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The Prospector, February 10, 2015

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TRUE Love Waits?

STUDENTS WHO SAVE THEMSELVES FOR MARRIAGE

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“You are mine,” he whimpers. “Only mine. Don’t forget it” (pg. 86). It’s important to note that, this scene is before they’re acting as dom/subs.

Day One, a non-profit organization that fights to end dating abuse and domestic violence, lists possessiveness or treating you like property as a warning sign of abuse. Others include jealousy or insecurity, telling you what to do and to explosive tempers, all behaviors seen in Grey throughout the book.

People that defend the book are quick to point out that the relationship is not abusive because it’s part of BDSM. Yet, Clarisse Thorn, a BDSM writer, says within BDSM role policing is a way to police that dom/sub role in a way that leads, assumptions about both roles.

Often, people do this via what I call role policing—they make claims about ‘real submission’ and ‘real dominance’ Grey participates in role policing by telling Ana that she is supposed to act submissive to him, “in all things.” “It means I want you to totally surrender yourself to me, in all things.” I found at him as I try to assimilate this idea. Why would I do this? ‘To please me,’ he whispers” (pg. 72).

Thorn adds that this is problematic, “Since the ‘consent problem here is that role policing can be used to mess with people’s consent.”

The consent between Grey and Ana is not clearly laid out in the book. Pamela Anderson, another writer and BDSM writer, states, “When a submissive or dominant says “Red” it means HARD STOP. Christian not only ignored Ana’s safe word in one scene, but he expressed anger at her need to hold her own boundaries.” That is sexual abuse and assault. That is BDSM.

These are a few out of many examples from a book that romanticizes the idea of being under the pretense that it’s “BDSM.”

This book and the movie are harmful to women because it polices abusive relationships as something ideal, romantic and Grey as the perfect partner.

Anderson concludes, “While the book may be a sexy read (it’s fiction!), we really don’t want to have this as our template for hot sexy deliciously consensual BDSM sexual encounters and relationships.”

It’s my hope that readers and viewers, especially women, will be able to make the distinction not only between fiction and reality, but also between healthy and abusive.

Grey is not the perfect man. He is an abusive controlling man.

Bitter sweet and proud

BY AMANDA GUILLEN

The Prospector

It seems every year after the Christmas candy has cleared the shelves, stores start making room for Valentine’s Day merchandise.

For many this is just a small reminder that time is ticking and to find that special person who you share Feb. 14th with, or if you have that special someone to find that gift that will make their day perfect.

For others it is the time of year where we get our blinders on and head straight for the necessities and book it out of the store quicker than you can say “Be Mine.”

This year I can’t decide which I will wear, given that last Valentine’s Day my revelation was that this holiday is a day to celebrate love, romantic or not. Although I still believe this to be true, I got me thinking, why is it had to be on Valentine’s Day? Now, before I get all Carrie Bradshaw in this column, I think about all the girls and guys that I am blaming and complaining about the holiday.

“I always told myself that I would never be one to feel bad for myself or bring down Valentine’s Day just because I didn’t have a significant other, but when thinking about why people drown themselves in the loathing of Valentine’s Day I start to wonder if deep down inside I, too, am a secret love-day-hater clouked in an optimistic mindset.

Now, typically the biggest Valentine’s Day haters are the people that would be rubbing it in others faces if they did have a Valentine via social media—they are the ones who wished but did not receive. Regardless of my true feelings toward Valentine’s Day, I want every daters single to embrace being better because if you do it right it can be fun.

Following this five-step process will bring out the betterers in you and will, in the end, let you say “I am bitter and proud”!

(Disclaimer: what may work for some may not work for all, this all depends on your own risk.)

Step one: smile at every cutey couple, especially the girl with the over-sized bear and roses, and just think you won’t have to worry about your flowers drying or the bear taking up space in your college-sized apartment.

Also, it is scientifically proven that smiling can add years to your life (giving us more time to find that special someone… or not).

Step two: sleep in and dress how you please, since you don’t have to worry about impressing anyone. You can roll out of bed and not let the pressure of looking good for the day or night. This will leave you feeling rejuvenated and wide awake—enough to binge on a 10-hour Netflix marathon.

Step 3: Go buy yourself something nice with the money that you won’t spend on a gift. Treat yourself to that bag you had your eye on or that watch you said you didn’t need. The great thing about buying your own gifts is knowing you’ll never be disappointed.

Step 4: stay on social media. Although some stay away from social media to avoid the sappy posts and the flaunting of love and gifts, you should be able to double tap, like, favorite and comment on anything Valentine related. Be happy that there is love consonant the air waves rather than hate. Don’t be that person that one day says you’re tired of hearing about the negative and then reject the positive that is love.

Step 5: spread the love. Every year I look forward to the red heart-shaped lollipops, I always stock up since I know they won’t be back until the next year.

BittER-SWEET on page 6
Student virgins fight pressure to save themselves for marriage

BY NEW WOOLRIDGE

The Prospector

Many college students across the country may engage in the popular practice of having sex without committing to a relationship, but a significant number of others commit to remaining virgins until marriage.

Lucas Galley, bioscience engineering graduate student, said he has chosen to abstain from sex as part of God’s plan for his life. “It’s such an intimate personal act. It’s something I’ve decided to save until marriage so that I can share it with that one person,” Galley said. “To me, marriage is a contract for life.”

The word virgin may evoke memories of a bygone America, where traditional attitudes concerning sex might now be considered antiquated.

America’s Sexual Revolution during the 1960s marked a clear departure from the more rigid sexual norms that were still prevalent a decade prior and helped to remove some of the negative connotations associated with having sex for the sake of pleasure.

“Life nowadays in society, movies—everything is sex, sex, sex,” Galley said. “Society is like this is the best thing. You need to try it now.”

Galley said he has seen how relationships based solely on sex can end poorly, even breaking hearts.

“That’s true to me that it’s more than just a physical thing. It’s really a deep emotional connection,” he said.

College students choosing to remain virgins, like Galley, may not be that few in numbers.

Dr. Kathleen Bogle, assistant professor in sociology and criminal justice at La Salle University, said the rate of virginity is actually higher on college campuses than students may believe.

She said that at least one in four college students are virgins.

Abstreets Tyfroy, senior biological sciences major, is a virgin and wants to wait until marriage because of his Christian upbringing. However, he said he does feel the pressure.

“It’s definitely hard to wait. Our society is full of sex everywhere,” Tyfroy said. “Hopefully, God willing, I’m able to make it.”

Galley said he is not easily influenced by peer pressure.

“There’s a lot of pressure, but to me it’s just like, okay, it’s not worth it anymore. I decide that it’s worth it,” he said. “Society really wants you to want it.”

Tyfroy said that remaining a virgin until marriage is a personal choice and he encourages others to be abstinent. “I think what I’m doing is worth it,” Tyfroy said. “It’s not too late.”

When asked about others not sharing the same views on virginity and marriage, Galley said he becomes upset. He said that he has done bad things, too, and he tries not to judge others.

“It bugs me sometimes,” Galley said. “We’re not told to keep other people’s past in mind, as Christians. We’re told to love people.”

Although times have changed, Galley stands by his choice to remain a virgin for his future wife.

“That’s one special thing. No one can get in between that,” he said. For Tyfroy, the reason for remaining a virgin until marriage is clear.

“I want it to be special and I want it to be worth it,” Tyfroy said.

Michelle Roman / The Prospector

Outreach, resources for transgender people progressing in El Paso, on campus

BY LORENA AMBRODIO

The Prospector

This is part one of a three part long-form series, which will be available at theprospectordaily.com.

Adrías Keita Perez always felt different. Growing up in a religious Mexican family and attending an all-girl high school, he attributed his discomfort with his body to the societal norms of puberty.

It wasn’t until he started attending classes at UTEP and had a conversation with another student that he realized that not everyone felt like he did.

“I heard him talk about his experience as a transgender man and how he knew he wanted to transition, and I was like, ‘oh, wait, that’s me’,” Perez said. “I couldn’t do anything for a while, but I finally started to transition, and I struggled with it for a year, though, the consequences of my transition and what that would mean in my life—if I was comfortable with that challenge, particularly for my family and my safety.”

Before this, Perez, senior biology major, had already been binding his chest for three years, before he knew he wanted to transition from a woman to a man.

“binders are like a really tight tank top, with two layers of tight-ness crisscrossed. It kind of hinders your breathing so I had to wear that all the time to keep my chest down. That’s also really dangerous because it can cause breast cancer,” Perez said.

He then had a top-surgery, which is a double mastectomy for transgender people to remove their breasts.

When Perez first told him his mother, he told her he was going to New York since he had been in a long-distance relationship at the time.

“Told her I was going to New York to see a doctor over there to start hormones and she didn’t do anything about it,” Perez said. “I was gone for a month, so when I came back she missed me so much that it was either insignificant.”

After his visit to New York, Perez was able to find a doctor in Las Cruces, N.M. Since January 2014, he has been driving there and back to receive hormone treatments that have gradually changed his voice and added more body hair.

“The most noticeable thing for me was my voice, then it was body hair, then muscle mass happens. I got a ton of body hair—I have hair on my thighs now, my stomach, my back, which is a good thing,” Perez said. “Your voice gets deeper and you

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Dating someone with children may not always be a dealbreaker

By Alonso Moreno

The Prospector

While some prepare to ask someone out for a perfect Valentine’s Day date, others worry how their dates will react to the news that they have children.

This is just another worry for about 14.4 million parents. The U.S. census data said that parents lived with 23.4 million children under the age of 21, while the other parent lived somewhere else.

While not every single parent is looking for a romantic relationship, those who are have to cope with the fact that it might not be easy for them to find someone who can adjust to them and their children.

“I would date someone who has kids, but if the relationship were to evolve into something serious, then I would have to think about my decision and how that would impact everyone involved,” said Alejandro Aitukalo, graduate student in construction management.

The first problem that most single parents face is the introduction of the child into the relationship.

Dr. Steven W. Johnson, associate professor in counselling education, describes that facing such a situation is complicated for both parties. It’s not an easy issue to bring up, usually only done so after there has been recognition that the relationship will be ongoing.

“The fear is that all will fall apart if they find out that there is a child,” Johnson said. “That means that they have had sex with somebody else, they have had a baby, and that can be very threatening to a lot of people as many still have the stereotype that they are the only one.”

Part of the fear for those who date single parents is that they are placed in a situation for which they might not be prepared.

“I had a lot to think about. Was I ready to be a dad?” said Ryan Hatch, a UTEP alumnus who dated and married a single parent.

Johnson said that having a child is hard even for parents who are married, but that for those who are thrown into the situation and are asked to be instant parents, it’s a very hard role for anyone to get into.

“At first, the time spent with my wife (then girlfriend) was a little rough,” Hatch said. “We couldn’t show too much affection to each other around the child. So we eventually sat her down and explained things to the best of our ability.”

Despite initial hardships, Hatch said that his daughter now can’t remember life without him and that, together with his wife, the three of them couldn’t be happier as a family.

Hatch said that part of his experience was meeting the child at a very impressionable age, which is something that is not always the case in other relationships.

Juliana Martinez, a former UTEP student, said that she met her fiancé’s son shortly after they began dating and that she was frightened at the idea that he would not approve of her.

“He was 13 when I met him,” Martinez said. “I was nervous because I was afraid he wouldn’t like me and he was old enough to form an opinion about me and speak his mind.”

However, Martinez was quick to relate to the adolescent and form a strong bond over time.

“It went real well. At first it was a bit nerve-wracking, but it was like I was talking with a younger brother,” Martinez said. “We started to interact more and through the years he began to confide in me and started talking to me about girls and other personal matters.”

Despite the misconception that people have to be highly prepared in order to be parents, the reality is much different than a lot of people realize, said Johnson.

“There is so much such as a perfect parent, every parent makes a mistake, or two or three,” he said.

When asked about advice for those who are dating or considering dating someone who is a single parent, his message was simple.

“My advice is don’t be afraid, try to be calm, be flexible and give it time,” Johnson said.

The Prospector may be reached at theprospectordaily@utep.edu.

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FEB. 5
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SATURDAY
FEB. 7
VS FIU / 2 PM
Think before you ink—love may be temporary, tattoos are not

Jennifer Ortiz, sophomore nursing major, said that if she ever gets a love tattoo it would be something small and intimate. She said that a love tattoo shouldn’t be extravagant but a subtle and private representation of care, which is the same opinion most tattoo artists have.

“I would never tattoo my boyfriend’s name or his pet name or anything so extreme,” Ortiz said. “It would probably be a small simple representation of our love, like a symbol that we both treasure.”

For individuals who regret getting their love tattoos, laser removal is the only option to getting them removed completely.

This technique breaks up the pigment colors of the tattoo ink within the skin with the help of thin lasers. These surgeries are commonly carried out by cosmetic centers or specialized dermatologists.

see TATTOOS on page 6
get acne, since you’re going through puberty. I had perfect flawless skin before this.

After the first year, Perez’s voice settled, but he still can’t sing like he used to. “I don’t have as wide of a vocal range because my voice will just crack. I’m just fuzzy,” he said. “Hopefully, I get treated, but he still can’t sing like he used to.

When my mom yells at me, she’ll call me Adrian, so that’s cool,” Perez said. “You’re read at me, but I’m so happy that you’re using the right name.”

Perez changed his name last summer, keeping his initials the same and using his mother’s maiden name as his last name. “My mom’s middle name is Kristina so I made mine Kristian, and I tell her, ‘no, you can’t be mad at me because I changed my name to yours,’” he said.

Dr. Oralia Loza, assistant professor of public health sciences, recently finished a study that focused on transgender women in the El Paso/Juárez, Mexico region, specifically what their health needs were and where they access services.

“They had never been interviewed for a health needs assessment before, and we didn’t know what the resources were in the community,” Loza said. The study is now under revision and Loza is working on publishing the findings.

“What we found is that at the time of the interviews, there were no services in El Paso for transgender women in 2012-2013. We asked for any other resources, and we didn’t identify any from the participants, so that was alarming,” she said.

Since the interviews, however, Loza has been working with community partners, including the Department of Public Health and two physicians in endocrinology and pediatrics—including Dr. Hector Granada—from Texas Tech University Health Science Center in El Paso, the Office of Diversity Affairs at Texas Tech, International AIDS Empowerment and The M Factor, to create a profession network that will work toward improving health services for lesbians, gay, bisexual and transgender persons living in El Paso.

“Services have emerged and people have come forward. Centers that didn’t exist have returned with a different name, like QC Night Community Center, an LGBT youth center,” Loza said. “That didn’t exist five years ago, so agencies have come back under a new name, design, management, etc.”

The two physicians are trained in transgender health. They built a complete clinic within Texas Tech for transgender children to receive the care they need in all areas, such as mental health assessment, hormone treatment and puberty blockers.

The pediatric clinic also serves adults because of the need in the region, Loza said. Now, the network is working on finding a mental health provider who can provide the portion of care that transgender people need.

“People here are not willing to do that, or they’re not ready. They don’t feel comfortable for whatever reason,” she said. “If they’re here, they’re hard to find. We have a network with professionals from different areas of the community, including HIV care and LGBT outreach from the new center. If we can’t find them as professionals, how is somebody who feels uncomfortable stepping forward and coming out going to find them?”

The community partners who were brought on board to serve the transgender population took pledges, promising to be sensitive to LGBT patients.

“So instead of saying, ‘is that your wife or girlfriend?’ they will say, ‘is that your partner?’ They welcome other scenarios that are non-traditional or not based on the norms,” Loza said. “Those are small changes that are occurring in health care.”

Loza and her partners want to launch a study where all health care and social services providers in the region are interviewed on how willing they are to provide the portion of care that transgender people need.

“We are working to put a damper on any situation, for example, why HIV and AIDS, STIs in general, are more prevalent in the trans community. I’ve been fortunate enough not to do that. I’m privileged.”

When you chose to be bitter this Valentine’s Day, you are the human body that has other organs, and engages in other behaviors besides sex,” she said. “So we need to address that, and remove the stigma of only focusing on HIV. There are disparities in other things.”

Perez said that he knows transgender people who turn to sex work to survive because they cannot get hired in a typical setting—whether the transgender person feels uncomfortable or the employer doesn’t respect them.

“To each his own in sex work, I’m not shaming anyone, but when you’re forced into that situation, that’s a problem. A lot of people have trans fantasies—wanting to sleep with a trans man or trans woman—too, and dealing with those kind of people is dangerous,” Perez said. “They’re not in the right state of mind, they’re not people who will respect you or be safe and clean. That’s why HIV and AIDS, STIs in general, are more prevalent in the trans community. I’ve been fortunate enough not to do that. I’m privileged.”

Loza said that when people talk about Valentine’s Day, they welcome other scenarios—wanting to sleep with a trans man or woman—or do things they don’t have a Valentine or those typical I hate Valentine’s Day posts.

When you take control of the situation you’re in and embrace it, you break free from any hostility that you might find within yourself.

If you choose to be bitter this Valentine’s Day, know that I think it is a great option. Be bitter about hate, be bitter about inequality and be bitter about negativity, but never take the time or energy to be bitter about love, because with love comes change and in this time in our history, we as a country need change.

*Oralia Loza may be reached at oraliabloza@gmail.com.
Gear up for Spring with the newest styles from LRG!

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The most popular couple tattoos right now are the Queen and King tattoos on the knuckles and the infinity symbols with the couple's initials on them," he said. "The infinity tattoo for couples I just find ironic. I chuckle inside whenever they ask to get it done." Tattos can also be covered up with another tattoo, which is a quick and inexpensive option. Many television shows such as "Tattoo Nightmares" and "America's Worst Tattoos" have their episodes on the surplus of regrettable tattoos across the nation, where most of their clients want to cover up unwanted tattoos from past relationships gone wrong.

"I would never get a tattoo of my partner's name... I wouldn't want the constant reminder on my skin."

-Cynthia Sanchez
girlfriend major

"I would never get a tattoo of my partner's name. I mean, I really care about her a lot, but if something were to happen between us, I wouldn't want the constant reminder of it on my skin," said Cynthia Sanchez, girlfriend psychology major. "Now, if something really bad were to happen to her, knock on wood, I would plan on maybe getting something tattooed that would remind me of her or of our relationship."

-Jeanne Tepke, quoted in The Prospector, page 12.

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The Inn of the Mountain Gods will be having a Stupid Cupid Glow Party for singles.

BY JULIA HETTGER
The Prospector

Single or taken, there are many events taking place this Valentine’s Day, from yoga to concerts to singles parties. Venues in El Paso and the surrounding area have you covered.

Michael Stuart, a salsa singer and actor, will be having a Chocolate Extravaganza on Valentine’s Day beginning at 11 p.m. The party will take place at Club New York in Downtown El Paso at 200 Anthony St. The event is intended for singles to mingle and try exotic chocolates. General admission is $20, and it is a 21 and over event. For more information, call Club New York at 915-533-3177.

The Inn of the Mountain Gods may be reached at 575-464-7699. Rock and roll legends Jerry Lee Lewis and Chubby Checker will perform in El Paso. The concert and dinner will begin at 5 p.m. Tickets are on sale now for $25. For more information call the Socorro Entertainment Center at 915-799-4800. Mariachi Vegas de Tecalitlan will be performing at the Plaza Theatre on Feb. 14. The concert begins at 8 p.m. and tickets range from $30 to $100.

To keep your furry friend happy during Pet Awareness Month, the Humane Society of El Paso is spreading Pet Awareness during the month of February. The group originated in 1988 in Toca-litas, Mexico, and since then they have starred in more than 200 movies and played shows in locations including Paris, New York, Chicago and San Diego. Elisa Carbajal, events coordinator, said he expects the concert to be a popular date for Valentine’s Day. “It will probably sell out soon,” Carbajal said. “Couples better get their tickets quickly.”

For more information, call The Plaza Theatre at 915-533-0609. “The Singles Party at the Inn of the Mountain Gods sounds interesting, so maybe I’ll go to that,” Lopez said. “If not, I’ll probably go to the movies instead.”

In Downtown El Paso, Sparrow’s Spirits and Pies will be having live music the evening of Valentine’s Day. Drinks and pizza will be served. The event will begin at 6 p.m. Sparrow’s may be reached at 915-533-8890.

Other Valentine’s Day events include yoga classes and brunch at Ar-dermon’s Desert Crossing. Dinner and dancing will be at Shindo Ballroom Dance Studio, Santa Lucia Catholic Church and La Tierra Café.

For more information about these events, call Ardermon’s Desert Crossing at (575) 589-0653. Shindo Ballroom Dance Studio at 532-2843. Santa Lucia Catholic Church may be reached at 592-5245 and La Tierra Café at (915) 533-8890.

Julia Hettger may be reached at jhettger@prospectordaily.com.

BY VALERIE HERRERA
The Prospector

February is Responsible Pet Owning Month. This month will celebrate all pet owners who are responsible and are serious about taking care of their pets. It’s also a great way for pet owners to step back and take a look at how they are doing.

During this month, people are encouraged to pass the importance of being a responsible pet owner on to others. The public about how to be responsible for the sake of their pet’s well-being.

Including a pet in your family can be a large responsibility, but it can also be incredibly rewarding. Every year millions of dogs and cats end up in shelters for a number of reasons most usually associated with the pet owner not being aware of how to care for their pet properly.

“Not all animals are the same and have emotions, so the more you work with animals the more you get to recognize and see each one as a unique personality with different needs,” said Betty Hoover, executive director of the Humane Society of El Paso.

Hoover said people should consider adopting a pet almost the same as adopting a child, because the animal will be a new addition to the family.

“Being a responsible pet owner is much more than just providing adequate water, food and shelter for your pet, it is a lifetime commitment,” Hoover said.

Pet owners are quite often not prepared for pet ownership and all that it entails when adopting a pet. Pet abandonment leads to overcrowding of animal shelters, animal abuse and the unnecessary death of innocent animals.

“When animals are trained and cared for properly, they are less likely to be given up to a shelter,” Hoover said.

“Providing for your pet’s physical needs and caring for them with love are the first requirements of responsible pet owners, but these are not the only requirements.”

Many pet owners have a busy lifestyle and are not able to live within a system up set of social standards and often don’t take the time to notice the signs in their pet’s behavior.

For most people owning a pet is considered a privilege and results in a mutually beneficial relationship.

Gerardo Reyes, senior mechanical engineering major, owns a 6-year-old boxer named Ticho. Reyes said pet owners need to be attentive to notice their behavior because they can’t communicate.

“I raised my boxer since he was two months old and he is truly my best friend. I consider pet responsibility like taking care of your own son or daughter,” Reyes said. “They are defenseless beings and really depend on us just as an infant would.”

According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, animal cruelty laws and regulations are set up by municipalities, cities or counties and can vary widely from state to state.

“It is a requirement in El Paso to get a domestic animal micro-chipped whether it’s a cat, dog, rabbit or a ferret. It is also important to provide adequate food and shelter for the animal especially during the hot summer and cold winter days,” Hoover said.

“There are also chain and tethering regulations in the city,” Hoover said.

Hoover said pets show signs in their behavior, their water consumption, their eating habits and activity, so as caring and concerned pet parents, these signs must be sought everywhere.

“Another way of contributing to responsible pet ownership, even if you yourself don’t own a pet, if you see an animal that is not being treated properly, you need to report it to authorities so that they can look into it and ensure that the animal is removed from the situation,” Hoover said.

The benefits of pet ownership do come with obligations, so it is important to stay informed on current tips to educate yourself about how to care for your pet.

Rene Miranda, sophomore mechanical engineering major, owns two dogs and a goldfish and said it is important for pet owners to be informed about the responsibly of owning a pet before they get one.

“They are completely dependent on us for their welfare and it is important,” Miranda said.

Hoover said that animals may go through depression times and hurt and cry just like human beings do because they have been separated from their family and most often will shut down without any interaction.

“We experienced a number of reasons why people want to return their animals such as they are moving or the animal is too fragile,” Hoover said. “Which is why we always offer adoption counseling and parental guidance for first-time pet owners as well as other services to parents who have questions.”

For more information, contact the El Paso Humane Society at 915-533-8871.

Valerie Herrera may be reached atvherrera@prospectordaily.com.

PAGE 9
Ghost hunting on the most romantic day of the year

JESUS LOPEZ
The Prospector

"Concordia Cemetery has brought you stories of history, legends and lore of the City of the Dead," said Henry Flores, president of El Paso del Norte Paranormal Society.

On Friday the 13th, Ghosts915 will take visitors to the darkest and scariest parts of Concordia Cemetery and on Valentine’s Day, the Yandel gate will open wide for paranormal investigations.

"Now that’s love," Flores said.

The ghost tour of Downtown El Paso will feature many spooky stories of hauntings and urban myths from this region of the Old West. People will be able to enter and explore many ghost-infested buildings from local places, including the remains of the Palace Saloon and the resurrection of the Wipeout Saloon.

As attendees are guided through the halls and buildings, where terrifying events took place, they will get to experience a paranormal investigation firsthand.

"It sort of sounds weird to attend a ghost tour on Valentine’s Day," said Victoria Saucedo, a senior business major. "However, it kind of fits. Maybe taking a date and clinging on to their arms as we walk through the scary cemetery. It sounds like an interesting plan!"

Children over the age of 13 are allowed to attend the tours, but an adult must accompany them. These tours are a great opportunity for all guests to experience becoming ghost hunters. Recording devices are encouraged.

"The El Paso del Norte Paranormal Society Inc is a 501 nonprofit organization. What we do is research the paranormal, assist in educating the public when it comes to history of our region and also, we aid other nonprofit organizations of the type to raise funds," Flores said. "But mostly, our organization focuses on raising money for Texas historical landmarks such as Concordia Cemetery."

On Feb. 13 and on Valentine’s Day, Concordia Cemetery will open its gates to a ghost tour at 9 p.m. Bring your flashlights and night vision goggles. Entrance fee is $10 per person. Downtown El Paso tours will be held the same day for $15.

Ghosts915 also has many other spooky events coming up during the year, including many more ghost tours including El Paso Ghost Stories, an open mic event where people attending can share their ghost stories and listen to many others. The Ghosts915 office will also feature free black-and-white movies of the paranormal during the spring.

Tickets to these events may be purchased at the day of the event or by making reservations by calling 915-274-9591. For more information on the ghost tours and future events of the uncanny nature, visit ghosts915.com.

ANDRES MATEINEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

On Feb. 13, Concordia Cemetery will open its gates for ghost tours at 9 p.m.

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Genital modification no longer considered a taboo

BY JESUS LOPEZ

The Prospector

Body modification began as an art form, but in today's society, it may not be considered as taboo anymore. Body modification has been seen since the beginning of history. Many tribes and cultures have practiced this tradition that included tattooing, skin stretching, piercing, scarification and self-mutilation processes that did not include the genital area. Today, the practices are still used. People are finding more ways to modify their genitalia for many reasons, including sexual enhancement, medical necessity, cultural tradition, and aesthetic reasons.改装,纹身,皮筋拉伸,穿刺,疤痕形成和自我阉割等过程在过去的传统中并未包括生殖器。今天,这些做法仍在使用。人们发现更多的方法来改变他们的生殖器以达到多种目的,包括性美化,医疗必要性,文化传统,和审美原因。

"I don't think that there's a difference between people who get the regular plastic surgeries and those who decide to have genital alteration," Jorge Hordoff, a filmmaker and engineer major said. "None feel comfortable with a specific aspect of their body, so it doesn't matter if it's focused on their genitals or not. To me, it's the same principle." The genital surgeries and practices, from genital piercing and tattooing to genital biopsies—which the penis is split in half—are actually undertaken for different purposes, such as adding sexual pleasure to an individual and their partner, for ethno-cultural reasons, or aesthetic appeal.

"I don't think that there's anything wrong with it. Although, I do believe that the pressure to pierce the body is a weight factor that has a great impact on people who get this type of surgeries," Hordoff said.

"As long as the procedure is done by a professional and the health of the patient is not compromised, the process is safe. The exposure to pornography has also had an impact on how people face the daily issue of body image, since the focus is on their sexuality.

"I have heard a lot about this topic recently, especially about the surgery. When you get into the internal lab, you know because bodies tend to change over time," Karla Sofia Perez, a freshman and medical studies major said. "I am guessing they do it to feel more comfortable about themselves and to be happy with their own bodies."

"It comes to me, getting a circumcision may not be a personal choice. Most boys who are circumcised have the procedure done at a very young age. Many people and groups, such as Jews Against Circumcision, believe the surgery of circumcision to be a barbaric practice. It has said that circumcised penises lose sensitivity over time.

"I feel that circumcision is mostly a sanitary myth and that it is not realistic at all," Perez said. "Hygiene is that area really depends on the individual, but if anyone wants to get it done, it's their choice."

Opinions are varied on the matter and individuals who decide to get their bodies modified, either from necessity, sexual pleasure or for issues of confidence, all have many things to consider before taking the final step, making sure to assess the risks and benefits of all genital modifications.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, SEE:

www.lgbtq.org

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Hot and heavy at the drive-in

BY VALERIE HERRERA

The Prospector

The Fiesta Drive-In Theatre is an adult theater that was established in the 1980s and is one of the few operating drive-ins showing adult movies in Texas. It is located in El Paso on 13800 Montana Avenue, and has two movie picture screens with a maximum capacity for 500 cars.

The throwback-themed drive-in is considered a historical landmark that is open year-round and screens X-rated films to adult audiences only. With high-quality movies being shown every night, Fiesta Drive-In doubles as an adult video store and an adult theater.

Lee Wilson, manager of Fiesta Drive-In, said movies are being produced in this industry every day, so their customers can expect to see a new movie aired every night.

According to the United Drive-In Theatre Owners Association, during the peak of drive-ins in the late 1950s, there were almost 5,000 drive-ins across the country. Only 368 remain in the United States and decline by two to three per year. However, Fiesta Drive-In appears to be doing just fine, even gaining an audience.

In 1980, there existed about 20 theaters in the U.S. that showed adult movies exclusively. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, they spread to the rest of the country.

Wilson said Fiesta Drive-In is in a cinema structure with two large outdoor movie screens, a projection booth and a concession stand.

"We have a large enclosed parking area for automobiles, where customers can view movies from the privacy and comfort of their own cars," he said. The store area is open every day seven days a week from noon to 12 a.m., and shows movies starting at around 9 p.m. Considering the explicit entertainment of the adult industry, customers must be 18 and over and follow 21-and-over alcohol consumption laws.

"We do follow strict regulations of the law and ask for identification of all of our customers on Valentine’s Day, since movies are usually picked to air at that same day, but he said Fiesta Drive-In does not expect to see a great crowd that night.

Snacks are sold on site, but people are encouraged to bring their own food, drinks and alcohol.

"The theater is ‘BYOB’, meaning bringing your own beer, wine, baby food, popcorn, barbecue, etc.," Wilson said.

"We have experimented with people bringing their own barbecue grills, so it’s whatever you would like to interpret it to.

According to Federal laws, local governments commonly prohibit adult theaters from operating within a certain distance of residential areas, parks, churches or schools.

Restrictions on adult theaters vary by region and may be restricted by local and state regulations. Often, adult theaters have been forced to move to the outskirts of cities in order to protect real estate prices in city centers. For the patrons, rules are generally less strict regarding activity taking place in their vehicles.

"We don’t really have any regulations with what the customers are doing in their cars considering this is a privately owned business and property as long as they are not bothering other people around them and aren’t doing something outside of their vehicles," Wilson said.

"The company is originally known as a couple's-friendly and full-service adult superstore. They have the largest selection of adult DVDs, sex toys and intimate items to satisfy everyone’s tastes.

Adrian Herrera, senior computer science major, said he was never aware that El Paso had a drive-in theater, but would consider checking it out.

"I’ve been to adult stores before, I didn’t know there was such a thing as a drive-in theater that shows pornography on a big screen," Herrera said. "It seems kind of weird, but I would probably try it out sometime.

Wilson said the environment is very friendly and nice. It is a different kind of crowd, a more mature crowd who just want to enjoy themselves.

The drive-in is currently going through a construction phase, but renovations are expected to be completed in the next few weeks.

"We have considered changing the name to suit the modernization of the company, but we decided to keep the old name because of its reputation. Many people and groups, such as Jews Against Circumcision, believe the surgery of circumcision to be a barbaric practice. It has said that circumcised penises lose sensitivity over time.

"I feel that circumcision is mostly a sanitary myth and that it is not realistic at all," Perez said. "Hygiene in that area really depends on the individual, but if anyone wants to get it done, it's their choice."

Opinions are varied on the matter and individuals who decide to get their bodies modified, either from necessity, sexual pleasure or for issues of confidence, all have many things to consider before taking the final step, making sure to assess the risks and benefits of all genital modifications.

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THE PROSPECTOR

FEBRUARY 10, 2015
History at your finger tips

BY ALEXANDRA CARDWELL

The Prospector

The grand opening for Digital Information Gateway in El Paso, the first digital wall in America, will be on Feb. 14, at the El Paso Museum of History from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. DIGIE is a map and a major collection of various videos and pictures of El Paso past and present. The goal of the digital wall is to attract many visitors and learn as much as they can about the city while being fully immersed in it. There is also the opportunity for children to be fully engaged and aware of the city's history and culture.

"People will be able to see the history of our city and our culture with their fingertips," said Maritsa Valenzuela, marketing director for the museum. "You can even upload your own pictures to our website so they may be available to view on the wall. The digital wall is a total of 35 feet long with a 36-foot protective 3-D touch screen over it. It is also five feet tall, with five Samsung digital monitors that people can use simultaneously.

"Viewers will not need 3-D glasses to view DIGIE," said Cindy Diaz,secretary of the museum. Participants will be able to view many different photos depending on the theme or time selected. Visitors can view El Paso in all directions and can use a map to find exact locations. In order to be able to upload photos, participants must be over the age of 15. All photos are subject to approval by the museum directors.

Oscar Lesser, mayor of El Paso, will make an appearance at the grand opening along with the Mayor of Culture of Copenhagen, Denmark. This event is free and open to the public.

The inspiration for the digital wall came about when Julio Buitrago, the director of the El Paso Museum of History, went to an international museum conference in Berlin and met with the director of a the Museum of Copenhagen, which launched its digital wall in 2010. Alexman said there would be performances by various dance academies, henna tattoos will be available, face painting, jugglers, maracas, country, blue bands and much more. Horri Meregto de Papel will be providing free activities for children from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. More than 5000 photos have already been uploaded to the DIGIE website dating back to the late 19th century to the present day.

Many of the earliest photos of El Paso have been supplied by UTEN. Besides landmarks, early photos are mainly of people passing through the city and members of the Asian and African American community. "I've lived here all my life and I don't really know the history of El Paso," said Adriana Pena, sophomore, social studies science major. "It feels like there is a lot of history and I don't know that this city has been kept private. We should be proud of this city and its history."

Thomas said photos of high school football games, elementary school graduations and anything that matters to El Pasoans are welcome. Visitors can be submitted with a limit of three photos.

If you would like to upload a photo of your own or learn more about DIGIE, please visit www.digie.org.

ILLUSTRATION BY ASHLEY MURGUIA / THE PROSPECTOR

would you date someone with kids?

ADAM FEES
Freshman, criminal justice major
"I would because just because they have kids doesn't mean they're not a good person."

JOSE LUIS VELDZ GUILLEN
Freshman, mechanical engineering major
"I would not because she has already experienced having a kid the first time and I would like to experience that with someone who is new to parenting."

CAROLINA CORREA
Sophomore, accounting major
"I wouldn't, my mom did the same and it turned out to be very difficult."

JOSHUA SMITH
Junior, microbiology major
"Yes I would, I consider children to be an absolute blessing and I would have no problem with it whatsoever."

LUIS MORENO
Freshman, biomedical major
"I would not date someone who has kids, because I would be responsible for the kid and right now that would mean something I'm willing to do."

PAOLA DOMINGUEZ
Freshman, electrical engineering major
"I would, maybe that way 1 don't have to have them myself."

HAYLEY K. LECNER
Sophomore, biochemistry major
"No, because if there is a breakup and you get attached to the child it's more harmful on them. Children get attached really easily to people and things don't always work out."

GINO DE LA REZA
Freshman, cellular & molecular biochemistry major
"I would but it would be depending on the person, they would have to be independent and self-sufficient."

Tiffany M. SCHWEDE
Senior, biological sciences
"Yes, because usually they already have their lives in order if they have a child, they are more mature and know where their lives are going."

Illustration by Ashley Murguia / The Prospector
Local wrestler carries on the Guerrero legacy

BY JASON GREEN
The Prospector

Hector was sitting on the toilet when he got the call. He still chuckles when he thinks about Mando asking him if he was sitting down. Then he wipes a tear from his eye.

He had lost a high school teammate—a training partner—a sometimes tag team partner. He and the wrestling would have lost Eddie Guerrero.

Ask any pro-wrestling fan where they were when they heard the news and they can probably tell you. It was a lot more than just news for "Hurricane" Hector Rincon.

Hector had known Eddie since he was one of "The Guerreros." It was from that question that a lifelong passion was born.

"He didn't want to pay for anything—boiling in El Paso—outside of the ring—as a conduit of lessons learned," Hector said. "Eddie had his work cut out for him. Guerrero is already known—his name alone—lowers the bar. "

"Eddie had his work cut out for him. Guerrero is already known—his name alone—lowers the bar. But, he had to live up to the expectations of his brothers and his dad," said Hector. "It wasn't 'hey look, I'm working on my own. Hector attended UTEP mainly to apprise his father, whose dream it was for Hector to be a civil engineer. It wasn't long before the booing crowds—Hurricane's been a heel, rudo or just plain bad guy almost from the start—began calling him back to the ring.

He left UTEP after telling his father that he would prefer being a wrestling coach at the high school level. His father would no longer support him financially if he pursued his own dream.

"We agreed to disagree," Hector said. "He didn't want to pay for anything but college and I didn't want to be a civil engineer."

He chuckles as he says it, but one gets the sense that somewhere inside, young Hector longed for his father's approval. He found his approval in the teaching and support of the Guerrero family.

Although Gory would never come close to supporting him on his abilities, Hector knew when he had done well mainly because Gory would not allow him to wrestle in public until he was sufficiently trained.

Hector suddenly found himself out of college and working at Orange Julius. He continued to train with the Guerreros. Hector and the gang would train after school—for those who were still in school—and every Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon.

Eddie and Hector began working in Juárez when Gory felt they were ready. Despite the fact that Eddie was "a Guerrero," Hector felt that he may have had it even harder in Mexico than he himself did.

"Eddie had his work cut out for him. Guerrero is already known—his name alone lowers the bar. But, he had to live up to the expectations of his brothers and his dad," said Hector. "It wasn't 'hey look, I'm Eddie Guerrero!'—it wasn't that easy."

It was not long before Eddie had earned his stripes in Juárez and headed down to Mexico City to continue his career. Soon Eddie would forge his own way and head to Japan and then Florida to begin work with World Championship Wrestling—what some would consider "the big time."

Meanwhile, Hector was still working in El Paso—outside of the ring. Having left college and the financial support of his father, Hector worked several jobs at a local mall.

Inside the ring, he found his own measure of success by wrestling at Gimnasio Municipal and other venues around Juárez and El Paso. Hector was torn between trying to follow in Eddie's footsteps or staying in El Paso to forge his own way.

"My procrastination—I won't say it was my demise—it's what kept me from going anywhere. Eddie was always there and saying 'come on bro, I'll take you to Japan,'" Hector said. "I went to visit him one time when he was wrestling with WCW. He said 'being your stuff, I'll introduce you to the promoter down here, we'll get you a dark match.' It was me—it was me more than anything else. When we were in Florida, I was already married and had a family."

"Hurricane" Hector has never blamed his family. The decision for him simply came down to the fact that following Eddie meant wrestling and leaving his family behind for long periods of time.

He does not regret his decision. He laughs when he says that his wife gets angry when he is gone too much on the weekends, but Hector knows that it could have been a lot worse.

When he talks about his wife and kids, Hector's face lights up even more than it does when he talks about the good old days of traveling around the borderland with the Guerreros. Hector has found his niche. He is not an engineer like his father desired. He is not a wrestling coach at a high school like he had desired at one time. He is a professional wrestler—locally, necessarily what Eddie Guerrero desired for him.

He is a man who has made a good living with an elevator repair company for 24 years. He is a loving father and husband. He is even a wrestling trainer—a conduit of lessons learned to his kids. All of which is more than enough to carry on the Guerrero legacy.

"Hurricane" Hector had his work cut out for him. Guerrero is already known—his name alone lowers the bar. But, he had to live up to the expectations of his brothers and his dad," said Hector. "It wasn't 'hey look, I'm Eddie Guerrero!'—it wasn't that easy."

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"My procrastination—I won't say it was my demise—it's what kept me from going anywhere. Eddie was always there and saying 'come on bro, I'll take you to Japan,'" Hector said.
Men’s basketball looks to continue streak

BY LUIS GONZALEZ
The Prospector

Five of the final seven regular season games will be at home for coach Tim Floyd and the UTEP men’s basketball team. After coming back from Florida with two wins this past weekend against Florida Atlantic and Florida International, the Miners are preparing for their longest conference home stretch of the season.

UTEP will open the three-game home stretch when they host Charlotte on Thursday, Feb. 12, and Old Dominion on Saturday, Feb. 14.

UTEP beat FAU on a second half 9-2 run, all play and the score tied at 54, UTEP lose their third-straight road game by Hunter made sure the Miners did not paint. With the score tied at the break, UTEP outscored FAU 24-6 in the dominant in the second half when drick was really aggressive. ” Floyd said. “Vince was aggressive, Ce-

Sophomore forward Vince Hunter leads Conference USA in rebounding, averaging 9.7 rebounds per game.

Senior center Cedric Lang is averaging 6.5 rebounds per game this season.

“Tie is the difference in the game.”
After an unexpected Western Ken-

Three 49ers are averaging double digits—freshmen guard Torin Dorn averages 12.3 ppg, sophomore guard Braxton Ogbueze averages 10.5 ppg and senior guard Piereira Henry average 10. Finally, the matchup will offer some pretty good rebounders. For the Min-

ers, Hunter leads the league averaging 9.7 rebounds per contest. Lang is second on the team with an average of 6.5. Charlotte has two players among the top 10 Conference USA rebounders in junior forward Willie Clayton and junior center Mike Thorne Jr. Both players average 6.7 rebounds per game.

Miners and 49ers met last season on the floor of the Don Haskins with a final score of 73-68.

As they have done pretty much all year, the team that comes to El Paso on Saturday, Feb. 14, does so after a stop in San Antonio. For the first time ever, the Old Dominion Mon-

archs will be on the floor of the Don Haskins Center. These teams met last year in Norfolk, Va., where the Min-

ers prevailed 63-49. This year the matchup promises to be a lot closer. Already established is the fact that UTEP is one of the best defensive teams in the league. Statis-

tically there are just two better than the Miners and one of them is Old Dominion. Once ranked nationally, the Mon-

archs boast the best scoring defense in Conference USA, allowing oppo-

nents to score an average of 73.7 ppg. The Monarchs have allowed just two teams to reach 80 points this year and one other has reached 70.

Old Dominion is on a three-game winning streak, but lost both of their last games they played on the road. They were blown out at UAB and lost in overtime against Middle Ten-

nessee. The Monarchs have been led by guard Trey Freeman. The 6-foot-2 junior is averaging just over 16 ppg and could pose a considerable challenge for the Miner front court. No Monarch averages over 5.7 rebounds per game, but the team leads the league with a .53 rebounding margin.

With the two wins on the road, UTEP has assured itself a positive balance on the road this year in con-

ference. Winning on the road could prove to be the difference the Min-

ers need to pull ahead in such a tight league race—as long as they take care of business at home.

“We’ve got to go back and play some very good teams at home and try to play them well.”
Lady Miners to be tested on the road

The Miners needed last week’s win against the last place FIU to build momentum going into the last games of the season. The Miners will be playing the team directly in front of them in the conference standings when they travel to Charlotte.

The Miners, now 9-11 and 4-7 in Conference USA, can take a win away from the 49ers and continue their pursuit towards the conference championships with a win against a weak team. Charlotte is 5-5 in conference play and has won two straight games since losing three consecutive in late January.

If the Miners can replicate their last game’s victory, getting a positive streak going should be that much easier. The Miners have outrebounded its last two opponents by a combined 81-55, including 54 on the offensive end.

The Miners have played exceptionally well on defensive end as of late. The Miners outscored FIU 52-58 off turnovers during the 72-56 blowout last Saturday—that can lead to another Miners win this week against Charlotte.

The Miners have relied heavily on junior guard Camisha Turner to produce offense for that team. Turner is coming off a career night at home when she put up 26 points against the Panthers, most of them off turnovers and lay ups. The 26 points were one short of tying a career-high for Turner.

There has only been one previous meeting between the two squads. The Miners dropped a 96-82 decision last season on the floor of the Don Haskins Center. It was the second loss in a row—the only time all season UTEP had back-to-back losses.

The Miners will also look to neutralize one of the more powerful teams in the conference when they play against Old Dominion. The Lady Monarchs’ losses of 13-8 on the year find themselves among the best five teams in the conference with a 6-4 conference record.

The Miners can see this game as a true test of their defense and recent rebounding success. The Monarchs have two players listed at 6-9 and six other listed that are at least six feet tall.

Old Dominion and UTEP have played two times. They met first in the 88-89 season at a neutral site with the Monarchs prevailing 77-71. Last year, the Miners visit Old Dominion and came away victorious by a final of 65-55.

The Miners in the last two games have improved their free throw shooting, especially in their last game against FIU where they shot 75 percent from the free throw line. Coach Adams continues to send a message to her team when it comes to their performance at the charity stripe.

“We made some free throws and its good to see the team playing like that, we make a couple of them in our other games, and some of those losses are no longer losses,” Adams said.

The Miners will have to play their best on the road and that is not something this team has done all season. The Miners are 1-5 on the road this season but their lone victory was at the expense of third-place Southern Miss.

Playing on the road is never easy, regardless of team standing or record. If the Miners can find a way to win both games they will start to move up the standings in Conference USA.

The six-game losing streak could begin to fade at the site of a three-game winning streak and the Miners can take control of their season with two big games this week.

“We are competing,” Adams said. “We were in a position to have a chance to win and that’s what you want.”
Softball heads to Vegas for the weekend

BY JASON GREEN
The Prospector

The UTEP softball team opened the season this past weekend with the Kaikowa Classic in Tempe, Arizona. This weekend, the team will head to Las Vegas for the Wilson-DuMarion Desert Classic. UTEP is 0-5 after losing all five games of their season-opening tournament. The team lost two games when they were halted in the fifth inning because of rain, delaying the other three games. They lost 2-1 to one run and the other by only two.

UTEP lost the third game of their five-game tournament to Portland State (2-3) by a score of 7-5. Prior to coming to UTEP before the start of last season, head coach Tabitha Echo-Hawk was in charge of the Portland State softball team. After losing many close games, UTEP will undoubtedly be excited to match up against the Vikings in the first game of this weekend’s tournament.

Heading into the Kaikowa Classic, Echo-Hawk left her current team would be well prepared to take on her former team. UTEP’s second game of the day on Friday will be against Indiana University.

In the same Kaikowa Classic, the Miners left Arizona with a 1-4 record. On Saturday, the Miners would face possibly their hardest test of the Vegas tournament.

Nevada left the Kaikowa Classic with a 1-4 record, but the team twice battled in the NC-10 ranked Cougars. Ducks before finally losing 12-8. Saturday the Miners will match up against the BYU Cougars (2-2). BYU defeated Virginia by a score of 2-0 in the Kaikowa Classic.

Virginia defeated the Miners in the opening game of the tournament by a score of 14-3. Before heading home on Sunday, the Miners will face tournament host UNLV (3-2).

Much like last season, the Miners’ hitters are carrying the load for the team. Senior Tahila Wade went 4-17 on the plate during last weekend’s tournament and currently leads the team with a .444 batting average.

Wade also leads the team in runs with a total of six. Freshman Courtney Clayton – one of five players to start all five games – leads the team in runs batted in with four. She currently sports a .333 batting average.

Prior to the start of the Kaikowa Classic, Echo-Hawk was not willing to call junior pitcher Danielle Pearson her number one starter. Instead, the Miners coach preferred to start the season with more of a baseball style “pitch by committee” type of rotation. “We’ll put them in for a couple of innings and see how they do and then go from there. It’s a little bit of a baseball-style mentality where we have our starter, our reliever and our closer – just because they’re all-sometime” said Echo-Hawk.

Unfortunately-like last season, pitching seems to be a large part of the Miners’ issues. The team has allowed a 9.88 team-earned run average. The team’s three starting pitchers sophomore Taylor Grein, sophomore Katlin Jef-rid and sophomore Erik Andreasson – finished this past weekend’s tournament with a combined 4.04 record and a total of 30 earned runs surrendered in 21.6 innings pitched.

Another problem from last year that plagued the Miners in their season-opening tournament is stolen bases allowed. Last season, the Miners were one of the worst teams in the conference at throwing out would be base stealers.

During the Kaikowa Classic, the Miners’ two starting catchers-Ellen Hansen, Linda Garcia and freshman Katlin Ryder– allowed a total of six stolen bases on seven attempts. Ryder caught one attempted base stealer on fire attempts.

Heading into last weekend, Echo-Hawk had not decided on a starting catcher and said that it would be decided by who shows the strongest arm early in the season.

“THAT’S GOING TO BE OUR DETERMINING FACTOR IN WHO STARTS AND WHO DOESN’T,” Echo-Hawk said. “ANOTHER FACTOR IS OUR DEFENSE.”

“I DON’T THINK WE CAN THROW OUR WAY OUT OF TROUBLE,” she continued.

Echo-Hawk has seen where her team is lacking and is already back to work at the Helen of Troy Softball Complex ironing out some of the wrinkles. The Miners’ bats are still looking very good and when the pitching comes around, this team will be formidable foe – perhaps as soon as this coming weekend in Vegas.

Jean Evans may be reached at theprospectorgmail.com.