

9-30-2014

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ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

# THE PROSPECTOR

WWW.THEPROSPECTORDAILY.COM

VOL. 100, NO. 4

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

## got pot?

### El Paso NORML attempts passing Cite and Release law

BY JASMINE AGUILERA

The Prospector

The night of Minerpalooza, Steve found himself facing two police officers. There was a heavy aroma coming from his car, so they began questioning him about his use of marijuana. He admitted to smoking that morning, so the officers decided to search his vehicle.

He had been pulled over for speeding, but after searching his car, the officers found that he was in possession of a small amount of pot.

Steve, a junior digital media major, asked that his last name not be used in this story. He received a citation that night, but was not arrested because the officers only found less than a gram.

Students who have a possession charge on their record may lose their eligibility to receive financial aid grants or scholarships if the offense occurred while the student was receiving federal aid. For that reason, Steve took the citation to a lawyer and is now in the process of trying to get the charges dropped.

El Paso's chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws is attempting to change the way the city's judicial system handles incidents of possession.

In early June of 2014, El Paso NORML began a petition to establish a Cite and Release law in El Paso, which has already been passed by the state of Texas. This policy calls for bypassing the arrest process for anyone caught in possession of less than four ounces of marijuana.

"In my opinion, I think this is exactly the way cases

should be handled," Steve said. "Today's laws just aren't on the correct path. Why arrest someone for such a little offense?"

El Paso NORML's goal is to gather enough signatures to put the policy up for vote by City Council and then on next November's ballot.

"It's not decriminalizing, it's not legalizing like many people think," said Josh Dagda, communications director for El Paso NORML. "It's actually trying to reprioritize the stance that city police take on marijuana. Instead of police focusing on arresting anyone with small amounts of marijuana, we want them to focus on violent crime."

“

It's not decriminalizing, it's not legalizing like many people think.

”

- Josh Dagda, communications director for El Paso NORML

The group has gathered around 1,000 signatures, but need to reach 3,000. Dagda said the petition has taken a slow turn because many people fear the implications of putting their name on a public petition that may be considered controversial.

"A lot of people are very afraid of signing a petition like this because it puts them out," he said. "They may be teachers, they may be respectable people in the community, they might be business men and they feel that something like this will hurt them even if they are not users."

According to a Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Report, marijuana

possession made up 42.4 percent of all drug arrests in 2012, meaning there was one marijuana arrest made every 48 seconds.

NORML officials and some city representatives argue that implementing the Cite and Release law could save taxpayers millions of dollars in the long run.

According to the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition, it costs \$120 of taxpayer money to arrest and book one person in an urban Texas county, and an extra \$62.97 each day the person is detained.

At a Sept. 27 NORML meeting, organizers gathered a group of about 50 people at The Network in downtown El Paso. The group heard from guest speakers such as Republican 16th District Congressional candidate Corey Roen, Libertarian 16th District Congressional candidate Jaime Perez and City Council Representative Susie Byrd, who spoke on behalf of Rep. Beto O'Rourke, D-TX.

At the meeting, Perez spoke openly about being pro legalization of all recreational drugs.

"I don't believe that the government has any role or say in dictating what a person can or cannot do with their body," Perez said after the meeting. "To students I say, instead of allowing government to say what you can or cannot do with your body, you should be politically involved, vote and get people in office who are going to respect the principles of liberties."

Jorge Salgado, junior multimedia journalism major, said he is against legalization of drugs with the exception of medicinal marijuana.

"Personally, I just believe that if it's not happening for you naturally, you should stay from anything that'll alter your state of mind," Salgado said.

Even though he disagrees with the use of recreational marijuana, he does think the Site and Release law in El Paso will save taxpayer money.

Jasmine Aguilera may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

# PERSPECTIVES

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

JASMINE AGUILERA, 747-7477

COLUMN

## The never ending war

BY JAVIER CORTEZ

The Prospector



Maybe I'm too cynical, but when I watch the news feeds and read the online articles about the U.S. bombing ISIS in Syria and North-

ern Iraq I can't help but think that the U.S. at some point is going to put troops on the ground to combat this ongoing problem in the Middle East.

I say problem more or less in a cavalier way because the problem is not in our backyard, rather it's an issue that is ongoing in the Middle East. More than half of my life, the U.S. has been involved in some type of fight against terrorism in the Middle East. And to no avail. Nothing substantial has been accomplished, which also shows why we still have troops in the Middle East.

I was watching "60 Minutes" this past Sunday, and this statement by President Obama regarding the U.S. seemingly always being the leading nation against fighting terrorism struck me as odd.

"America leads. We are the indispensable nation, we have capacity no one else has, our military is the best in the history of the world, and when trouble comes up anywhere in the world they don't call Beijing, they don't call Moscow, they call us."

If there was any doubt that America being the world police was a partisan ideal to the right, then Obama just proved it wrong.

Some people would argue that the U.S. playing the role of world police—commanding and acting on all things that are bad and evil is a good thing. I argue that it is an unrealistic and futile ideal that seems fit for comic books, not real life.

Obama's foreign policy is nothing more than illusory—a gun with no bullets essentially. And it has been like this since the Bush years, which started this perpetuity in the Middle East also known as the War on Terror. Maybe I am viewing it from the wrong point of view—should we never quit the battle to combat radicalism in the Middle East, and maybe

the fight shows that the U.S. has a higher moral code against all things bad in the world—or maybe it's just a domineering attitude masquerading as moralistic ideals.

Whether it's a fight for the achievement of establishing moral goodness throughout the world, or a fight for constantly restating America's rank at the top of the world food chain, I think it's unrealistic. Terrorism of any kind will never be stopped and it does not matter how much policing and mandating is instituted.

The problem in the Middle East is specific to the Middle East—it is not systemic to the rest of the world and our safety here in the U.S. I have never heard of bombs changing ideologies. Rather, the bombs might have a pernicious effect that will haunt the next president's foreign policies, just like Bush's policies have carried over to Obama's actions as president.

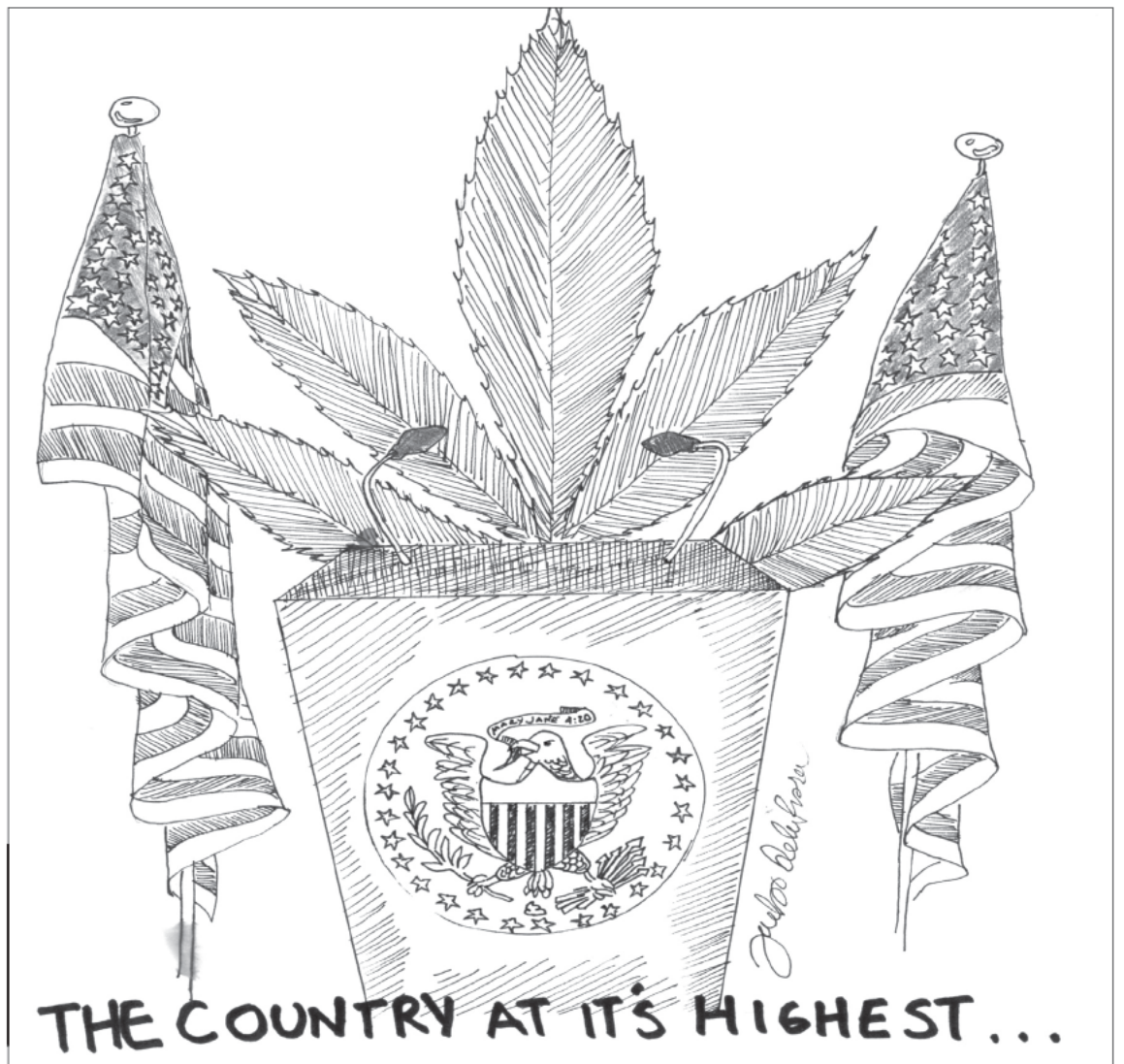
I'm tired of hearing that the fight in the Middle East is destroying terrorism and establishing democracy, when in fact there has been an increased proliferation of terrorist cells in the Middle East, and the democracy established under Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki failed once U.S. troops departed from Iraq.

Today's foreign policy is based on something unattainable. If and when the Middle East sees a reduced amount of radicalism, it will not be at the hands of Americans and its allies. Time, above all, changes and heals things, and history has proven that over and over again.

For example racism has mired the U.S. throughout the years, and now it can be argued that peoples prejudices have been slowed to a certain extent, and inclusivity has seeped into American ideals. Race dichotomy did not change in this country by policing and mandating; it was a slow process that was fixed from the inside out, not from the outside in.

There have been problems in the Middle East for centuries, but if change is going to come it has to happen internally, not externally. Laws have little affect on changing people's ideologies and so do bombs.

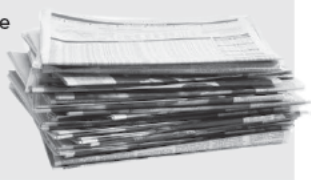
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HISPANIC

# Hispanic label problematic for some



CRISTINA ESQUIVEL/THE PROSPECTOR

Students participate in a MEChA meeting in support of Chicano rights.

BY MARIA ESQUINCA

The Prospector

Not all people believe the label of Hispanic is an apt term, although Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 is nationally recognized as Hispanic Heritage Month.

More than 78 percent of UTEP students are of Hispanic descent, according to the 2013-2014 factbook.

Director of the Chicano Studies Department, Dennis Bixler-Marquez, said the categorization was adopted by the U.S. Census Bureau to better describe people who didn't fall under black, white or Asian ethnicities.

"It's really an umbrella type of term, just like Asian," Bixler-Marquez said.

In 1976, U.S. Congress passed Public Law 94-311, after years of lobbying by Mexican-American and Hispanic organizations, who wanted to be officially recognized as part of a separate ethnic group.

The law meant Hispanics or Americans of Spanish descent could be recognized in the publication of economic and social statistics, such as the U.S. census.

At the time, the law cited that 12 million Americans identified themselves as being from a Spanish-speaking background and traced their origin from Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Central and South America and other Spanish-speaking countries.

But the Hispanic label may be seen by some as problematic.

A 2012 survey by the Pew Research Center revealed that most Hispanic adults did not identify with the government-mandated term.

A slight majority of survey respondents, 51 percent, said they most often identified themselves with a country of origin. Only 24 percent said they preferred a broad umbrella label and 69 percent said Hispanics in the U.S. include a variety of groups, rather than a single culture.

Ramon Alvarez, senior mechanical engineering major, was born in Puerto Rico and identifies himself as both Puerto Rican and Hispanic.

"Puerto Rican is more heartfelt, I feel more tied to that. As a commu-

nity, Hispanics should be one, we're all tied together," Alvarez said.

Visiting assistant professor of history, Selfa Chew, finds the Hispanic label problematic because of its racial implications.

She said Hispanic doesn't recognize the indigenous roots that many people come from, it focuses instead on Spanish ancestry.

"In a racist Eurocentric society, the Spanish have more prestige than the indigenous," Chew said. "We come from different origins. That definition has been imposed by a dominant society."

“

The term Hispanic dilutes or completely ignores our connection to our roots.

”

- Denise Manriquez, senior anthropology major

Chew also said that it's very difficult to find the perfect alternative to the term Hispanic, but an effort can be made by asking different communities how they prefer to be identified.

"I think the most important thing is to recognize that we have an enormous diversity of people," Chew said.

Arturo Chavez, senior Chicano studies major and president of Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan, said he identifies with the term Chicano because, unlike the word Hispanic, it does not negate his indigenous heritage.

"When we look at the word Chicano, many believe it comes from the Aztecs," Chavez said. "When you use

the term Hispanic, it's like saying 'I'm white too.'"

Denise Manriquez, senior anthropology major, believes people are okay with the term Hispanic because they haven't learned more about it.

"The term Hispanic dilutes or completely ignores our connection to our roots," Manriquez said. "I think the

majority of people do not mind being called Hispanic because they do not know the difference. Others simply do not care to acknowledge let alone defend their roots."

Bixler-Marquez believes people might identify with the term because it gives them a European connection, a continental origin. He also believes

that a broad term such as Hispanic has its own usefulness that can better help us understand the Hispanic population.

Maria Esquinca may be reached at theprospectordaily.

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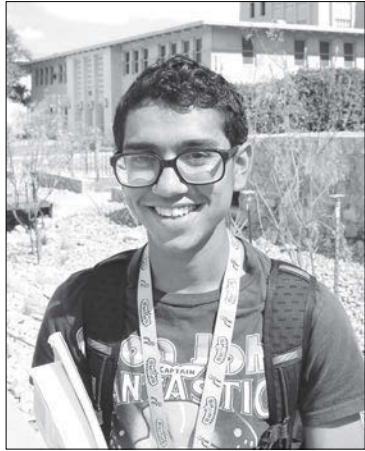
Do you know what is the difference between race, nationality and ethnicity?

RUBY CERINO, CRISTINA ESQUIVEL, ANDRES MARTINEZ / THE PROSPECTOR



**KIMBERLY RUIZ**

Freshman, UT Austin provisional adm.  
"It is hard to tell a part ethnicity and race because race, I would think you are from Mexico or France, but then that is nationality. So, I wouldn't be able to tell the difference."



**LAWRENCE HENDERSON**

Junior, political science major  
"Absolutely I do, all three are categories to place people into groups. Race and ethnicity are a constructed form of identity for the individual and whoever is categorizing them as African, African American, etc. Nationality is a category used to place people in groups based on a country they're from."



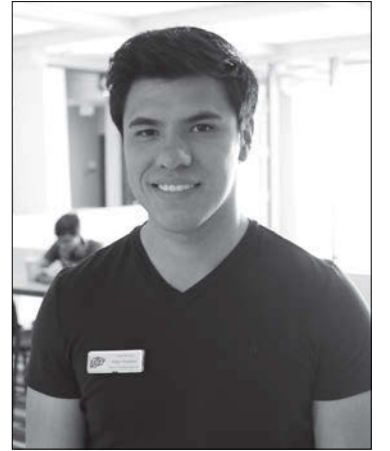
**AYWANA JERRY**

Freshman, pre-business major  
"Ethnicity is the ground basis of it, like black, white, Hispanic, and then your race would be everything that is combined. I think nationality is more of your background and your roots."



**ALEXANDRA GUTIERREZ**

Sophomore, communication major  
"Race is based on your skin color, nationality is where you were born, ethnicity is the culture of your ancestors."



**EDGAR ESCALANTE**

Senior, cellular and molecular biochemistry major  
"Ethnicity is your cultural background, nationality answers what country you are from, and race is your human classification."

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**CRISTINA LOPEZ**

Freshman, undecided major  
"Race is your genetic background, ethnicity is more related towards culture, nationality is what country you came from."



**JESSICA VELARDE**

Freshman, forensic science major  
"I believe so. Ethnicity is like being hispanic, race could be black, white, or indian, and nationality is what country you are from."



**CHRISTINA BATISTA**

Junior, social work major  
"Race is your background, nationality is where you were born and your culture."



**JIMMY PALACIOS**

Freshman, pre-business major  
"I've never looked into that. There's definitely a distinction if you go to race, but it doesn't really matter what color you are. There can be a distinction between what you are and where you came from."



**JUAN BARRAZA**

Freshman, UT Austin provisional adm.  
"Nationality is the country where you were born, race is where you come from, like what your parents are, and I don't know about ethnicity. I would say it is easier to identify someone's nationality."



**SHAZELLY ORTIZ**

Freshman, cellular and molecular biochemistry major  
"I think so. Nationality is where you are born. To me, ethnicity and race is like the same thing, like being Hispanic."



**FERNANDA MENDOZA**

Freshman, chemistry major  
"Ethnicity would be depending on your culture, nationality depends on the country or nation you belong to, and race would depend on the color of your skin or physical features."



**LEDA ORNELAS**

Junior, pre-nursing major  
"Race is what you are classified under, like black, white. Ethnicity is your background and culture, and nationality refers to the country you were born in."



**RANDY BURCIAGA**

Freshman, criminal justice major  
"Ethnicity is determined by one's own cultural and religious beliefs. Nationality is where you originated from and race is the color you consider yourself."

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INTERNATIONAL

# Foreign students adapt to life in El Paso



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

BY KIMBERLY VALLE

The Prospector

Kenya native Syprose Nyachoti has not seen her home since she first came to UTEP three years ago.

"I wish to be there any time, but I haven't gone back since I came to the U.S. three years ago because the

ticket is costly. It cost about \$2,000," Nyachoti said.

She is a graduate student pursuing her Ph.D. in geological sciences.

Nyachoti had to compromise in order to make a better life for herself. She said she was stunned by the differences in culture, people and climate in El Paso.

"I realized there was a lot of Spanish here. In fact the day I got here there was snow and I'd never seen snow before," Nyachoti said.

Nyachoti is from Nairobi, in southern Kenya. Among the many issues in her home country is a water shortage. She also said many political disputes occurred over elections that were held in 2007 and that people were

getting into arguments as well as a lot of tribal clashes were taking place.

"Several years ago, there were a lot of bombings," she said. "A few months ago, people were putting bombs in malls and other public places, but overall the country is okay, the political pressure is low."

Adeeba Raheem, a civil engineering professor, is from Lahore, Pakistan. She has not only dealt with change, but also worries about her family back in Pakistan.

"There were so many things going on, it was very stressful and I was always trying to keep in touch with family, always calling them—how they are doing there and also natural disasters were happening," Raheem said.

Raheem lived in Pakistan for 26 years. She said that since Sept. 11, 2001, her country has been changing, and more women are pursuing their education and are granted equality in professional settings.

"Laws have changed a lot—changing day by day—more women, double the amount of engineering students, not banning women from any fields," she said. "Parents support women's decisions because they are more and more educated. Education is a very big push for the government. Their goal is to have more masses educated in the future."

Although Raheem's family resides in the capital of Pakistan, Islamabad, which is away from violence, she said she still worries about the economic and social issues that continue to occur.

"Nothing has been settled so far on both ends, so it's been on and off. However it is a ripple affect, if there is something going on, it affects us," Raheem said. "Resources are not that much as a whole, not that cheap, there is not an extreme poverty."

Although celebrating home traditions are a challenge, Raheem has adapted to American culture with the help of close friends.

"My friends know I am from a different country and they respect my limitations," Raheem said.

Esmaeil Balal, a graduate student studying civil engineering, comes from Tehran, the capital of Iran. Balal said he did not find any challenges adjusting to American culture.

"I grew up in a family that was close to American culture," Balal said.

He said he witnessed many protests going on in his hometown, however he was not in the presence of any violence. He said that since a new government in Iran has been in place, there has been less war, but the inconsistent value of the dollar has caused economic issues.

"My country is not so much advanced, the economy is not in a good situation, but the technology is improving every day," Balal said. "Not a big deal for the country, everything is calm, people live a normal life."

Kimberly Valle may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

NATIONAL

# Muslim leaders: Media should stop enabling ISIS

BY ROCKY ASUTSA

SHFWire

WASHINGTON - Media have been advised by a group of American Muslim leaders to refrain from referring to the Islamic State group as ISIS or jihadists since doing so gives them legitimacy. This occurred as Muslim leaders and scholars came together to denounce the Islamic State group in a 17-page letter that sets the record straight in as far as the group's ideology and Islam are concerned.

"If you refer to ISIS as jihadist, you are defeating the purpose and giving them legitimacy," said Nihad Awad, the national executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

The press conference Wednesday was organized by CAIR and the Fiqh Council of North America, and it brought together 10 Muslim leaders from various organizations and societies in America.

The leaders ratified the letter, which was originally written in Arabic, addressed to the Islamic State group's leader Ibrahim Awwad Al-Badri. Over 120 scholars and Muslim leaders from around the world signed it.

"Point by point, their ideology has been rejected," said Muzammil H. Siddiqi, chairman of the Fiqh Council of North America. The council advises its members on religious matters.

The leaders decried the media's reference of the Islamic State group as Islamic and requested them to work toward setting a new narrative in reporting about ISIS. They echoed a similar call by the Muslim Council of Britain last month.

"It is clear to the Muslims around the world that what this group is doing is un-Islamic," Ahmed Bedier, president of United Voices for America, said. "What is not clear so far is to the media that they are un-Islamic."

United Voices for America encourages minorities and people of color to participate in governance issues.

The letter references the Quran extensively to affirm the leaders' stance on points of contention between them and the Islamic State group. These include the killing of innocents and emissaries, jihad, people of scripture or Christians, Yazidis, the caliphate, attribution of crimes to God and rebelling against leaders.



PHOTO COURTESY THE SCRIPPS HOWARD FOUNDATION WIRE

Ahmed Bedier, president of United Voices for America, center, urges the Muslim community to discourage their youth from joining the Islamic State group. Masjid Muhammad Assistant Imam Ben Abdul-Haqq, left, Secretary General for the U.S. Council of Muslim Organizations Oussama Jamal and Fiqh Council of North America Chairman Muzammil H. Siddiqi, right, look on.

"You have coerced people to convert to Islam just as you have coerced Muslims to accept your views," the letter reads. "New caliphate requires consensus from Muslims."

It further castigates the Islamic State group's misinterpretation of Islam, terming it "a great wrong and an offense to Islam, Muslims and the entire world."

"None of their actions has passed any litmus test to prove that they have sound Islamic ideas," Oussama Jammal,

secretary general of the U.S. Council of Muslim Organizations, said. "We are educating our community members not to fall prey to such groups."

The leaders said military action against the group should not be viewed as a lone solution because it has not worked before.

"There has got to be a military and political solution," said Robert Marro, a board member of the All Dulles Area Muslim Society. "If you can get a

political solution, then you eliminate all their base of support."

The Scripps Howard Foundation Wire refers to the group as the Islamic State group, following guidelines set by the Associated Press.

Rocky Asutsa is a communication student at Daystar University in Nairobi, Kenya, where he majors in electronic media and minors public relations. He is currently participating in the Scripps Howard Foundation's Semester in Washington Program. He may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

“  
If you refer to ISIS as jihadist, you are defeating the purpose and giving them legitimacy.”  
— Nihad Awad, national executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations

CAMPUS LIFE

# Influx of Korean students study 3D printing

BY LUIS BARRIO  
The Prospector

Walk into Burgess Hall, across from the bookstore, and take the elevator to the first floor. There, you will find Namsoo Kim and his research team hard at work trying to revolutionize the 3-D printing industry.

In spring of 2011, UTEP and Seokyeong University in South Korea began a partnership that allows students to earn a dual-degree in the metallurgical and materials engineering program.

UTEP will provide instruction on metallurgical and materials and SKU offers instruction in nano-convergence engineering.

Students are required to complete two-and-a-half semesters at SKU and continue their education at UTEP for another three semesters, which

will give them their bachelor of science degree in metallurgical and materials engineering.

Kim says that 40 new South Korean students join the degree program every year.

SKU donated \$2.2 million and UTEP pitched in \$1.8 million to the program, which was launched by Kim.

In 2013, the Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering at UTEP was awarded a \$191,240 National Science Foundation grant that helped fund a new degree option in the department, printing nano-engineering for the fall 2014 semester.

UTEP is one of the first in the country to offer PNE as an option for a degree plan.

"I think it's the opportunity that (Kim) gives the students," said Edgar Reyes, senior metallurgical and materials engineering major. "He has



CRISTINA ESQUIVEL/THE PROSPECTOR

In spring of 2011, UTEP and Seokyeong University in South Korea began a partnership that allows students to earn a dual-degree in the metallurgical and materials engineering program.

really good research projects and a lot of projects to work on."

Kim wants to speed up the 3-D printing process, eliminate waste and enormously economize the industry. He wants his \$50 printer to produce the exact same print result that a \$500,000 printer would accomplish, just on a much smaller scale in size.

"I want to create a world-class printer. I want to be able to print anything out of anything," Kim said. "My job is using different types of 3-D printers. Anything you can think of, I want to print."

Kim is an expert in the field of printing technology—from materials, technology and electronics as well as the standardization of printed devices.

Rarely does this team of engineers see the sun. Through trial and error, numerous publications of articles (30 per year) on nano-technology have been written with the perception that they can change the 3-D print industry.

In the future, Kim would like to print large-scale models of everything, from chairs and tables to backpacks and shoes. This process is a long one to accomplish, so he tutors his students on how to be leaders.

"I want to teach my students so that they can continue this work long after I am gone," Kim said.

Students in the program, who have just begun the second term of the partnership, are still undecided as to what they will do post gradu-

ation. Some will pursue a career back in South Korea; others will do so here, along with obtaining a graduate degree.

In the meantime, they enjoy the campus at UTEP and its available resources.

Seonghyeon Park is a junior who is in the first of his three semesters at UTEP. He loves the campus, football games and Taco Bell.

"We have opportunity to research here at UTEP," he said. "I like the campus and the climate. Here it is hot, while in South Korea it is humid."

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## JOBS

# Students with disabilities struggle to find work

BY JOSE SOTO  
The Prospector

The university is celebrating Ability Awareness Week from Oct. 13-17 with educational seminars a symposium and a resource fair aimed at bringing awareness about disabilities and how they may impact students. What some people may not know is that students with disabilities suffer from a higher unemployment rate than others.

According to the National Council on Disability, only 49 percent of people with disabilities are employed, compared to 79 percent of those without disabilities. Out of young people with disabilities, 67 percent with a bachelor's degree are working full time, compared with 73 percent of youth without disabilities with the same education. Of those individuals with disabilities who are employed, less than one half of 1 percent are professionals.

Brett Conerly-Hartmann, a recent UTEP student now living in California, has epilepsy. Hartmann knows firsthand the hardship of trying to land a job.

"Most people do not understand why I need the use of a service dog, or assume that I am visually impaired," he said. "After dialogue about my condition, I am able to clear up any misunderstandings about epilepsy with whomever is interviewing me."

At UTEP, students with disabilities can find help and assistance with obtaining a job at the Center for Accommodations and Support Services.

Bill Dethlefs, CASS director, said that the center has recently changed its vision and mission statements to include employment of students as a goal, not just degree completion. Part of this begins with training different groups on campus regarding relevant legislation and UTEP policy."

Dethlefs said that the situation with disabled individuals who are looking for employment is an issue that reflects an ongoing societal change, where people with disabilities are subject to discrimination and harassment by the general population.

"Only with changes to legal requirements for equal education and equal opportunities for employment was there a big difference for people with disabilities," Dethlefs said.

Nichole Coleman, a senior psychology major, said her disability has hindered her from working.

"I had a difficult time finding a job due to the fact that I have two disabilities, a physical and visual one," Coleman said. "When I did finally find a job, the management did not want to spend a few hundred dollars for adaptive aids so I could do my workload."

Coleman currently works as a financial management service adviser for In-Home Attendance Services and plans to continue holding the position while she obtains her master's degree in psychology.

The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that people with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations in the workplace. For employers, some claim undue hardship, usually associated with the cost of providing reasonable accommodations for employees with disabilities.

"Many employers believe the cost of providing accommodations will be excessive in terms of an undue hardship, so they refuse to hire the person," Dethlefs said.

Hartmann said he isn't required to divulge his disability, but feels it is necessary because it would be rude not to explain why he requires a service dog.

"I usually do not go into intense detail about my disability, and redirect the interview process back to the position I am applying for," he said. "I do speak to the interviewer on how this

might not be a conventional situation, but that I am a productive employee that strives to do my best every time."

Hartmann said he feels that the UTEP CASS office is one of the "most amazing and under-utilized departments on campus at UTEP."

Both Hartmann and Dethlefs said students with disabilities should volunteer and intern as much as they can during their time at the university to expand their knowledge and skills in order to appeal more to possible employers.

"The CASS staff also work closely with the staff in the Career Center, primarily with Nick Zweig," Dethlefs said. "He is the UTEP coordinator for the federal Workforce Recruitment Program that provides federal internship opportunities for students with disabilities. I would encourage all disabled students to seek his assistance in adding this to their resume as it will definitely be of assistance while trying to find work."

Hartmann said that students should learn to be their own advocates in order to find the confidence companies look for in applicants.

"Being able to represent yourself in an honest and respectful manner is one of the most important assets for your future career goals," Hartmann said. "Students and individuals with disabilities are going to deal with some form of discrimination and judgment during their life, but it is our inner strength and determination that helps us overcome these obstacles. Stay strong, never lose your desire to learn, and always have goals."

For more information on Ability Awareness Week events, visit www.sa.utep.edu/cass or call 915-747-5148.

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SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

## ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR

ANDREA ACOSTA, 747-7477



## SEIS RAZONES PARA TENER AL MUNDO EN LA LENGUA

ILLUSTRATION BY JACOBO DE LA ROSA / THE PROSPECTOR

### BY GIANFRANCO LANGUASCO

The Prospector

Lo importante en estos tiempos de globalización es tener la oportunidad de acercarnos a otras culturas sin necesidad de salir de la ciudad. Es común encontrarse con personas de otros países, diferentes costumbres y hasta abiertas manifestaciones culturales con las cuales disfrutamos, nos asombramos e identificamos. Una de las formas que más nos acerca a otras culturas es la comida.

Por eso, ésta lista a continuación menciona algunos restaurantes internacionales llamativos en el área de El Paso. Si "somos lo que comemos", según el político y abogado francés, devenido en gastrónomo, Jean Anthelme Brillat-Savarin, entonces te aseguramos que luego de ir a estos lugares, serás todo un comensal de mundo.

#### PHO SO

VIETNAMITA

301 E. Paisano Dr.

Justo en la esquina de las calles Paisano y Mesa, Pho So abrió recientemente sus puertas en el centro para beneplácito de los que gustan de la comida vietnamita. Su dueño, Hugh Zheng, ancló en Nueva York con su

familia tras de un largo viaje desde Hong Kong. A pesar de sus raíces chinas y su experiencia en el rubro de restaurantes chinos, Zheng decidió comprar el Pho So original, establecido en California y traerlo a El Paso.

Según Zheng, una de sus motivaciones es que, aparte de deliciosa, la comida vietnamita es saludable y genera mucha atención entre la gente.

El lugar cuenta con amplios espacios y decoraciones de bambú en las paredes, cuadros donde se puede admirar la agradable geografía vietnamita acompañada por música para motivar las conversaciones.

Este verano, los spring rolls y el imperdible Pho fueron algunos de los preferidos por la clientela.

#### EVERYDAY GYRO

GRIEGO Y MEDITERRÁNEO

205 Cincinatti Ave.

Con un diseño interior aceptable, que incluye un patio exterior perfecto para disfrutar de una cerveza y que se integra a la esencia que rodea la calle Cincinatti, Everyday Gyro ofrece una amplia gama de comida mediterránea y griega.

El punto fuerte del menú es el hummus, con un sabor muy natural que presume una receta casera de generaciones.

Además, las papas tienen un agregado de ajo que las hacen irresistibles.

Por si fuera poco, la influencia de El Paso está presente en las salsas picanteras que son altamente recomendables.

#### CAFÉ ITALIA

ITALIANA

504 W. San Antonio Ave.

Vas a tener que pensar dos veces antes de decir que la comida italiana ya no es novedad en los Estados Unidos. Este restaurante es una propuesta de José Fong, a la comida artesanal, con pizzas hechas en hornos de ladrillo, vinos exclusivos y cervezas artesanales independientes.

Con la calidad asegurada, el lugar tiene una decoración íntima—a tal punto que es minimalista en su decoración exterior—especial para todo tipo de encuentros, sea casual o de negocios.

Para Fong, lo más importante al momento de abrir el Café Italia fue el brindar un servicio de calidad dado que su especialidad está en ingredientes artesanales de alta calidad.

#### TARA THAI RESTAURANT

TAILANDES

2606 N. Mesa St.

El compromiso de la chef Sai Pituk al momento de abrir este restaurante

fue decisivo para que Tara Thai sea considerado uno de los mejores restaurantes tailandeses en El Paso.

A pesar de que aprendió muchas costumbres culinarias en su estancia en el país asiático, Pituk se encargó de que nada falle al momento de darle la original experiencia gastronómica tailandesa.

Para eso, se encargó de contratar personal de cocina que nació o estudió gastronomía en Tailandia ¿El resultado? Una exquisita experiencia sobre la mesa y comensales que prometen regresar a encantar sus paladares.

#### SUSHI ZEN

JAPONESA

2400 N. Mesa St.

¿A quién no le gusta el sushi? Imagina entonces tener una variedad de casi cuarenta diferentes tipos de rollos. Omar Adel, subdirector, dijo que aunque los dueños sean de origen coreano, tienen mucha experiencia en cuanto a los restaurantes japoneses.

A decir verdad, se nota. Si eres nuevo en esto, puedes comenzar probando los rollos California o Las Vegas. Si quieres correr en el mundo del sushi, el rollo White Dragon, con anguila y camarones en tempura. Para

los Mineros de corazón, está el rollo UTEP, el cual incluye mango, cangrejo y atún encima.

#### POT AU FEU

MUNDIAL

307 E. Franklin Ave.

¿Mundial, en serio? En serio. El chef Roberto A. Espinoza no tuvo reparos en ofrecer en su mesa una carta geográficamente amplia con un toque culinario francés. Esto es dado la educación del chef en la afamada escuela gastronómica Le Cordon Bleu.

Un repaso al menú nos dará más luces: Ribeye con un argentinísimo chimichurri, un linguine que te hará sentirte en Italia, una hamburguesa de cordero al mejor estilo griego y una ensalada Fattoush excepcionalmente libanesa.

Los platos seguirán innovando porque, si algo tenemos en claro es que siempre queremos recorrer el mundo, incluso, frente a un plato de comida.

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ART

# Former UTEP professor contributes to campus art department

BY JOSEPH ESPOSITO

The Prospector

Metal artist and retired UTEP professor Rachele Thiewes has made the first of what will be an annual \$25,000 endowment to the members of the university's art department in hopes that the money will be used to help fund their research.

"I've had a great career teaching at UTEP and wanted to give something back to the university upon retiring," Thiewes said. "My first instinct was to create a scholarship for art students at UTEP, but I realized that the faculty is really the behind-the-scenes backbone of the university."

Vincent Burke, chairman of the art department, said that Thiewes' endowment will support the research and production of artwork by faculty members, with the goal to help artists exhibit their work to both national and international audiences.

"This is an important facet of this gift, which will help our faculty to further deepen and evolve their professional studio practice, and will help support our quest to achieve tier-one research status in the visual arts," Burke said.

The endowment is open to all faculty of the art department. Thiewes will ask participants to create a project proposal to be presented to a panel of art experts, explaining how the project's completion will impact the artist's career and audience. Participants will be given 18 months to complete their projects.

"Research for art faculty can be very costly. They need to fund a studio, equipment and materials," Thiewes said. "Unfortunately, there is very little grant money available for individual research in the arts, thus most art faculty self-fund their projects."

Thiewes retired this May after running UTEP's metals area for 38 years. She is a well-known jeweler, whose products are designed to engage and challenge the wearer, making them an active participant. Her work has been displayed across the world, throughout the United States, England, and



UTEP Professor Rachele Thiewes makes the first of an annual \$25,000 endowment to the art department.

IVAN PIERRE AGUIRRE / UTEP NEWS SERVICES

Scotland as well as having appeared in numerous publications.

"Rachele has always been grateful for the support UTEP has shown her throughout her career. She has flourished in every way and has given our university 38 years of outstand-

ing service," Burke said. "I would argue that even before this wonderful gift to our department, Rachele had already given more than she has ever received."

Some of Thiewes' work can be found on UTEP's grounds, allowing

her legacy to live on with the school she has been a part of since the 1970s. She continues her work around the country through projects and various ways of inspiring other artists.

"I currently have a retrospective exhibition going on at the Ruben Cen-

“I’ve had a great career teaching at UTEP and wanted to give something back to the university upon retiring.”

— Rachele Thiewes, Metal artist and retired UTEP professor

ter for Visual Arts on campus, titled 'Something Gleams,' Thiewes said. "In November, I open a solo exhibition at Mobilia Gallery in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Currently, I'm working in my studio preparing work for that show."

Cristelda Lopez, a UTEP alumna, said Thiewes was her metals professor while she was at UTEP.

"She is someone who always expects your best and, as a professor, encourages you to achieve it," Lopez said. "Rachele's discipline, passion and commitment to her artwork and students is admirable. She has been a role model to me and motivates me to pursue my interests, as well as following her steps in giving back to the community."

Thanks to Thiewes' generosity, the art department will benefit for years after her retirement. With every artist striving to improve, the donations will help bring art students and faculty closer to their goals from one artist to another.

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HERITAGE

# Hispanics stereotyped since the start of the film industry

BY KIMBERLY VALLE

The Prospector

As early as the silent film era, Latinos were one of the most stereotyped ethnicities in film. In 1910, "The Thread of Destiny" used the phrase "greaser" to depict Mexican as "banditos." During the time when revolutionaries were struggling to free Mexico from the mistreatment of the Porfirio Diaz dictatorship, Hollywood rejected the revolution in Mexico by using Mexican "banditos" as suitable enemies to the North American cowboy.

Carlos Ortega, Chicano studies professor who displays films in his class and discusses the stereotypes that each film portrays, said Hollywood has not gone out of its way to change characters and makes them symbolic.

"The problem I think that we continue to have is that we have so many different stereotypes, you really lose sight of that—not all of us are like that," Ortega said. "That becomes the problem of illustration for the community."

Over the years, films have fluctuated in their portrayals. In the '40s and '50s, Latinos began to criticize films

with and the way Chicanos were being portrayed by Hollywood.

"They began to demand better representation, even go so far as boycott films from Hollywood," Ortega said. "They started making their own films, which is now called Chicano Cinema."

Examples include the typical Latino gang member, who was portrayed in two different films, "Boulevard Nights" and "Walk Proud," as well as the Anglo-Saxon man, Robby Benson with blue eyes, who was played a Hispanic gang member, when he didn't fit the criteria.

One of the films that Ortega includes in his class every year is called "Viva Villa"—the legendary icon who was portrayed by an American actor named Wallace Beery.

Junior criminal justice major, Felisha Mitchell, is in Ortega's class and said that the story she was told about Pancho Villa as a child was nothing like the film she saw in class.

"'Viva Villa' was funny, but it's crazy—he was a general and generals don't have time to be acting like how the Villa in the film was portrayed as," Mitchell said.

“It sometimes upsets me how Hispanics are portrayed because most of the time they are the maids or the gardeners and the stereotype in the media is what stops us from getting out of it.”

— Janine Quiroz, senior criminal justice major

Mitchell also said she was surprised about all the stereotypes the film was filled with, and how it failed to include all the tactical knowledge that Pancho Villa was known for.

"If you knew nothing about Villa, you would have thought he was a dumb guy, who knew nothing ex-

cept being a bandit, but come to find out, he never did drink or smoked," Mitchell said. "And although he was a womanizer, he also had a family he was dedicated to."

Many of the roles portrayed by Hispanics are often maids, religious persons, farm workers, family oriented "cantina girls," also known as bar girls or low wage workers, and gang members with thick accents.

"When they always have Hispanics as maids and cleaning, it's like they are portrayed as that's the only job they have, which is not true," Mitchell said.

Valerie Padilla, junior digital media production major, said that Hollywood films are instilling the younger generation with the stereotype of certain ethnic groups, leading them to think that reality is the same as what is portrayed on-screen.

"I get insulted with the stigma of how Mexicans are mostly seen in Hollywood, they are the typical character of the violent, aggressive, lazy, drunk," Padilla said.

Janine Quiroz, senior criminal justice major, said she has noticed the misrepresentation that Hispanics receive in films.

"It sometimes upsets me how Hispanics are portrayed because most of the time they are the maids or the gardeners and that stereotype in the media is what stops us from getting out of it," Quiroz said.

Today, Hollywood films are beginning to alter the way they represent Hispanics in films, mainly because more Latinos have crossed that barrier and have started to work behind the scenes, becoming very successful writers, producers and directors.

"Hollywood became more involved in involving Mexican-Americans, they were putting in more money, quality of films started to look better, however the message was lost, it was all part of the evolution," Ortega said. "There are people who continue to deliver the message but are not getting into the market."

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SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

# SPORTS

EDITOR

JAVIER CORTEZ, 747-7477

## Men's cross country wins again



MICHAELA ROMAN/ THE PROSPECTOR

(Left to right) sophomore Evans Kripono, senior Ramon Garcia, junior Anthony Rotich, sophomore Cosmas Boit, sophomore Daniel Cheruiyot, junior Elphas Maiyo. The 2014 men's cross country team poses after winning the 2014 Lori Fitzgerald Classic at Chamizal National Park.

BY JAVIER CORTEZ

The Prospector

The UTEP men's cross country team is in top form heading into the latter stages of their fall season coming off another spectacular performance at the Lori Fitzgerald Classic.

Four weeks into the season, it has been nothing but perfection for the men's team. The Miners have swept the competition in all four meets and individually they have excelled too. Junior All-American Anthony Rotich has set the precedent for the Miners this season, winning four consecutive races with no competition coming close to challenging him.

In his last meet at the Fitzgerald Classic, the Miners' only home meet all season, Rotich ran a blistering time of 16 minutes, 49 seconds, 81 milliseconds in the men's 6K run.

Rotich's success from the 2014 spring track and field season has carried over, but the All-American has stayed humble, only addressing his success as a team success.

"We have a plan as a team to run together," Rotich said. "That's what we have been doing from the start. There has been a great improvement since we started at the beginning of the calendar (season)."

Head coach Paul Ereng thinks Rotich's spectacular start will benefit him in the long run, when the Conference USA and national championships come along.

"He's on schedule and he is running very well," Ereng said. "I think he should be able to perform well at conference and the national meet."

Coming in right behind Rotich for the last three meets has been sopho-

more Cosmas Boit. The Kenya native has been a consistent second runner to Rotich, and one of the many young and talented runners on the Miners' long depth chart.

In three of the first four meets, the Miners have had a least four runners place within the top 10, sweeping the

“I think there has been a great improvement. I am happy with the performance of everybody.”

- Paul Ereng,  
cross country head coach

top two spots in all four meets this season, and they swept the top three spots in three of their four meets.

"I think there has been a great improvement, I am happy with the performance of everybody," Ereng said "After six weeks we can see a lot of adaptation to the practice, so maybe in another two weeks we can see the real improvement from the workouts that we have been doing."

Although the Miners' success has been recognized locally and on a national level, the praise has yet to come. The Miners' next meet in Fayetteville,

Arkansas at the Chili Pepper Festival Invitational may help alleviate the problem.

"There will be a lot of schools competing, so that will be a very tough meet," Ereng said. "Every major college is going to be there and put their best foot forward, so we are looking forward to see what we can do there."

The Chili Pepper Festival includes 80 teams in total, which will be the biggest meet the Miners will be in all season. A good showing could propel the Miners to a top 25 national ranking. The Miners are still looking for a national ranking, but coach Ereng believes that might change after the Miners compete in Fayetteville.

"After next week, we will know what will come out of that," Ereng said. "It depends on the teams that we compete with, but I am looking forward to see some type of ranking."

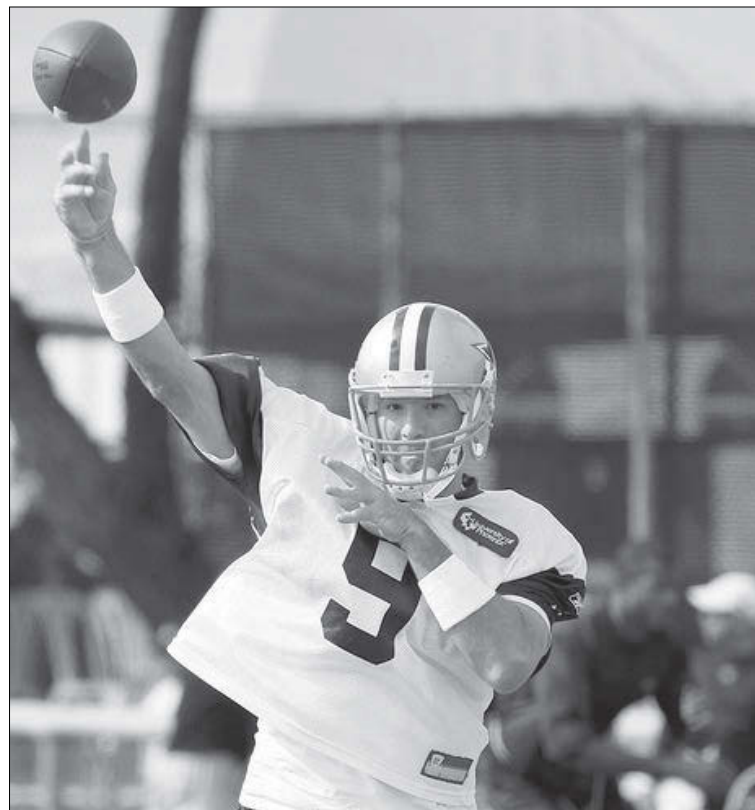
Regardless of a possible national ranking at the end of the week, coach Ereng has the men focused on bigger and better sights—winning conference and competing at the national level.

"Our focus for the men is to win conference," Ereng said. "Other than the conference, I am trying to see the men make it to the national meet this year."

The Miners will head up to Arkansas on Saturday, Oct. 4, followed by the NCAA preliminaries, the C-USA Championships and, lastly, the NCAA championships in November.

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## CAMPUS LIFE



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

## La historia de la presencia hispana en la Ene-Efe-Ele

POR JUAN CARLOS NAVARRETE

The Prospector



El mes de septiembre en Estados Unidos es el mes en que se celebra la cultura hispana y la NFL no se queda atrás.

La liga aprovecha septiembre para recordar y celebrar aquellos jugadores de raíces hispanas que han impactado el juego—como Ignacio Molinet, primer jugador hispano en la liga.

Molinet firmo su primer contrato con los Yellow Jackets de Frankford en 1927, convirtiéndolo en la primera presencia latina en el deporte más popular de los Estados Unidos. El contrato fue de 900 dólares por una temporada.

Al igual que Molinet, otros hispanos son celebrados por sus contribuciones en la NFL. Actualmente en el Salón de la Fama hay tres jugadores con raíces hispanas—Steve Van Burén de Honduras, Ted Hendricks de Guatemala y Anthony Muñoz de México. Aunque estos jugadores son celebrados principalmente por sus grandes logros en el campo, es importante recordarlos también por sus raíces latinas.

Van Burén ganó dos Súper Tazones consecutivos con las Águilas de Filadelfia en 1948 y 1949. Lideró la liga en yardas por tierra en cuatro temporadas distintas, tres en forma consecutiva. Fue el primer jugador en la historia de la NFL en alcanzar esta hazaña.

Muñoz, es considerado el mejor tackle ofensivo de todos los tiempos. Muñoz no solo fue de los primeros jugadores Latinos consagrados al Salón de la Fama de Fútbol Americano Profesional, pero también fue el primer jugador de los Bengalíes de Cincinnati en recibir dicho honor.

Jugadores recientes como Tony González, de los Halcones de Atlanta y Jefes de Kansas City, también han dejado su legado en la liga. A González se le reconoce como uno de

los mejores alas cerradas de todos los tiempos y es casi un hecho que estará en el Salón de la Fama.

Además de González, Kiko Alonzo, de los Bills de Búfalo, fue nominado para el premio de novato del año en el 2013, y es considerado uno de los mejores defensas de la liga.

Tony Romo es probablemente uno de los mariscales de campo hispanos más famosos. Su ranking de 95.6 es la quinta mejor calificación en la historia para mariscales de campo. También es el líder de anotaciones de los Vaqueros de Dallas con 215 a su nombre. El dueño de múltiples records de los Vaqueros acaba de firmar un contrato que vale 108 millones de dólares, convirtiéndolo en el jugador mejor pagado en la historia de los Vaqueros de Dallas.

En lo personal, aunque no sean muchos los jugadores en el Salón de la Fama de Fútbol Americano Profesional, la presencia hispana siempre ha estado en la NFL y debería enorgullecer a los fanáticos hispanos. El estigma de que todos los que son jugadores hispanos en la NFL son pateadores es algo que se ha combatido con talento en el campo, y los jugadores hispanos se han ganado merecer respeto con mucho esfuerzo y trabajo.

Entre los muchos jugadores latinos en la NFL, siete ya han llegado a la cima del deporte y levantado el trofeo Lombardi. Cada año se ven más jugadores latinos e hispanos contribuyendo a su equipo como titulares. Cada año se ven más jugadores jugando en la postemporada, algo que demuestra que algún día ya no serán solo tres jugadores en el Salón de la Fama de la NFL.

No se sorprendan si algún día vean un equipo ganar el Súper Tazón con un equipo repleto de hispanos en varias posiciones. El mes de septiembre no solo marca la celebración de la presencia hispana y latina en la NFL, si no también simboliza lo lejos que han llegado los jugadores y la huella que han dejado para las siguientes generaciones.

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VOLLEYBALL

# Volleyball looking for success on the road

BY LUIS GONZALEZ

The Prospector

The UTEP women's volleyball team will go on a four-game road trip as they continue their Conference USA schedule. In the midst of a five-game losing streak, the Miners will visit Rice, UTSA, UAB and Middle Tennessee State in the next couple of weeks.

The Miners started conference play with three home games that ended in a disappointing fashion. The team lost all three matches against UTSA, North Texas and Florida Atlantic, and won just two combined sets. The losses leave UTEP's record at a troubling 2-12. With that being said, second-year coach Holly Watts is not panicking over the results.

"A lot of it goes back to how young we are and how many young players we have," Watts said. "It's still a building process and we're still growing. Overall, I still think we're getting better."

With five freshmen on the roster and just two seniors, the Miners are struggling to find balance and consistency from set to set. The tough opposition faced to this point—playing three nationally ranked teams—has also played a part in magnifying the growing pains the team is currently experiencing.

Still, with so much room to improve, the positives shown by the Miners are not lost on senior Jacqueline Cason. The 6-foot, 2-inch outside

hitter is coming off a medically red-shirted season, and she has started in 11 of the 13 matches in which she has participated this season.

"The record doesn't show how good we're doing. We're playing tough teams," Cason said. "Because we have a lot of people, they're just learning the system and each match we're working on something. We might be messing up on a few things, but there's a lot of good things happening because we're working really hard as a team."

UTEP will be in Houston on Friday, Oct. 3, to play the Rice Owls. Picked to finish third in the conference, the Owls are led by preseason all-conference USA selection Sara Blasier. Rice has started the season off with an 11-5 record and 1-1 in conference. The Owls will play at North Texas in their third conference game before hosting the Miners.

After Rice, the Miners will head to San Antonio for their second meeting against last year's conference champions. The UTSA Roadrunners only lost one regular-season conference game in 2013 and were picked to repeat this season. In their first meeting, the Roadrunners swept UTEP in El Paso, 3-0.

The Miners will visit UAB for their third-straight game on the road. The Blazers were tied with Southern Mississippi in the preseason rankings, both picked to finish fifth. Like UTEP, UAB has gotten off to a rough start, with only four wins thus far. The Blazers just snapped a five-game losing

streak by beating Louisiana Tech at home. They will now go on a three-game road trip before returning home to host the Miners on Friday, Oct. 10.

To finish the long stretch of road games, the Miners will be in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, to face Middle Tennessee State on Sunday, Oct. 12. Another team that was picked to finish ahead of the 10th-ranked Miners, the Blue Raiders are 5-10 for the year and 1-1 in conference. Middle Tennessee just started a stretch where they will play five conference games in a row, all at home.

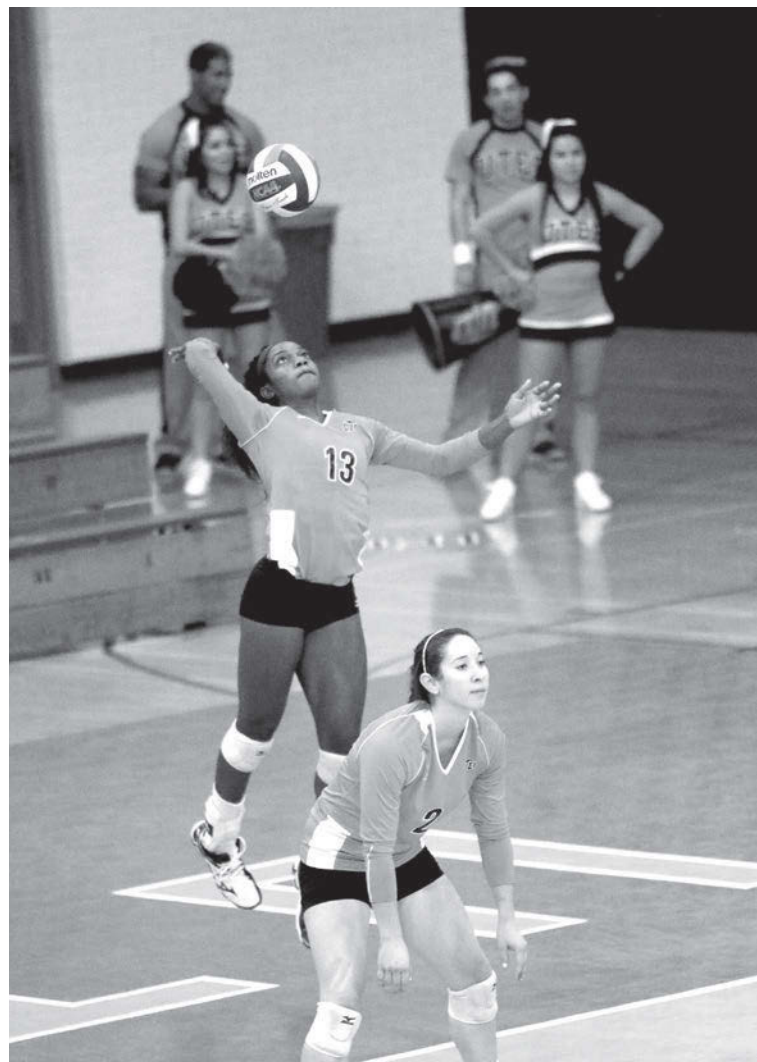
Junior Talia Jones has played in 46 of the 49 sets that UTEP has played so far this season. Last year's leader in service aces, Jones puts her emphasis on having the right mindset over this stretch of road games.

"Mindset-wise we got to be prepared to go on the road," Jones said. "Traveling to play in different gyms and different atmospheres with a positive attitude."

Coach Watts is looking forward to the team going on the road, where she believes the team has provided some of its better performances of the season.

"We'll just have to make it work in our favor. Sometimes when you can sleep in a hotel bed, you don't have all the distractions of home," Watts said. "It's great to be home in front of our home fans, but I don't know if we are as focused at home as we can be on the road."

Luis Gonzalez may be reached at [theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com](mailto:theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com).



MICHAELA ROMAN / THE PROSPECTOR

Freshman middle blocker Krystal Ejesieme serves the ball against North Texas Friday, Sept. 26 at Memorial Gym.

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SOFTBALL

# Softball begins fall exhibition season



RUBY CERINO / THE PROSPECTOR

Freshman Courtney Clayton throws the ball to second base looking for a double play at the Helen of Troy Softball Complex on Sunday Sept. 28.

BY JASON GREEN

The Prospector

The UTEP women's softball team began their fall exhibition season on Sunday, Sept. 27 at the Helen of Troy Softball Complex. The doubleheader against Odessa College was a chance for head coach Tobin Echo-Hawk to see where her team stands prior to the upcoming spring season.

This year's team is drastically different from last year's with a total of nine newcomers to the team. These nine will try to utilize the spring practice time to mesh with the 12 returning players, who are coming off of the team's best season in the last four years. Despite the improvement last season, the team finished 11th out of 13 teams in Conference USA.

Following a win in both legs of Sunday's doubleheader, coach Echo-Hawk's main goal for the fall is to see what each player's role will eventually be.

"We're trying to mix it up and put people in different positions to see how it goes and what the best fit is going to be," Echo-Hawk said.

One of the main areas is with the pitchers. Last season, the Miners had a league-worst 6.25 earned run average and was over one full point higher than the next highest in Conference USA.

During Sunday's games, freshman pitcher Dani Fincham impressed the coaching staff with her recovery from a poor first inning in the second game. After giving up four runs in the first inning, Fincham came back in the fourth and finished the game without giving up another run.

Fincham is the only new pitcher on the team's roster, but Echo-Hawk expects to see improvement from everyone following the addition of new pitching coach, Sara Plourde, who is a native of Bristol, Connecticut, she ranks eighth all-time in the NCAA record books with 1,662 strikeouts during her career with the University of Massachusetts softball team. Echo-Hawk is pleased with what she has seen so far.

tributed a triple during the second game and freshman infielder Hope Moreno battled hard to eventually get the hit that gave the Miners the lead for good. Junior infielder Kawehiokalani Netane hit a two-run home run after coming off the bench in the second game. Netane pointed to the incoming freshmen as a motivating factor this fall for the team's returning players.

"The freshmen came in strong, so it made all of the upperclassmen take a step back and say okay, I guess I need to step it up," Netane said.

After losing seven players from last year's much improved squad, Echo-Hawk was able to bring in eight freshmen to help fill in some of the gaps. Other newcomers to the team include two sophomore transfers, catcher Erica Chasco and infielder Kiki Pepi. Pepi played several positions in the infield during both games of the doubleheader and was very vocal during her time on the field.

"I'll definitely keep the defense together when I'm out there. I think I bring a lot of energy and leadership," Pepi said. "As long as the freshmen see me as someone they can really come up to and trust me on the field, I'm happy with that."

Pepi brings with her not only the experience of a transfer who has played a year of NCAA Division I softball, but the experience of playing in the Pac-12 Conference for Oregon State. Pepi says she is much happier with the level of connection within her new team. She is eager to move past her Pac-12 past and hopes to become a leader for the Miners.

"I don't like to seem like, oh yeah, I'm from the Pac-12—not at all," Pepi said. "I'm very mellow, but I do like

to bring in that leadership role, the energy."

As coach Echo-Hawk continues to move players around searching for the right fit, the Miners will finish out their fall exhibition schedule with a total of six more games before the end of the semester. Echo-Hawk is excited about the potential of the squad, but knows that there is still more work to do before the winter break.

"We have a great group of newcomers and you mix those with our returners, I think we're going to be pretty good," Echo-Hawk said. "We've just got to work out some of the kinks."

The team's next game will be against New Mexico State University at 7 p.m., Oct. 8, at the Helen of Troy Softball Complex.

Jason Green may be reached at [theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com](mailto:theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com).

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"She's done a great job, the kids are responding well to her and I've seen some improvement," Echo-Hawk said. "Erika Harrawood, who didn't pitch a ton for us last year, came in the first game and pretty much shut them down."

Hitting was far from a problem last season for the UTEP softball team. The team ranked fourth in C-USA in team batting average with a .290. With a total of 26 hits in two games versus Odessa College, it does not appear that much has changed.

Freshman infielder Courtney Clayton contributed greatly to the hit barrage in her first exhibition game in a UTEP uniform. Clayton went four for five, with three runs batted in during the first game and added one more RBI in the second game. Clayton attributed her great performance mostly to the support of her new teammates.

"All of the upperclassmen have just been so welcoming and we just feel a part of the family already," Clayton said. "The community is super welcoming. The girls are super welcoming. It's just a really comfortable fit."

Clayton and several other freshmen played a prominent role during the doubleheader as coach Echo-Hawk mixed in new players with the team's returning players. Freshman infielder Taylor Sargent con-

“The freshmen came in strong, so it made all of the upperclassmen take a step back and say okay, I guess I need to step it up.”

—Kawehiokalani Netane, junior infielder

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