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# The Prospector, February 21, 2012

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VIDEO VARIETY

SEASON EVALUATION



BY KRYSTAL OBLINGER  
The Prospector

Organizers of Neon Desert Music Festival wanted build suspense by splitting up the announcement of artists that would be performing at this year's festival May 26 in Downtown El Paso. Despite negative feedback, Zach Paul, one of three executive producers at Splendid Sun Productions said that the creators expect a positive turn out.

"When someone has something bad to say about a band we are bringing or a way we are doing things, I see that as demand. They are upset with it and unhappy, but deep down, they want something different," Paul said. "What that tells me is that there is a demand for something new in El Paso. Many times, those people who have an opinion will really go out of their way to tell you what they think." Matthew Montana, senior computer science major, said that the way the

group is handling announcing bands is a bit unsettling. "I think the way in which they are announcing the line up is ridiculous," Montana said. "It's only a one day festival and they don't have credentials such as bigger festivals. I believe that by doing this they are only delaying ticket sales." The production group began announcing its line up Feb. 16 by announcing phase one, which exposed the identities of 19 bands that will be performing May 26. According to

Paul, phase two will be announced in early March and feature another set of acts that will be performing the same day. The organizers did the same thing last year when they opened their doors for business for the first time and offered a large musical experience to the city of El Paso. On April 30, the festival brought in about 11,000 fans, according to ticket sale averages, and by incorporating a four-stage system,

see NEON on page 6

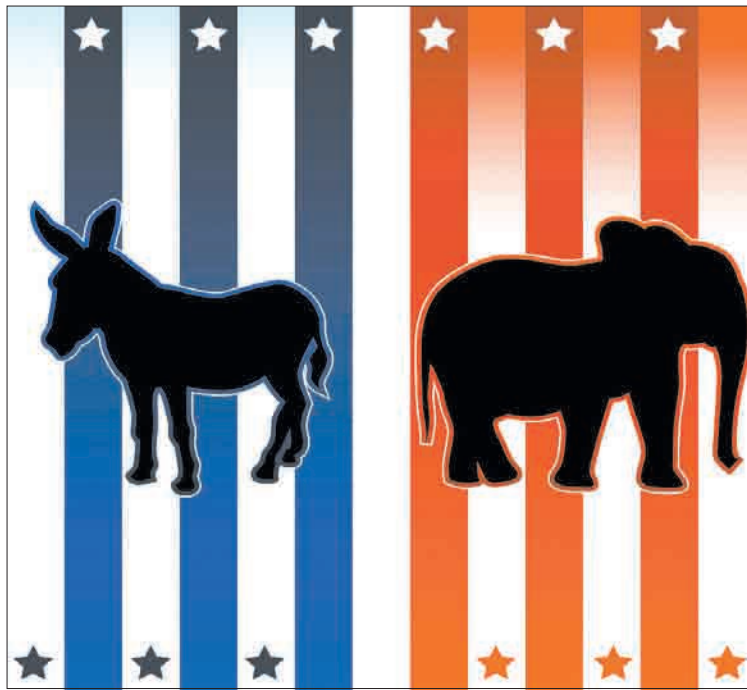
Politics

## Student organizations gear up for the upcoming elections

BY HENRY ARRAMBIDE  
The Prospector

With the state primary election a little over a month away on April 3, student political organizations are hosting events aimed at getting students more involved in the political process. "Our first and foremost issue is to motivate and assist in getting our student body involved and educated in our local, state and national politics," said Ana Martinez, senior political science major and president of the University Democrats. Martinez said the University Democrats have been working to establish an organization that will stay active not just during the election season but for years to come. They started off February with a voter registration drive in the Union Breezeway, and will continue with the drive every morning until March 5, the last day voters can register. "During the month of March and up until the primary elections on April 3rd, we will be hosting forums

and panels for various candidates running for office," Martinez said. They plan to work with MECHA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan) to screen the documentary "Precious Knowledge," which explores the current controversy with Mexican American studies in Arizona, sometime in late February. Working on the opposite end of the spectrum, the UTEP College Republicans have a series of events planned as well. "We always have at least one item of campus activism planned per month and there should be at least two events in February," said Louis Southard, senior political science major and chairman of the College Republicans. "As far as flyers, forums and such, that won't come until after the Texas Primary just due to the fact that we can't support any one candidate. But one thing we will do next semester is try and have a meet and greet for all the Republican candidates at UTEP for students." Southard also said the College Republicans plan to host a viewing party



UTEP students have put GOP presidential candidate Ron Paul stickers throughout the campus

JUSTIN STENE / The Prospector

see POLITICS on page 3

## Women's Basketball UTEP clinches No. 1 seed, share of C-USA title

BY WILLIAM VEGA  
The Prospector

The week of Feb. 13-19 was an eventful one for UTEP, as they continued winning while scenarios went in their favor. But the most notable accomplishment came after their recent victory Feb. 18 at Houston when the Miners were able to clinch at least a share of the Conference USA regular season title and the No. 1 overall seed in the post-season tournament. Following their last home victory Feb. 12 against Tulane at the Don Haskins Center, UTEP (24-2, 13-0 C-USA) players found themselves with a two-game lead over Memphis with five games to go. The Miners took care of business by defeating Tulsa Feb. 16 on the road and got some help when Memphis fell to Marshall the same day. That left UTEP with a three-game lead over Memphis and UAB. But again, Marshall helped out UTEP when they defeated UAB Feb. 18, giving UTEP the No. 1 overall seed for the C-USA Tournament, too. All that's left for UTEP to do now is win the regular season title outright, and they have the opportunity to do so Feb. 23 when they take on SMU in front of their home crowd.

The Miners have won a regular season league title just once, which they did in the 2007-08 season. That year, UTEP went 25-2 overall, a perfect 16-0 in C-USA and finished the season on a 21-game winning streak. That team rose as high as No. 18 in the AP poll, No. 24 in the ESPN/USA Today poll, but fell in the C-USA Championship game. They made the NCAA Tournament, won their first game but lost to the eventual national runner-up, Stanford. This year's team has also gained some national recognition but has not been ranked yet. In the latest AP poll released Feb. 20, they received 24 votes, for 30th overall. In the latest ESPN/USA Today poll Feb. 14, they were No. 28 with 22 votes. Senior forward Gloria Brown also gained recognition outside of El Paso when she was named the C-USA Player of the Week Feb. 20 for the fourth time in her career and the second time this season. UTEP has three games remaining, and will end the season March 1 at UAB.

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

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## Student Organizations

# Neon Desert announces line up, people complain

BY KRYSTAL OBLINGER

The Prospector



On Feb. 16, the Neon Desert Music Festival announced their first set of bands (so there are still more to come) who will be performing during the festival that takes place May 26 in Downtown El Paso . The list ranges from local bands such as Sound On Sound and Johnny Costello, to the big acts like Moby, Sparta and Ghostland Observatory. This is only phase one of their announcement of acts, which adds up to a full 19-set show at the moment.

According to the Neon Desert Music Festival's Facebook page, fans are already complaining that there is nothing for them or that there is only one band they want to see.

Here is the overall issue with concert series like this (this will be able to be applied to movie series such as the Plaza Theater Classic and other series that take place around the city as well): these shows are targeting niche audiences and fans and tend to exclude a lot of people.

Let's take Coachella for example. This article is by no means saying Coachella is a better show because it has its flaws, which I'll discuss in a moment. Coachella finds a way to bring all sorts of different acts together. From hip-hop to rap to rock (look at these all as broad genres), the attendees are provided with a show that tries to incorporate every genre in order to please the masses, but it also commits the same mistake that Neon Desert has made. Everyone has their own taste in music and many times this can cause an outrage when fans have to pay a lot of money just to see one band. When a lineup offers a long list of artists that people have never heard of, the main-stream audiences tend to be turned off from spending money on their product.

Many times, the reason these things garner so much criticism is because they are marketing to a special group and only offer the masses one or two acts that they recognize and can stomach. These shows rely heavily on obscurity, which may bring out the rebel-rioting crowd, but they lose out at making the show bigger because there is less of a cash flow coming in. That same rebel-rioting crowd will then get turned off the next year when the show doesn't try to bring an even

bigger set. What one ends up with is an over-priced opening act.

So what is a good model? A good model should find away to incorporate the city as a whole, meaning you not only find a way to engage audiences with big names, but offer an even larger variety that works outside the confines of the concert arena. The big one that does this is South By Southwest.

SXSW differs because it turns not only the staging area into the show, but also involves local venues that allows for an even larger flow of money and talent to come through the city. Local bands, bands from out of city or state and even big-name groups will play around the city in special secret shows. This benefits the community and brings money into the pockets of both the organizers and the businesses, which then allows for more shows like this to come through and inevitably helps growth. The niche crowds get what they want and the general public has an opportunity to pick and choose what they want to do. Once again, though, the issue of an over-priced opening act occurs here as well, but it is smoothed over after years of building an audience that trusts in the way things are done. Coachella has the same kind of following.

The problem with Neon Desert is that it is still trying to anchor itself in the community, so it's still playing a game of Russian roulette with its audience every time they announce the lineup. Although El Pasoans would like to think that everyone in the city is open to trying new things, the honest truth is that many are not. As young people, we also like to think that we are the defining population that everyone should cater to and that everyone should follow our lead in being open to new people and experiences, but we are not the broad market and we cannot ask everyone to suddenly change.

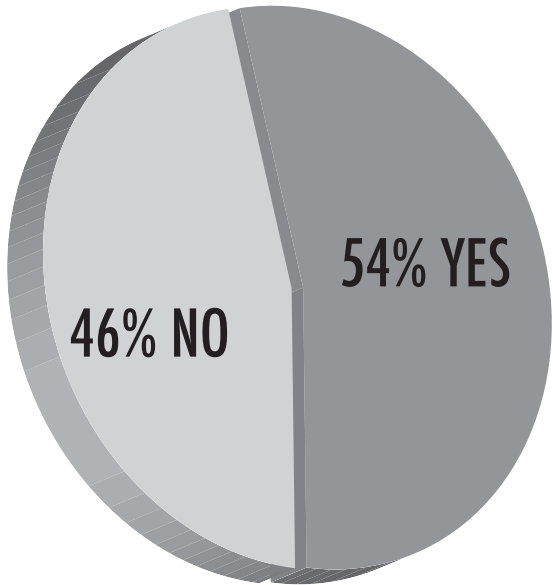
I feel the lineup is wonderful. There are some bands I have never heard of, but I am very willing to see and listen to them. So what am I trying to say? I'm trying to say this: that Neon Desert is a good idea, but it still has a long way to go before it can bring the names many general audiences want to hear. This festival is still building its fan base, but it cannot do that by pushing so many away. It needs to find a balance between fans, the community and the general audience.

Krystal Oblinger may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).

## we asked, you answered

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# Neon Desert Bands

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Ghostland Observatory  
Belanova  
Babasonicos  
Yacht  
Los Bunkers  
Sussie 4  
The Twelves  
La Vida Boheme

The Pinker Tones  
Classsixx  
Mexican Institue of Sound  
Toy Selectah  
Chico Mann  
Mexicans with Guns  
Johnny Costello  
Sound On Sound  
Fixed Idea

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**POLITICS** from page 1

on Super Tuesday, March 6. This is a day when the majority of states hold their primary elections, and typically the results indicate which candidate will win their party's nomination. On March 26, the College Republicans plan to visit Austin for the state GOP convention, which will be held on the floor of the Texas state house of representatives.

Aside from the two-party Democrat-Republican clubs, a third student

organization has formed in support of GOP candidate Ron Paul and his libertarian ideology.

"Youth for Ron Paul's main objective is to identify, recruit, educate and mobilize students and young activists to elect Ron Paul president of the United States," said Isabel Gonzalez, rehabilitation counseling graduate student and president of Youth for Ron Paul. "We expect to do that by delivering Ron Paul's message of liberty, sound money and diplomatic foreign affairs."

Youth for Ron Paul will hold a question and answer session and a presentation on the candidate at 7 p.m., Feb 22 at The Percolator Café.

No matter what political affiliation, all three groups hope their fellow students will get involved. The University Democrats hold their meetings at 3 p.m. every Tuesday at the Bhutan Lounge. The next College Republicans' meeting will be at 7 p.m. Feb. 23, at room 307 in the College of Business Administration Building.

Henry Arrambide may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).

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Campus

Latino voters expected to break turnout record



SALVADOR GUERRERO / SHFWire  
Ben Monterroso, left, Clarissa Martinez-De-Soto, Rudy Lopez and Maria Teresa Kumar participate in a discussion Feb. 8 about Latino voters moderated by Arturo Vargas, far right.

BY SALVADOR GUERRERO  
Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

WASHINGTON – Latino voters are likely to turn out to vote in record numbers in November, according to experts, and in some states will determine who wins.

According to the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), an estimated 12.2 million Latinos will vote this year, a 25.6 percent increase from 2008.

“We want to show up to vote because we want to see transformative change happen,” said Clarissa Martinez-De-Castro, director of immigration and national campaigns for the National Council of La Raza. “Our vision for this work ... is to create not just more voters but to create more advocacy.”

With more than 50 million Latinos in the United States, an estimated 21.7 million are eligible to participate in the election. Latino voters are espe-

cially likely to determine winners in some House seats.

Even with that many voters, some experts say both political parties suppress the Latino vote to some extent.

“The No. 1 reason why Latinos don’t vote or register to vote is very simple – they are not asked to,” Rudy Lopez, political director at the Center for Community Change, said.

Lopez said the political parties do not solicit the Latino vote at the level they should.

“We’ve seen a rash of voter ID laws and a whole host of what you can consider suppression laws that are in effect,” Lopez said. “Out of the top seven or eight states where we’re going to turn out, we’re seeing proposed legislation for voter ID laws.”

Lopez said California, where 37.6 percent of the population is Latino, has proposed such a law.

Minorities are less likely to have photo IDs, meaning they are less likely to go to the polls.

Part of the strategy to help Latinos in this situation is to educate them about these laws, Maria Teresa Kumar, executive director of Voto Latino, said.

“What we find that we actually see as an opportunity in this election is how do we identify and start talking to Latinos and saying, ‘This is not about a candidate, this election is personal,’ Kumar said.

Martinez-De-Castro said that, although the Latino community is overlooked when it comes to most issues, they face the same dilemmas that all Americans do.

“Every election cycle, I feel there are certain issues that come up about Latino voters over and over again,” Martinez-De-Castro said. “There is no question that the most pressing issue on the Latinos’ mind is the economy and jobs.”

Martinez-De-Castro said that, although the job market tends to draw the most interest, the issue of immigration energizes voters because it is personal.

The growth in the Latino population shaping elections today and the future of voter turnout will be determined by young people. According to NALEO, a fourth of young people in the country are Latino, and in states such as California and Texas, almost half of all teens are Latino.

“There is a political awakening that is happening, that is not being seen by either party,” Kumar said. “I think that is where the opportunity is. We’re part of the menu and not at the table, and until they start making sure we’re at the table, people are not going to start talking about the real issues.”

Salvador Guerrero, senior print media major at UTEP, is an intern at the Scripps Howard Foundation’s Semester in Washington program. He may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).

simplystated

Academic Services Building renamed

After a donation was given by Mike Loya in Fall 2011, UTEP has decided to rename the Academic Services Building “Mike Loya Academic Services Building.”

The University of Texas System Board of Regents approved the change on Feb. 9, in order to honor the distinguished alumn. A ceremony is expected to take place to celebrate the renaming, but has not been decided yet.

Mike Loya is the president of Vitol Inc., one of the largest energy trading companies in the world. His donation of \$10 million will go towards UTEP’s engineering and business programs.

Black History Month events continue

February is not over. Students still have an opportunity to participate in Black History Month events on campus.

Michael Hurd will speak about black women educators at 6:15 p.m., Feb. 22 at the Blumberg Auditorium at the UTEP Library.

Rosalyn Terborg, history professor emerita at Morgan State University, will give a speech “Black Female Entrepreneurs: Madam C.J. Walker and Cathy Hughes,” at 6:15 p.m., Feb. 23 at the Blumberg Auditorium at the UTEP Library.

The last speech will take place Feb. 28 and features Dr. Beverly Guy-Sheftall, English professor at Spellman College. She will present the speech “Coretta Scott King’s Beloved Community” at 6:15 p.m., at the El Paso Natural Gas Conference Center.

Movies in honor of Black History month will also continue to be shown at the Union Building East, Acacia Room 102A. They are “Set It Off” at 6:15 p.m., Feb. 22 at and “Dreamgirls” at 6:15 p.m., Feb. 28.

Ancient tribe exhibit featured at Centennial Museum

Students are welcomed to visit the latest exhibit at the Centennial Museum that will feature the runners of the Rarámuri, or Tarahumara tribe. The exhibit will stay up until May 5.

The tribe is famous for their ability to run long distances through the Sierra Mountains in Chihuahua. Photographer Diana Molina documented their life and culture for about 20 years and her photos will be on display in the exhibit.

UTEP professor one of 20 who spoke at Canada’s largest teachers’ conference

Bill Robertson, associate provost and associate professor of teacher education, was one of 20 chosen by the Calgary City Teachers’ Convention Association to speak at this year’s convention.

Robertson is also known around campus as “Dr. Skateboard” because of his knowledge of the mathematics of skateboards. He presented about the physics of skateboards to 300 middle school students as well as led two workshops about Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

UTEP conference to showcase fesearch on STEM teaching

UTEP is hosting the second annual Kaleidoscope of Teaching Math and Science Conference Feb. 25. This year’s event is open to the public.

The conference is set for 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Feb. 25 at the Undergraduate Learning Center on the UTEP campus. Registration runs through Feb. 20 on the conference website, [science.utep.edu/kaleidoscope](http://science.utep.edu/kaleidoscope). The cost is \$30 for UTEP students and \$50 for members of the public.

UTEP symposium on energy science and engineering puts out call for papers

The second annual Southwest Energy Science and Engineering Symposium at UTEP has issued a call for papers.

The interdisciplinary conference is accepting papers through March 1 on all topics related to energy science and engineering. Those interested in submitting their scientific findings can visit [engineering.utep.edu/seses](http://engineering.utep.edu/seses) for more information.

The symposium – to be held at 8 a.m., March 24 at the DoubleTree hotel – is intended to provide formal and informal interactions between students, scholars and industrial professionals in the southwest region. The event will feature keynote speaker Robert R. Romanosky Jr., Ph.D., technology manager for Power Systems Advanced Research at the National Energy Technology Laboratory under the U.S. Department of Energy.

UTEP L.I.V.E. – 21st Century Scholars

One hundred UTEP students have been named UTEP 21st Century Scholars. They represent the best of untapped, high-potential talent at the university. The 21st Century Scholars will be engaged in a day of programming that emphasizes essential career skills including communicating in a professional setting, networking, self-promotion and working in a collaborative environment.

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Column

Surfing the YouTube wave

BY JERRY ALDAZ  
The Prospector

Among the immense collection of channels known for showcasing musical protégés, complex ideas, teenage stupidity and humorous cats, these hand-picked YouTube channels gracefully deliver valuable knowledge and humorous originality in an entertaining package.

“Recklesstortuga”

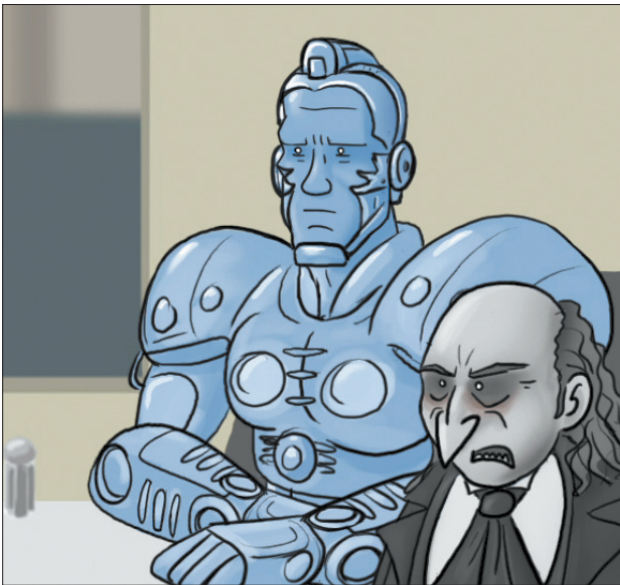
Popularized by their instant-hit “Online Gamer,” a satirical series taunting gamers’ overused lingo, “Recklesstortuga” thrives in hyperbolizing obnoxious personalities. Prominent characters include the hyper-sexualized and outspoken “Office Douchebag,” the extremely attractive yet equally manic-depressing “Psycho Girlfriend” and a slew of facetious public service announcements entitled “Racism in America.”

“Vsauce”

Offering an assorted series, “Vsauce’s” “IMG” compiles the internet’s best images while “DONG” demonstrates unknown games, software and hacks people could use online. Shopaholics can resort to “LUT” for unique gift ideas, ranging from mustache cookie molds to bacon-flavored soda, and “DOT” explores abstract intricacies such as love and consciousness. “Vsauce2,” a sister channel, exhibits amazing creations through “BiDiPi” and recaps uncommon events and individuals through “Weirdos of the month.”

“Nicepeter”

The stage for “Epic Rap Battles of History,” memorable rivalries including Hitler vs. Darth Vader, Beethoven vs. Justin Bieber and Abe Lincoln vs. Chuck Norris, these lyrical skits use widely-known references to deliver comedic blows. Beyond elaborate costumes, props and colorful visuals, this show interacts with audiences by allowing them to determine battle champions and vote on future rivalries. If desiring to sing along, these gangster battles are available through iTunes.



Special to The Prospector

“How it should have ended” takes many pop culture films, games, comics and anything entertainment based, and gives it a new ending that the creators believe may have been a more fitting.

“Vlogbrothers”

Created by John and Hank Green, and largely supported by an internet subculture known as “Nerdfighteria,” these fast-paced video entries discuss a multitude of literary, musical, cultural and scientific topics while offering exposure to humanitarian organizations in hopes of decreasing “world suck.” Their new spin-offs, “SciShow” and “Crash Course,” are segments designed to educate viewers on science and history.

“How it should have ended”

Reinventing gaming icons from “God of War” to “Bioshock” and critically-acclaimed films “Dark Knight,” “Inception” and “The Matrix,” no piece of pop culture is immune to “HISHE’s” animated parodies. Dodging silver bullets in favor of plausible outcomes, “HISHE” bounds outrageous plotlines with realistic conditions. So while Iron Man may not get the girl, he can surely share a cup of hot coco with best-buds Superman and Batman.

“Minutephysics”

Explaining gravity, dark matter, neutrinos and simplifying complex concepts as the uncertainty principle, Schrodinger’s cat and quantum tunneling, these marker-and-whiteboard videos quickly deliver major points behind hardcore physics. Subjects remain relevant in order to help conceptualize current scientific discoveries and the combination of creative (time-elapsed) illustrations, intelligent humor and plain language make these minute-bursts a stimulating and informative experience.

Jerry Aldaz may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).

Music

Costello returns to the studio and prepares for Neon Desert performance



Special to The Prospector

Johnny Costello sings dirty rock and roll in the new album he will be working on in the studio.

BY KRISTOPHER RIVERA  
The Prospector

Rocking a black tank top shirt with a red long sleeve plaid shirt, indigo Levi’s jeans rolled up to his ankles and a pair of grey boots is Johnny Costello singer/songwriter and senior communication major.

It is a late Thursday night at the Lowbrow Palace and Costello is thumping turbulent rock and roll blues on his cherry red Epiphone Dot electric guitar.

After his gig, he heads to the patio to cool down.

“Things have been crazy. I think the last record, ‘Crossroads of the Southern Pacific,’ was kind of like a quiet, more honest me,” Costello said. “Then it swelled up into six months of getting to play with Charles Berry from The Lusitania and we just started making dirty rock and roll.”

Costello said that he is evolving drastically as a musician. On Dec. 16 of last year, Costello released his six-song EP and is now back in the studio recording a full-length record.

“Bands like Black Motor Cycle Club, Black Lips and Black Keys have really influenced me in a way that I started writing really dirty rock and roll,” Costello said. “It’s more fun to play, more fun to see people’s reactions and they get really into it.”

Berry has been assisting Costello as a drummer since “Crossroads of the Southern Pacific.”

He said Costello’s new record is bigger, more cohesive and faster rock with more drums and heavy base lines.

“His sound is more cohesive and he has a better understanding of what he wants the entire record to sound like as a whole,” Berry said. “It’s definitely more electrically driven, not as acoustic.”

According to Costello, the recording process in the studio is moving along fast and unfolding naturally.

“We planned two days to do drum tracks and knocked out drum tracks the first day and I’m almost done with the guitar tracks,” Costello said. “There’s really cool ideas as far as different tunings on the snare; really cool concepts that have kind of been created on the spot and we just did it and then we’re like, ‘Whoa, that’s cool.’”

Costello said he is eager to start getting his new material out.

“With this record, I’m really excited about it. It’s going to be loud and something I really want to promote,” Costello said. “Hopefully, I can get it in Paste Magazine, SPIN, just really work hard

at promoting it and booking shows, start playing festivals and put myself and the album out as much as I can.”

Costello is currently working on a deal to play 11 shows with Frank Turner in Australia and is officially booked as one of the acts that will be featured at this year’s Neon Desert Music Festival.

“I already have six more songs I want to do for a new record and then just keep going, keep creating and putting out as much music as I can,” Costello said.

Emmanuel Arzate, senior marketing and finance major, said he liked Costello’s folk-rock music sound and that he is anxious to see where his new record will go.

“I thought his music was really chill and very different. When finding out that he is going into another genre it surprised me,” Arzate said. “Overall I guess only time will tell if this new style will work for him in his second album. As the good musician he is I think he will succeed, I look forward to hearing his new album.”

Kristopher Rivera may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).

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GENERAL PUBLIC





Special to The Prospector  
Bulletproof Tiger performed at last year's Neon Desert at the San Jacinto Plaza in Downtown El Paso.

**NEON** from page 1

the organizers brought 29 acts under the Sun City sky.

"There is no reason for us not to have something like this," Paul said. "We book a lot of shows and we see a lot of bands who want to come into the city and play, and we are trying really hard to be able to bring these people here."

So far, the festival main headliners for phase one consists of a DJ set by Moby, Sparta, Ghostland Observatory and Belanova with performances by Mexicans with Guns, Sound On Sound, Yacht and many others.

"We are focusing on growing slowly and bringing something new to the city," Paul said. "For now we are always going to focus on electronic, Latin, rock and indie rock music. As time progresses, hopefully we can incorporate more genres, but at the moment these genres are very important to El Paso."

The first year, the production company did a survey in order to identify what El Pasoans wanted to see in a festival. Paul said they received 1,000 replies that showed that those genres were what the community wanted to hear.

Despite last year's success, the group received criticism on their Facebook page this year due to what many called a "lack of diversity in the music."

The Neon Desert launch party took place Feb. 16 at Lowbrow Palace, and many people attended in order to show support for the festival.

"The place was packed and at some points throughout the night there was a line to get in," Paul said. "The people of El Paso don't get nearly as much credit as they deserve for being passionate music fans. The launch party

(Feb. 16) showed that they love music, and we are so appreciative of that."

Ana Martinez, junior sociology major, was excited about the launch party and enthusiastic about the release of the names of bands that would be performing. She said the mystery behind phase two also added to the excitement.

"Some people are dancing, some people are toned down, it's pretty cool," Martinez said. "It's getting hyped up. The bands are amazing that are here and are coming. I really like it a lot."

Martinez enjoys the opportunities this kind of event brings to the city as a whole and feels it will help broaden people's experiences.

"It's really cool to see creative art and live music in El Paso. I think it's great," Martinez said. "It's something for people to come and join in and discover a bit about different cultures and different sides of El Paso."

The cost for tickets range from \$55 for a standard pass to \$150 for a VIP pass, which offers a catered meal by The Magic Pan, fresh fruits and treats from Edible Arrangements (two of the sponsors), re-entry and other opportunities.

"I think if we sat here and said that we wanted to be like Coachella or South by Southwest, we'd be setting ourselves up for failure," Paul said. "There is nothing wrong with shooting for the stars, but we are better off taking this little by little. Do we want to be a big festival? Yes, we do, but we're three friends who all still have day jobs and work on this during the weekends and we don't have any money or big investors. We just want to continue to try to bring bigger bands and bring enjoyment to the city."

Krystal Oblinger may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).

**Ash Wednesday**  
**February 22, 2012**

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— **King Crossword** —  
Answers  
Solution time: 25 mins.

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LAME	ERE	RULE
OPEC	AVA	OTIS
BOXCAR	UPSHOT	
	ALL	OIL
MAWS	ETCETERA	
PHI	SEA	SAD
HARASSER	ASPS	
	EYE	ESC
DELETE	LOQUAT	
AREA	AVE	UNDO
ROSY	SIS	ITEM
ESSE	YES	TOES

Answers to 2-14-12

**BRAIN ZONE**

**Weekly SUDOKU**  
by Linda Thistle

		9		1			2
2		1		8	7		
	3		4			5	
6				9		1	8
		8	2				5
3	9				4	2	
		4		3			8
1				7		4	6
	8		5		1		2

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★**

★ Moderate   ★★ Challenging  
★★★ HOO BOY!

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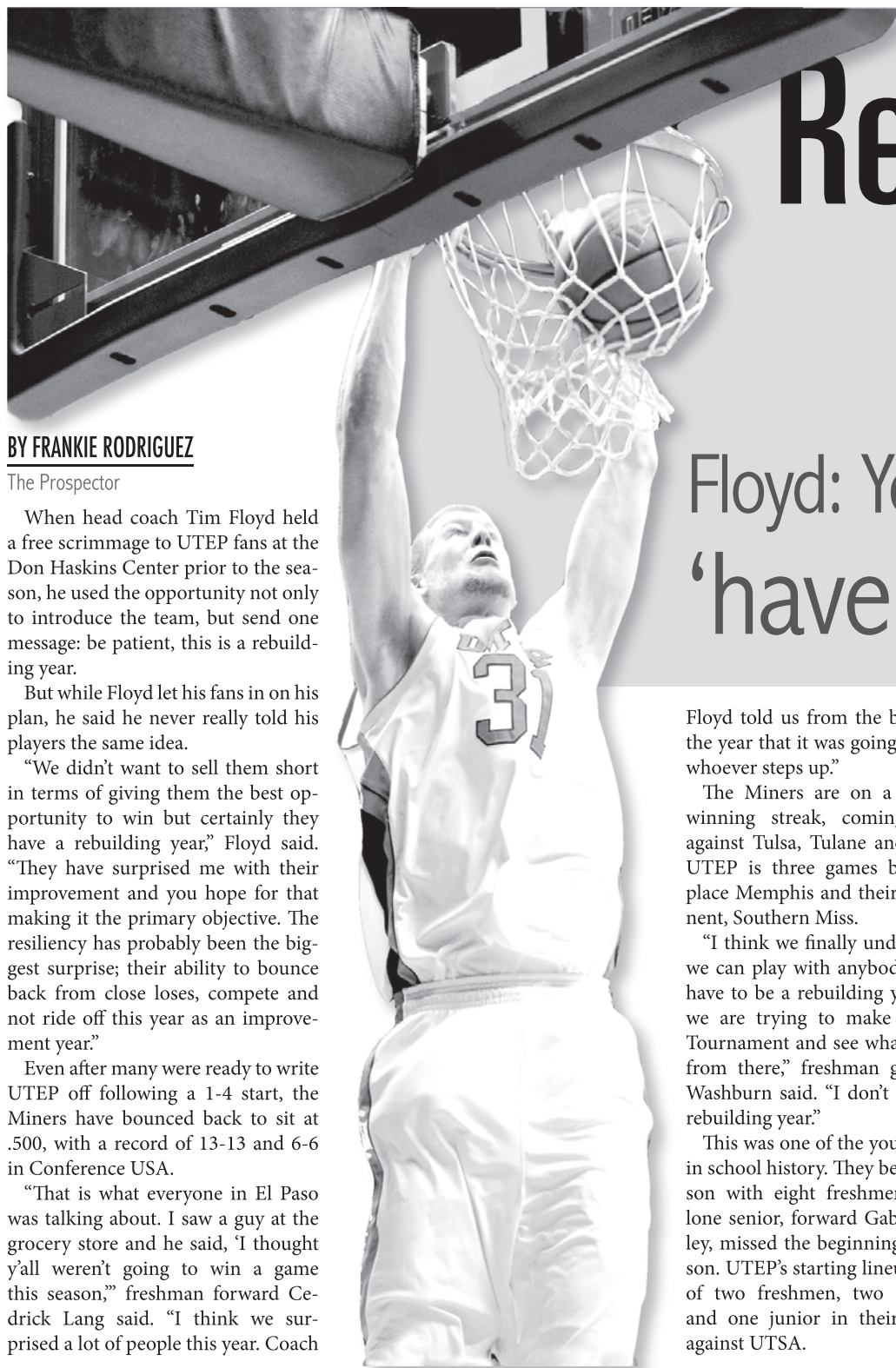
February 21, 2012

## sports

editor

William Vega, 747-7445

## Men's basketball



BY FRANKIE RODRIGUEZ

The Prospector

When head coach Tim Floyd held a free scrimmage to UTEP fans at the Don Haskins Center prior to the season, he used the opportunity not only to introduce the team, but send one message: be patient, this is a rebuilding year.

But while Floyd let his fans in on his plan, he said he never really told his players the same idea.

"We didn't want to sell them short in terms of giving them the best opportunity to win but certainly they have a rebuilding year," Floyd said. "They have surprised me with their improvement and you hope for that making it the primary objective. The resiliency has probably been the biggest surprise; their ability to bounce back from close loses, compete and not ride off this year as an improvement year."

Even after many were ready to write UTEP off following a 1-4 start, the Miners have bounced back to sit at .500, with a record of 13-13 and 6-6 in Conference USA.

"That is what everyone in El Paso was talking about. I saw a guy at the grocery store and he said, 'I thought y'all weren't going to win a game this season,'" freshman forward Cedrick Lang said. "I think we surprised a lot of people this year. Coach

# Rebuilding campaign

## Floyd: Young Miners 'have surprised me'

Floyd told us from the beginning of the year that it was going to be about whoever steps up."

The Miners are on a three-game winning streak, coming off wins against Tulsa, Tulane and Memphis. UTEP is three games behind first-place Memphis and their next opponent, Southern Miss.

"I think we finally understand that we can play with anybody. It doesn't have to be a rebuilding year because we are trying to make the NCAA Tournament and see what we can do from there," freshman guard Julian Washburn said. "I don't think it is a rebuilding year."

This was one of the youngest teams in school history. They began the season with eight freshmen and their lone senior, forward Gabriel McCulley, missed the beginning of the season. UTEP's starting lineup consisted of two freshmen, two sophomores and one junior in their first game against UTSA.

"Earlier this season, I heard that a lot and a lot of people started buying into it. We started beating a lot of really good teams and people realized that we can play with anybody," Washburn said. "It doesn't have to be a rebuilding year, we can compete with anyone we play with."

UTEP will host Southern Miss, with a top-15 RPI, Feb. 22 at the Don Haskins Center.

"We are really on a roll right now. That win in Memphis kept us going and this win against Southern Miss would be huge," Lang said. "That is what you want to do: get on a role at the end, win the tournament and then see what you can do from there."

Washburn has established himself as a shutdown defender for the Miners this season. In the last two games, he has contained two of the top C-USA scorers in Memphis' sophomore guard Will Barton to nine points. He is averaging 17.9 this season. The other was against Tulane's freshman

guard Ricky Tarrant, who was held scoreless for the first half until Washburn fouled out the game at the beginning of the second half.

"It has been one of my roles growing up since middle school, high school but I love going out there every game guarding the best player," Washburn said. "I just love the competition."

This year's team is allowing 62.9 points per game and is allowing 43 percent from the field. UTEP is ranked 11th in C-USA in rebounds, 11th in blocks and 10th in steals per game. Floyd still has high expectations as a defensive-oriented coach.

"This has been the worst defensive team I have ever coached. That area has to improve, it has to get better for it to happen," Floyd said. "We have shown that we can compete. We are in a competing year, and next year we will enter trying to contend. Anything is a possibility."

Frankie Rodriguez may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).

## Women's basketball

# Senior overcomes death in family, injuries



FILE PHOTO

Senior guard Baiba Eglite is double teamed by UCF defenders during their match Jan. 29 at the Don Haskins Center.

BY DANIEL ORNELAS

The Prospector

Moving from another country wasn't the only challenge senior guard Baiba Eglite had to overcome. Losing her mother, while being thousands of miles away, has been a wound that basketball has helped her heal.

"At first it was hard, but I was just trying to stay busy and not let myself down. I tried staying positive and thinking that everything happens for a reason that something bigger is coming," Eglite said. "That's why I just focused on basketball, school and graduating so I can make my mom proud, because that's what she wanted."

Eglite transferred from Riga, Latvia in 2008 after playing for the national team and competing in the under-18 and under-20 European championships. She was forced to sit out her freshman year due to NCAA transfer rules.

Head coach Keitha Adams considers Eglite one of her best shooters and team players and perhaps an even

better person. A few days prior to the Feb. 9 64-56 home win against Marshall, Adams made her admiration for Eglite known during practice.

"Today before we started practice, I called her over and I wrote something on my practice sheet and I showed her," Adams said as she pointed to the note. "I'm proud of her. I told her that today."

On top of sitting out her freshman year, Eglite tore her ACL in the summer of 2010, which forced her to miss the team's first 19 games. Eglite attended summer school that year, which was when her mother passed.

"She is one of the strongest people I have ever been around and her attitude is so positive. You can just watch her. She's always got a smile on her face, she's got a really good spirit about her," Adams said. "She's a strong young woman and she's a great teammate...She'll do whatever we need for her to do."

Adams said that Eglite's personality will help her be successful in life beyond basketball.

see SENIOR on page 8



**SENIOR** from page 7

“I just love her to death and that’s why I’m proud of her. I think a lot of her and she’s going to be real successful in life,” Adams said. “She’s smart, a great student and a hard worker.

There’s not a negative thing I can say about her.”

Eglite’s teammates also have high regards for her. Junior forward Kristine Vitola, who also transferred from Latvia, said she’s enjoyed having her as a teammate.

“It’s been good. It helped a lot, especially communication wise and getting to know the place at first,” Vitola said. “I think she’s very helpful and she’s trying to do things the right way. She’s always very positive.”

Eglite is thankful that her teammates have stayed with her through

tough times and have helped her keep a positive attitude.

“They were very supportive and I knew they would have my back and whenever I would feel bad or sad, they would talk to me,” Eglite said. “They didn’t let me down, they would keep me positive.”

Eglite has seen increased playing time as of late, which Adams attributes to her shooting skills.

She is averaging just under six minutes per game coming off the bench and is one of the team’s best three-point shooters, averaging 36.7 percent from behind the arc. The average is third best on the team behind senior forward Gloria Brown and sophomore guard Kelli Willingham.

“I just do my job and what everyone is expecting from me is to shoot the ball and when teams are playing zone or whenever I have a chance, that’s my game,” Eglite said.

Daniel Ornelas may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).

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# Track and field Transfer hurdles through successful first year at UTEP

BY RUSTY BURNS AND DANIEL ORNELAS  
The Prospector

In head coach Mika Laaksonen’s first year last season, it was his relay team and throwers that sent some UTEP athletes to the NCAA Championships. But after sophomore hurdler/sprinter and Clemson transfer Janice Jackson entered prior to the current indoor track and field season, he may have found a way to send an athlete in all facets of track and field to the NCAAAs.

“I like what she’s done. She’s a very good competitor,” Laaksonen said. “She takes care of her business very well.”

Jackson came to UTEP because of former assistant coach Kebba Tolbert, who was an acquaintance of her high school coach. Tolbert left to coach the hurdles at Harvard last year but Jackson still stayed as a Miner and has been making strides since.

“(My high school coach) knew (Tolbert) for about 20 years, and thought he was a good guy and good hurdles coach,” Jackson said.

In high school, Jackson was a two-time All American in the 60-meter hurdles. She competed in the National Scholastic meet and was named a Nike Outdoor All-American in 2009 for the 100-meter hurdles. During her freshman year at Clemson, she posted 15 top-10 finishes and competed in meets such as the Virginia Tech Elite Meet and the Texas Relays.

Jackson has adjusted well to her new surroundings. She has competed in all four indoor meets this year, with her event being the 60-meter hurdles. Her season began when she placed third in UTEP’s Jan. 14 Blue and Orange Invitational. In the following events, Jan. 21 at the Cherry and Silver in Albuquerque and Feb. 3-4 at the Frank Sevigne Husker in Nebraska, she won silver and gold, respectively. In the team’s most recent

outing Feb. 11 at the Texas A&M Invitational, she placed third.

This year, Jackson has bested her preliminary times during competition in every single meet except for one.

“Janice is a joy to work with and she’s a very talented young hurdler,” assistant coach Scott Roberts said. “She’s made real good strides all the way through the season and her times have come down. She ran really well at Texas A&M. She’s ranked third in the conference. She beat the runner from Houston who’s ranked second at the A&M meet. We’re thinking we’re going to get great things out of Janice at conference.”

Being a transfer from the ACC, eyes of spectators, coaches and runners alike have been on Jackson, wondering how she’ll stack up in C-USA. She’s well aware of that.

“I definitely think I will surprise people during the conference meet,” Jackson said. “I’m looking forward to run a good time because I know some people are watching me because I transferred from Clemson. They might ask what I was thinking leaving a school that has such a great program in track. I try not to think about that kind of stuff. I just want to think about me and my race, my lane and my tunnel vision, and I’ll be alright.”

But Jackson is not so worried as to what others think of her individual performances when it comes to big stages.

“I tell myself it’s not a big meet,” Jackson said. “That might sound funny but for me, who has a history of choking at big meets especially when I was in high school, my mentality is to do what coach Roberts tells me and I’ll be alright.”

The Miners schedule will head to the C-USA Indoor Championships Feb. 25-26, hosted by UAB.

Rusty Burns and Daniel Ornelas may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).



Special to The Prospector  
Sophomore hurdler/sprinter Janice Jackson begins her race during one of the Miners’ events this year.