during their Beached Whale Tour in the Silverlake neighborhood of Los Angeles. Mike Duncan is an English lecturer on campus and is the brother of Blake Duncan.

As for lyrical content, the new record is going to stay away from its narrative songwriting and be scripted by personal events.

“This (record) is a lot more personal for me,” Mike Duncan said. “This last year, 2011, we had the wreck, I got out of a really long-term relationship. Not a traumatic year but definitely eventful for us.”

How the band is able to keep composure through the bad times is something they can only understand.

“It's so hard for a band to stay together because it’s different individuals with different agendas,” Mike Duncan said. “We’ve been in crazy fights… we’ll have people get drunk and walk away and be like ‘fuck you guys, I’ll never see you guys again’ but we always persevere.”

Besides internal eruptions that occur in the band, they also have faced the challenge of breaking into the scene nationally from a town like El Paso.

“Before you knew it, they were off playing music again. Definitely shines light on their devotion to their music and fans.”

The fellas will soon finish recording their second studio album, which, as of now, remains untitled.

“I think our sound has changed a lot. It’s definitely a lot more punk rock. It's definitely a lot more stripped down… not as much instrumentation,” Mike Duncan said. “I think of it just as like a rock and roll album. I’m really excited about it.”

**TELEVISION NEWS:**

**‘WINTER IS COMING’**

HBO announces ‘GAME OF THRONES’ to return April 9.

**VIDEO**

Visit The Prospector's online multimedia section to watch an interview with The Lusitania.

**INTERVIEW WITH FRANK TURNER**

The Lusitania will open for Frank Turner. Read a Q&A with Turner on page 8.

**RISING***

**PAGE 7**
**Frank Turner talks El Paso, new album and Mexican food**

By Kristopher Rivera

On Feb. 2, British born folk/punk singer-songwriter, Frank Turner, will be performing at Tricky Falls to introduce his life-inspired music to the El Paso audience. Originally a part of Million Dead, Turner separated from the group in 2005 due to internal-musical differences. Turner then pursued a solo career. The Prospector had the opportunity to interview Turner before his upcoming show.

You’ve played in arenas across the United States and at European festivals such as Reading and Leeds. How is it going into a small town like El Paso and playing in an intimate venue? Is there a genuine quality that you enjoy from it?

I’m not fussy about my shows. I just like to play wherever people want to hear my music. El Paso has a place in my heart thanks to my friend Jim Ward - we demised most of the last album in his studio in late 2010. I often get e-mails from people in El Paso complaining if we drive through and don’t play, so I’m happy to be actually stopping this time through.

You have been to El Paso and recorded several songs at Clap of Thunder studio. During this time, which was your favorite place to become inspired here in El Paso?

When we were at the studio, also we didn’t really have that much time to check out the city. We were in and out on our way through town. That said, Jim took us out for some awesome Mexican food, and we did have time for a drink at his bar.

It seems you will be going out of your way to come to El Paso. You will be in Tucson, Arizona then heading to El Paso and back to Tempe, Arizona. Why did you decide to make the extra effort to give us a visit?

We had a free day from the Social Distortion tour, and I wanted to see Jim and play at his club and answer those people mailing me, so it all came together well. I’m not really one for days off, I can avoid them.

What do you think of the culture here, and being so near to Mexico? Was it a different experience from most towns in the United States?

I certainly ate the best Mexican food I’ve ever had in my life. It’s great spending more and more time in the States. I certainly ate the best Mexican food I’ve ever had in my life. It’s great spending more and more time in the States. I’m not fussy about my shows. I just like to play wherever people want to hear my music.

Francesca Turner is one of Diego Rivera’s most celebrated artists, but also through the works of numerous artists who, as yet, may not be household names in El Paso.

Jose Castro, sophomore pre-nursing major, said that this kind of exhibit really helps the El Paso market by bringing in something that is not only relevant to the area, but also, a tourist attraction that speaks to many people on different levels. It’s really exciting knowing that an event of this magnitude and work from well-known Mexican artists like Rivera, Siqueiros and Orozco, who were essential figures of the Mexican modernist movement, is coming to town,” Castro said.

The exhibition, Dibujos Divinos: 20th Century Drawings, will feature a different, lesser known side of the popular muralist, said Cable.

It focuses on the Synthetic Cubist works he created early in his career while living in Paris,” said Cable. “The works are large-scale for Cubist works, and so reveal Rivera’s unique experience with Cubism.

Cable considers El Paso fortunate because it is the only city to have the “magnificent mexico: 20th Century Modern Masterworks” exhibit at the El Paso Museum of Art.

With over 50 artists on display, this is the largest Mexican art exhibit that has been brought to El Paso. This is the second time museum director Michael Tomor has handled “important” works from Mexico; the last being in 2005, according to senior art curator Patrick Shaw Cable.

Art

‘Magnificent Mexico’ showcases exhibit of over 91 pieces

By Andres Rodriguez

The Prospector

The El Paso Museum of Art’s latest exhibit, “Magnificent Mexico: 20th Century Modern Masterworks,” which opened Jan. 28, presents over 91 original works by Mexican modern artists including Diego Rivera and Jose Clemente Orozco.

With over 50 artists on display, this is the largest Mexican art exhibit that has been brought to El Paso. This is the second time museum director Michael Tomor has handled “important” works from Mexico; the last being in 2005, according to senior art curator Patrick Shaw Cable.

“Along the light of the fact that an important component of our own collection is Mexican art, not to mention that we are so close to Mexico, our director was in conversation with museum officials in Mexico concerning works that we might borrow for some exciting exhibits,” said Cable.

The museum borrowed the works from Mexican museums including the Museo Nacional de Arte, Museo de Arte Carrillo Gil, Museo Nacional de la Estampa and Centro Nacional de Conservación y Registro del Patrimonio Artístico Mueble.

Sponsored by ComUnity en Acción, the collections are separated into three exhibits: Magnitud Mexicana: Visions of Art, Dibujos Divinos: 20th Century Drawings and Diego Rivera and the Cabala Vision. Magnitud Mexicana: Visions of Art will showcase works that range in time from the late 19th century to 1945, focusing on academic drawings, symbolist approaches and modernist works from time in the United States, 40 works in the collection all come from the Museo Nacional de Arte in Mexico City.

“Magnificent Mexico” is an exhibit that features a different, lesser known side of the popular muralist, said Cable.

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“The exhibition, Dibujos Divinos: 20th Century Drawings features the beginnings of the century to 1945 with focus on academic drawings, symbolist approaches and modernist works from time in the United States, 40 works in the collection all come from the Museo Nacional de Arte in Mexico City.

There are 12 different works by Orozco, but many other artists are represented as well,” said Cable. “Included in the show are many colorful works made with watercolor or tempera on paper. The drawings include studies as well as drawings made as finished works in the own right.”

Best known for his murals, the exhibition Diego Rivera and the Cabala Vision will feature a different, lesser known side of the popular muralist, said Cable.

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Men’s Basketball

Location, location, location

Miners seeking first road win against Rice

BY FRANKIE RODRIGUEZ
The Prospector

After falling short in overtime to Houston on the road 81-76 Jan. 28, the Miners look to bounce back and capture their first road win against Rice Feb. 1 at Tudor Fieldhouse in Houston.

“It was tough. We felt like it was a winnable game because we played well for about 35 minutes there,” sophomore guard Michael Perez said.

“Toughness is what UTEP has struggled with the most and they are facing a team who ranks 52nd overall in the nation with 37.7 boards a game. Junior forward Arsalan Kazemi leads the way, averaging a double-double with 11.3 rebounds and 13.1 points per game. “They got a good team this year from a lot of their good guys coming back. Kazemi is one of their best players and he is also a returning player,” Perez said. “It is going to be a tough team because they play a screen and roll game, and they will be tough to defend. It will be hard to win on their home court, but we feel it is another winnable game.”

The Owls also have another player who is averaging double-digit scoring in junior guard Tamir Jackson’s 11.4 points. He did not play against Tulsa due to a one-game suspension by Conference-USA for a flagrant foul in the game against Memphis.

Rice is coming off an 86-74 win Jan. 24 against Tulsa, while UTEP lost to the same team Jan. 21 58-66 on the road. In that game, the Owls shot 50 percent from the field and 42.9 percent from beyond the arc. While their top scorer Kazemi was quiet that game producing just six points, senior guard Connor Frizzell added 22 points and sophomore center Omar Odraby finished with 16 points.

“Rice has gone through a transformation in terms of the players they have played in the last two weeks,” head coach Tim Floyd said. “They have guys that were not in their top scoring that are now second and third (Jackson and Frizzell). They started playing a 7-2 center (Odraby) that is very effective and they changed their game defensively. These guys have provided a real spark recently, and are different then what we scouted four weeks ago.”

The Miners are in desperation of a road win because of what it would mean to them.

“We got another chance to get our first win of the season and we not only want to prove to other people in this conference, but to ourselves that we can win on the road,” Perez said.

“We have what it takes to do that so we are going to continue to work hard and game plan to get ready for Rice (Feb. 1).”

With a short week of preparation, the Miners are soaking in everything they can practice.

“We just watched film on them so we just know a little bit on them, but not too much,” freshman forward Cedrick Lang said. “The coaches know more so we will go over that soon. I know they do a lot of screen and roll stuff so we are going to be working a lot on that this week as well as their coverage...We need that road win.”

In regards to that short week, Floyd knows it is going to be more about focusing on his team rather than the opposition.

“We understand that Rice is a terrific shooting team, they have size, it is another opportunity at a road game but right now it is more about us being able to sustain for 40 minutes on the road,” Floyd said.

Frankie Rodriguez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

FILE PHOTO
Freshman forward Cedrick Lang fights for a rebound against an NMSU player Nov. 19 in Las Cruces.

HOME VS.AWAY COMPARISONS

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Fifth-year senior looking to bounce back from injury-filled year

Camilla Carrera steps into the batter’s box during a game last season at the Helen of Troy Softball Complex.

Redshirt senior catcher Camilla Carrera steps into the batter’s box during a game last season at the Helen of Troy Softball Complex.

BY DANIEL ORNELAS
The Prospector

After being forced to watch a team with the second-worst record in program history from the dugout last season, fifth-year senior catcher Camilla Carrera is ready to lead again.

It feels great, I’ve been working hard on it all last spring. I’ve been strengthening it,” Carrera said. “During the fall and this part of the spring so far, I’ve done a lot to make sure I am stronger and that my back is not going to be a problem.

Carrera brings plenty of accolades with her into her senior year, being named the C-USA Player of the Year in 2009 and an All-C-USA First Team selection from 2008-10. She also made the 2008 All-C-USA Freshman First Team. Prior to the 2011 season, she was named C-USA Preseason Player of the Year. Carrera missed all but 12 games of the 2011 season due to a back injury and received a medical redshirt.

Some of my teammates were happy to know that I was going to be redshirting just because they knew I wasn’t at my full potential. It was nice to know that my team supports me and that I can be there for my team,” Carrera said. “Even though last year I wasn’t able to be with the senior class, being with the senior class this year is a good thing. I love everybody on my team.”

Co-head coach Kathleen Rodriguez knows that sitting out the year has given Carrera a new perspective in her approach as a player and a teammate.

“I think we’re pretty good at understanding how and what role we take on the team. Cami is one of the best players in the nation. She’s been an all-region player,” Kathleen Rodriguez said. “It’s a neat thing to be able to see the respect she has for her teammates and that they have for her as well.”

Kathleen Rodriguez added that it was tough to see one of her best players sit out for the majority of the season, but that made Carrera more humble and a better leader.

“It’s been a little bit of a trial, she’s really excited about this year. It was really hard for her having to sit down and watch her team struggle so much last year. Being one of our team leaders, it was tough to watch all that unfold,” Kathleen Rodriguez said. “She vowed that she was going to have one of the best years she’s ever had and the way things are going, I truly believe her.”

Carrera has been with the team for four years now and is hoping to have her fifth season. She expects to be at full strength after a year of rehab and hopes to have her best season yet.

“We’re just taking it one day at a time with my practice and my team. We’re making sure that I’m putting every bit of work that I can. Just making sure I’m all the way prepared for this season,” Kathleen Rodriguez said. “This is a big year. I want to make sure I go out with a bang.”

Expectations for Carrera are high not only for herself, but from the coaching staff as well.

“I expect a lot from her, she’s been with this program, which is going to be her fifth year and she’s a little bit more mature,” Kathleen Rodriguez said. “I expect her to be able to lead us. I expect her in clutch situations to just be: to be clutch.”

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- Camilla Carrera

senior catcher

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

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Bench dominates again, Miners still perfect in league play

“I thought our team just played really well from top-to-bottom, start-to-finish, it was a great effort for us today”, head coach Keitha Adams said. “I think for us, we have to understand that we have to be really focused for our opponent.”

While Adams said it was one of the best overall team efforts in conference play, their past three games have been just as focused. UTEP has outscored their last three opponents (Houston Jan. 22, Southern Miss Jan. 26) 131-16 off the bench. The 36 bench points in this win tied the UCF starters’ mark, the 12th time the Miners’ bench have tied or outscored their opponent’s starters.

UTEP’s defense was also evident in a game they led the entire way. They held the Golden Knights to 26.2 percent shooting in the game, allowing just one 3-pointer all contest. The Miners also forced 20 turnovers to take a 2-2-1 advantage in points-off turnovers.

UCF’s top two scorers in senior guard Aisha Patrick and junior guard Gevenia Carter were held to four and nine points, respectively.

“Their guards are very good at driving and shooting off the bounce and getting to the rim,” Adams said. “We worked on our zone a lot to clog driving and shooting off the bounce and getting to the rim.”

Despite finishing the first half on a poor-shooting note and allowing the Golden Knights to score the second half’s first three points, the Miners clicked from that point on. They went on a 14-4 run, which was capped off by eight-straight points by senior guard Briana Green.

“I needed this for my confidence but it’s not about me, it’s about our team and coach getting her 300th win,” Green said. “I’ve had a slow start but I know I’m coming from injury so I know I need to be patient.”

Green finished with a game-high 13 points, which is the first time she led all scorers since the Dec. 3, 2010 home contest against Cal State Northridge in Memorial Gym. The Miners started the half off strong when they went up 11-2, then used a 16-2 run to push their lead to double digits for good. The Miners hit 10 of their first 16 shots and took a 25-11 lead at the 10:04 mark.

UTEP then went cold to end the second half, scoring just eight points on 2-of-13 shooting behind four turnovers in the final 10 minutes. Despite the slow finish, UCF scored just seven points to give the Miners a 33-38 lead at the half.

Prior to the game, Adams was presented with the game ball for her 300th win, which she earned Jan. 26 at Southern Miss behind a 70-63 victory.

“All I really want to focus on is this team and the journey we’re on. I just want to be along for the ride with these guys,” Adams said. “I’m not comfortable with that because it’s about our team and our program is about our team and the individual stuff is not important.”

The Miners will now take the week off until they face Rice Feb. 5 in Houston.

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