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ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

..... THE

PROSPECTOR

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VOL. 100, NO. 16

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

FEBRUARY 10, 2015

TRUE Love Waits?

STUDENTS WHO SAVE THEMSELVES FOR MARRIAGE

pg. 3



pg. 12



pg. 3



pg. 2



pg. 13

ILLUSTRATION BY JACOBO DE LA ROSA / THE PROSPECTOR

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PERSPECTIVES

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
LORAIN AMBROCIO, 747-7477

50 Shades of fucked up

BY MARIA ESQUINCA
The Prospector



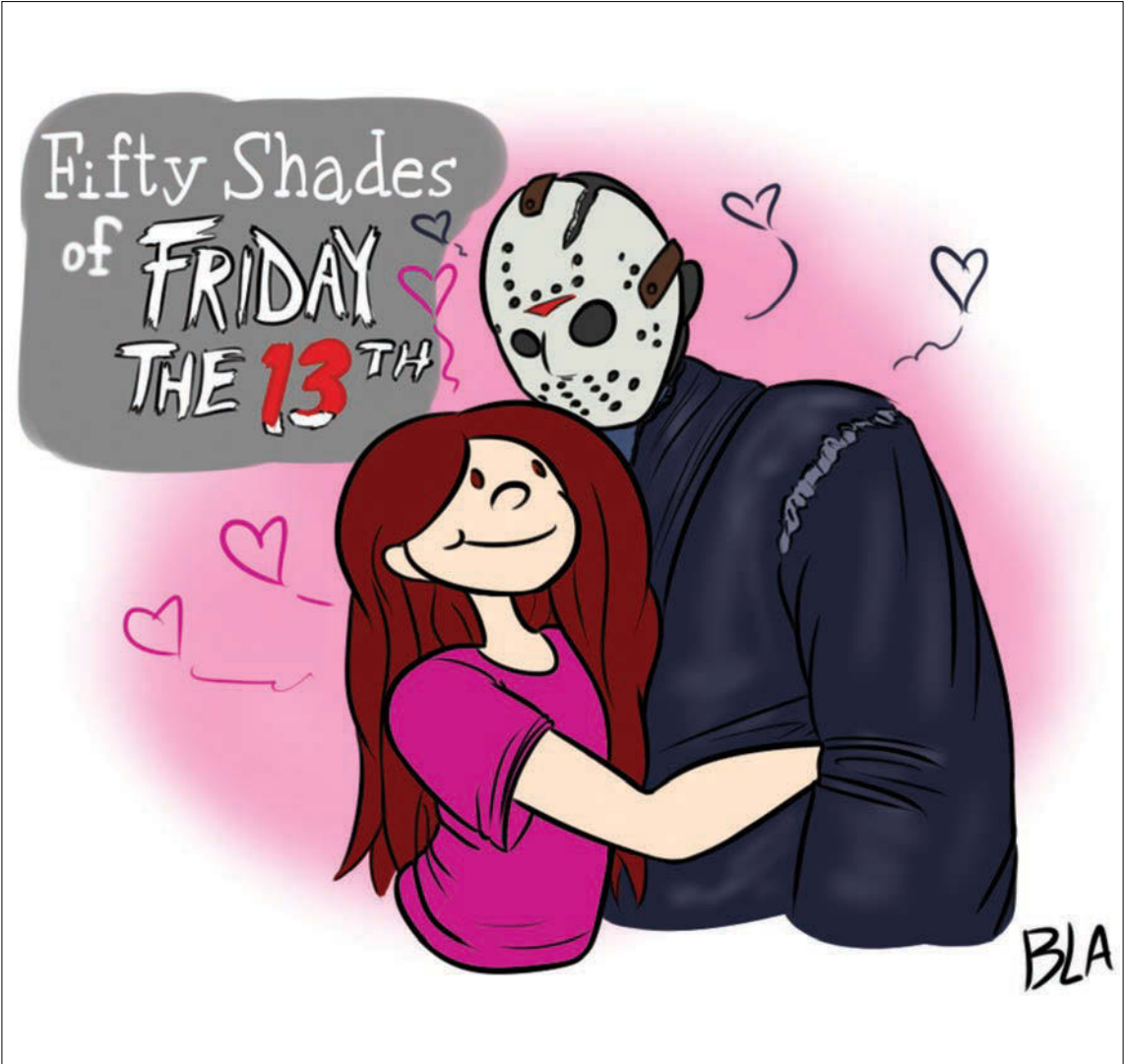
Christian Grey and Anastasia Steele are the newest power couple. Their taboo love, filled with rope, paddles and leather whips, have sold more than 100 mil-

lion copies. I remember first reading the novel in 2011. Huddled over the book, I was entranced and finished the book in two days. My uncle asked me what I was reading, and I mumbled, ‘nothing.’ I didn’t want to tell him I was reading a BDSM scene, where Ana, the protagonist, was getting her clitoris flicked with a leather whip by the handsome Christian Grey. I thought the writing was bad, but it was something new, and it felt strangely liberating to read something so taboo. If you were to ask me now what I think about the book I would say the book is the continuation of the literal and symbolic domination of women by men through a skewed view of BDSM. The book, “50 Shades of Grey” is about Ana Steele and Christian Grey. Ana, a young college student, first meets the handsome and rich Grey for an interview for the college newspaper. This marks the beginning of a BDSM dom/sub union through a legal contract.

Rhonda Perky, a student sociologist who writes about BDSM, wrote that dominance/submission, sadism and masochism, fall under the label of BDSM. S&M is about deriving sexual pleasure from pain. The dom or sadist inflicts pain upon the sub or masochist. However, “50 Shades of Grey” portrays an abusive relationship under the guise that it’s BDSM. Instances of abusive-possessive behavior are shown before the BDSM contract is signed between Ana and Grey. He is presented as a controlling man a few pages into the book. When first interviewing him, Grey tells Ana that he exercises “control on all things,” (pg. 12). He further adds, “A man who acquires the ability to take full possession of his own mind may take possession of anything else to which he is justly entitled. I’m very singular, driven. I like control – of myself and those around me” (pg. 11). This possessive behavior extends to Ana—she is something to be owned, something to be had—and in this manner she is de-humanized and objectified.

“You are mine,” he whispers. “Only mine. Don’t forget it,” (pg 86). It’s important to note, that this scene is before they’re acting as dom/sub’s. Day One, a non-profit organization that fights to end dating abuse and domestic violence, lists possessiveness or treating you like property as a warning sign of abuse. Others include jealousy or insecurity, telling you what to do and explosive temper, all behaviors seen in Grey throughout the book. People that defend the book are quick to point out that the relationship is not abusive because it’s part of BDSM. Yet, Clarisse Thorn, a BDSM writer, says within BDSM role policing is a way to police that dom/sub role in a way that leads, assumptions about both roles. “Often, people do this via what we call role policing--they make claims about “real submission” and “real dominance.” Grey participates in role policing by telling Ana that she is supposed to act submissive to him, “in all things.” “It means I want you to willingly surrender yourself to me, in all things.” I frown at him as I try to assimilate this idea. “Why would I do that?” “To please me,” he whispers,” (pg.72). Thorn adds that this is problematic because, “the consent problem here is that role policing can be used to mess with people’s consent.” The consent between Ana and Grey are clearly blurred in the book. Pamela Anderson, another writer and BDSM’er writes, “When a submissive or dominant says “Red” it means HARD STOP. Christian not only ignored Ana’s safe word in one scene, but he expressed anger at her need to hold her own boundaries. That is sexual abuse and assault. That is not BDSM” These are a few out of many examples from a book that romanticizes abuse, under the pretense that it’s “BDSM.” This book and the movie are harmful to women because it presents an abusive relationship as something ideal, romantic and Grey as the perfect partner. Anderson concludes, “while the book may be a sexy read (it’s fiction!), we really don’t want to have this as our template for hot sexy delicious consensual BDSM sexual encounters and relationships.” It’s my hope that readers and viewers, especially women, will be able to make the distinction not only between fiction and reality, but also between healthy and abusive. Grey is not the perfect man. He is an abusive controlling man.

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Bitter-sweet and proud

BY AMANDA GUILLEN
The Prospector



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

For many this is just a small reminder that time is ticking to find that special person who you’ll share Feb. 14th with, or if you have that special someone to find the gift that will make their day perfect. For others it is the time of year where we put our blinders on and head straight for the necessities and book it out of the store quicker than you can say “Be Mine.” This year I can’t decide which hat I will wear, given that last Valentine’s Day my revelation was that this holiday is a day to celebrate love, romantic or not. Although I still believe this to be true it got me thinking, ‘why is it bad to be bitter on Valentine’s Day?’ Now, before I get all Carrie Bradshaw in this column, I think about all the girls and guys that will be complaining and whimpering about the holiday. I always told myself that I would never be one to feel bad for myself or bring down Valentine’s Day just because I didn’t have a significant other, but when thinking about why people drown themselves in the loathing of Valentine’s Day I start to wonder if deep down inside I, too, am a secret love-day-hater cloaked in an optimistic mindset. Now, typically the biggest Valentine’s Day haters are the people that would be rubbing it in others faces if they did have a Valentine via social media—they are the ones who wished but did not receive. Regardless of my true feelings toward Valentine’s Day, I want every dateless single to embrace being bitter because if you do it right it can be fun. Following this five-step process will bring out the bitterness in you and will, in the end, let you say ‘I am bitter and proud.’ (Disclaimer: what may work for some may not work for all, try this at your own risk). Step one: smile at every cutesy couple, especially the girl with the oversized bear and roses, and just think you won’t have to worry about your flowers dying or the bear taking up space in your college-sized apartment. Also, it is scientifically proven that smiling can add years to your life (giving us more time to find that special someone...or not).

Step two: sleep in and dress how you please, since you don’t have to worry about impressing anyone. You can roll out of bed and not feel the pressure of looking good for the day or night. This will leave you feeling rejuvenated and wide awake—enough to binge on a 10-hour Netflix marathon. Step 3: Go buy yourself something nice with the money that you won’t spend on a gift. Treat yourself to that bag you’ve had your eye on or that watch you said you didn’t need. The great thing about buying your own gifts is knowing you’ll never be disappointed. Step 4: stay on social media. Although some stay away from social media to avoid the sappy posts and the flaunting of love and gifts, you should be able to double tap, like, favorite and comment on anything Valentine related. Be happy that there is love consuming the air waves rather than hate. Don’t be that person that one day says you’re tired of hearing about the negative and then reject the positive that is love. Step 5: spread the love. Every year I look forward to the red heart-shaped lollipops. I always stock up since I know they won’t be back until the next year. see BITTER-SWEET on page 6

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Student virgins fight pressure to save themselves for marriage

BY BEN WOOLRIDGE

The Prospector

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

Lucas Galey, biomedical engineering graduate student, said he has chosen to abstain from sex as part of God's plan for his life.

"It's such an intimate personal act. It's something I've decided to save until marriage so that I can share it with that one person," Galey said. "To me, marriage is a contract for life."

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

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

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

Galey said he has seen how relationships based solely on sex end with people's hearts being broken.

"That shows to me that it's more than just a physical thing. It's really a deep emotional connection," he said.

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



Two students talk in between classes. They are not affiliated with the story.

MICHAELA ROMAN / THE PROSPECTOR

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

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

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

"It's definitely hard to wait. Our society is full of sex everywhere," Tafoya said. "Hopefully, God willing, I'm able to make it."

Galey said he is not easily influenced by peer pressure.

"There is a lot of pressure, but to me it's just like, okay, it's not worth it unless I decide that it's worth it," he said. "Society really wants you to want it."

Tafoya said that remaining a virgin until marriage is a personal

choice and he encourages others to be abstinent.

"I think what I'm doing is worth it," Tafoya said. "It's not too late."

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

"It bugs me sometimes," Galey said. "We're not told to keep other people's pasts in mind, as Christians. We're told to love people."

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

"That's our special thing. No one can get in between that," he said.

For Tafoya, the reason for remaining a virgin until marriage is clear.

"I want it to be special and I want it to be worth it," Tafoya said.

Ben Woolridge may be reached at theprospectordaily.
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Outreach, resources for transgender people progressing in El Paso, on campus

BY LORAIN AMBROCIO

The Prospector

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

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

It wasn't until he started attending classes at UTEP, and had a conversation with another student that he realized that not everyone else felt as uncomfortable as he did.

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

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

"Binders are like a really tight tank top with two layers of tight-ass material. It hinders your breathing so I had to wear that all of the time to keep my chest down. That's also really dangerous because it can cause breast cancer," Perez said.

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

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

"I told her I was going to New York to see a doctor over there to start hormones and she couldn't do anything about it," he said. "I was gone for a month, so when I came back she missed me so much that it was rather insignificant."

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

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



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Dating someone with children may not always be a dealbreaker

BY ALONSO MORENO
The Prospector

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

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

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

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

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

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

"The fear is that all will fall apart if they find out that there is a child," Johnson said. "That means that they have had sex with somebody else, they have had a baby, and that can be very threatening to a lot of people

as many still have the stereotype that they are the only one."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



RUBY CERINO / THE PROSPECTOR

For some, dating a single parent may evoke a fear of being unprepared for the relationship, or not wanting to settle down.

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

"It went really well. At first it was a bit nerve-racking, but it was like I was talking with my little brother," Martinez said. "We started to interact more and through the years he began to confide in me and started

talking to me about girls and other personal matters."

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

"There is no such thing as a perfect parent, every parent makes a mistake, or two or three," he said.

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


"My advice is don't be afraid, try be calm, be flexible and give it time," Johnson said.

Alonso Moreno may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

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Think before you ink—love may be temporary, tattoos are not



Jeremy Hicks shows off his tattoos while at My Skin Tattoo.

The Prospector

"Some of the craziest love tattoos I've been paid to do are these huge names of people's significant others. This guy came in here once and he wanted to get his girlfriend's name tattooed on his torso. He came back to cover it up

During this time of the year, men and women seem to be overcome with an intense feeling of romanticism, which drives them into making what some would consider crazy impulsive decisions.

However, it is common for these clients to come back to the tattoo shops months, if not days later, ready to get their love tattoos covered up or removed.



ANDRES MARTINEZ/THE PROSPECTOR

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

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

see TATTOOS on page 8



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OUTREACH from page 3

get acne, since you're going through puberty. I had perfect flawless skin before this."

After the first year, Perez's voice settled, but he still can't sing like he used to. "I don't have as wide of a vocal range because my voice will just crack. In a couple of years, I'll be able to hit those higher notes," he said. "Hopefully, I get facial hair one day. I'm just fuzzy."

Perez said that transitioning costs a lot of money, and those who want to transition have to have a doctor who will treat and see them as a transgender person who is sane.

Texas still considers transitioning to a different sex as psychological. Those who want to transition must go through

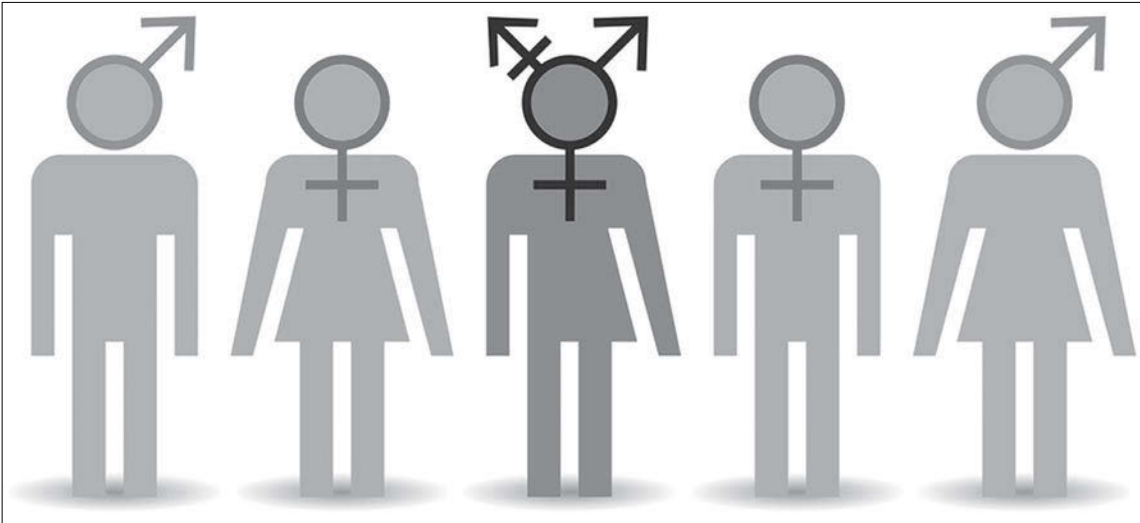
three months of psychological therapy first to prove that they are a transgender person. Only then can hormone treatment be started.

Once a willing therapist is found, the transgender person has to find a willing endocrinologist to administer the hormone treatments and begin treatment.

"My family struggled with it, but I think they would have struggled with it more if I had been younger," Perez said. "The changes have been gradual enough that my family was able to get used to it, like my voice being different."

During Christmas, his family wrote Adriano on his gifts.

"When my mom yells at me, she'll call me Adriano, so that's cool," Perez said. "You're mad at me, but



I'm so happy that you're using the right name."

Perez changed his name last summer, keeping his initials the same and using his mother's maiden name as his last name.

"My mom's middle name is Kristina so I made mine Kristian, and I tell her, 'see, you can't be mad at me because I changed my name to yours,'" he said.

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

"They had never been interviewed for a health needs assessment before, and we didn't know what the resources were in the community," Loza said.

The study is now under revision and Loza is working on publishing the findings.

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

Since the interviews, however, Loza has been working with community partners, including the Department of Public Health and two physicians in endocrinology and pediatrics—including

Dr. Hector Granados—from Texas Tech University Health Science Center in El Paso, the Office of Diversity Affairs at Texas Tech, International AIDS Empowerment and The M Factor, to create a professional network that will work toward improving health services for lesbian, gays, bisexual and transgender persons living in El Paso.

"Services have emerged and people have come forward. Centers that didn't exist have returned with a different name, like OUtight Community Center, an LGBT youth center," Loza said. "That didn't exist five years ago, so I guess some agencies have come back under a new name, design, management, etc."

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

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

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

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

"So instead of saying, 'is that your wife or girlfriend?' they will say, 'is that your partner?' They welcome other scenarios that are non-traditional or not being assessed on the forms," Loza said. "Those are small changes that are occurring in health care."

Loza and her partners want to launch a study where all health care and social services providers in the region are interviewed on how willing they are to

serve the LGBT community, particularly transgender people.

That information will go on a resource page that will be posted on the city's website.

"This has been a huge effort. It has brought a lot of people together who care about the community, and have realized that there is nothing here for them. We want to change that," Loza said.

Loza said that when people talk about health in the LGBT community, specifically transgender women, they are always talking about HIV.

"They are a human body that has other organs, and engages in other behaviors besides sex," she said. "So we need to address that, and remove the stigma of only focusing on HIV. There are disparities in other things."

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

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

Lorain Ambrosio may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

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BITTER-SWEET from page 2

I know that I'm not the only one who shares my admiration for the candy so buy some lollipops and pass them out to every person you make eye contact with in the halls or outside walking across campus.

Now, although some of you may read this and find it pathetic that people take the time to feel good about their dateless selves on Valentine's Day, you are the problem that I am trying to avoid and the reason why I am writing this column.

I wanted to show others how to do bitter the right way, in style. As humans, we walk around every day being bitter about something in life whether it is about our grades, work or lifestyle. We always find a way to put a damper on any situation.

I wanted to make sure that the singles who may feel left out this Saturday feel

included and feel the urge to post about their awesome day rather than about how horrible they feel since they don't have a Valentine or those typical I hate Valentine's Day posts.

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

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

Amanda Guillen may be reached at theprospectordaily@gmail.com.

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TATTOOS from page 5

The removal of the tattoo or tattoos takes time and has to be spread out with multiple visits. The window of recovery is a couple of months in between sessions to not cause damage to the skin and effectively get rid of the tattoo. The tattoo removal procedure ranges from \$100 to \$300 for each session.

Albert said that if people want to risk getting a love tattoo and playing with the consequences of life, they should do it since life is about passion.

“The most popular couple tattoos right now are the Queen and King tattoos on the knuckles and the infinity symbols with the couple’s initials on them,” he said. “The infinity tattoo for couples I just find ironic. I chuckle inside whenever they ask to get it done.”

Tattoos can also be covered up with another tattoo, which is a quick and inexpensive option. Many television shows such as “Tattoo Nightmares” and “America’s Worst Tattoos” base their episodes on the surplus of regrettable tattoos across the nation,

where most of their clients want to cover up unwanted tattoos from past relationships gone wrong.

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

— Cynthia Sanchez
freshman
psychology major

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

Jesus Lopez may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.



ANDRES MARTINEZ / THE PROSPECTOR
Mauricio Pastor, who works at West Texas Tattoo, takes his shirt off to show his chest piece.

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ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR
KIMBERLY VALLE, 747-7477

Single or Taken there’s a place for you on Valentine’s Day



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

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

BY JULIA HETTIGER

The Prospector

Single or taken, there are many events taking place this Valentine’s Day, from yoga to concerts to singles parties. Venues in El Paso and the surrounding area have you covered. Michael Stuart, a salsa singer and actor, will be having a Chocolate Ex-

travaganza on Valentine’s Day beginning at 11 p.m. The party will take place at Club New York in Downtown El Paso at 200 Anthony St. The event is intended for singles to mingle and try exotic chocolates. General admission is \$20, and it is a 21 and over event. For more information, call Club New York at 915-533-3171.

The Inn of the Mountain Gods will be having a Stupid Cupid Glow Party for singles featuring DJ Frizzo on Feb. 13. The event will begin at 8 p.m. through 1 a.m. The event, which is intended to relieve the stress of being single on Valentine’s Day, will include live music, drinks, worst-date testimonies, and a place where you can

shred memorabilia from things you may not want to remember. On Valentine’s Day, the famous ‘90s band, All-4-One, will be performing their hit song, “I Swear” and others at the Inn of the Mountain Gods. Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. and the concert at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale now for \$55. The Inn of the Mountain Gods may be reached at 575-464-7059. Rock and roll legends Jerry Lee Lewis and Chubby Checker will also be putting on a show on Valentine’s Day at the Socorro Entertainment Center for a dinner concert. Joe Rodriguez, employee at the Socorro Entertainment Center, said concerts at the Socorro Entertainment Center are popular during Valentine’s Day weekend. “There will be more couples than singles. People go to dinner and dancing or concerts,” Rodriguez said. Rodriguez also said the Socorro Entertainment Center will decorate the event with balloons, streamers and other Valentine’s Day-themed party attire. This will be the first time that Jerry Lee Lewis and Chubby Checker will perform in El Paso. The concert and dinner will begin at 5 p.m. Tickets are on sale now for \$25. For more information call the Socorro Entertainment Center at 915-790-4000. Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan will be performing at the Plaza Theatre on Feb. 14. The concert begins at 8 p.m. and tickets range from \$30 to \$100.

The group originated in 1898 in Tecalitlan, Mexico, and since then they have starred in more than 200 movies and played shows in locations including Paris, New York, Chicago and San Diego. Elia Carbajal, events coordinator, said he expects the concert to be a popular date for Valentine’s Day. “It will probably sell out soon,” Carbajal said. “Couples better get their tickets quickly.” For more information, call The Plaza Theatre at 915-534-0609. “The Singles Party at the Inn of the Mountain Gods sounds interesting, so maybe I’ll go to that,” Lopez said. “If not, I’ll probably go to the movies instead.” In Downtown El Paso, Sparrow’s Spirits and Pies will be having live music the evening of Valentine’s Day. Drinks and pizza will be served. The event will begin at 8 p.m. Sparrow’s may be reached at 915-533-8988. Other Valentine’s Day events include yoga classes and brunch at Ardovino’s Desert Crossing. Dinner and dancing will be at Shundo Ballroom Dance Studio, Santa Lucia Catholic Church and La Tierra Café. For more information about these events, call Ardovino’s Desert Crossing at (575) 589-0653. Shundo Ballroom Dance Studio at 532-2043. Santa Lucia Catholic Church may be reached at 592-5245 and La Tierra Café at (915) 533-8890. Julia Hettiger may be reached at theprospectordaily. ent@gmail.com.

Keep your furry friend happy during Pet Awareness Month

BY VALERIE HERRERA

The Prospector

February is Responsible Pet Ownership Month. This month will celebrate all pet owners who are responsible and are serious about taking care of their pets. It’s also a great way for pet owners to step back and take a look at how they are doing. During this month, people are encouraged to pass the importance of being a responsible pet owner on to others and educate the public about how to be responsible for the sake of their pets’ well-being. Including a pet in your family can be a large responsibility, but it can also be incredibly rewarding. Every year millions of dogs and cats end up in shelters for a number of reasons most usually associated with the pet owner not being aware of how to care for their pet properly. “Not all animals are the same and have emotions, so the more you work with animals the more you get to recognize and see each one as a unique personality with different needs,” said Betty Hoover, executive director of the Humane Society of El Paso Hoover said people should consider adopting a pet almost the same as adopting a child because the animal will be a new addition to the family. “Being a responsible pet owner is much more than just providing adequate water, food and shelter for your pet, it is a lifetime commitment,” Hoover said. Pet owners are quite often not prepared for pet ownership and all that it entails when adopting a pet. Pet abandonment leads to overcrowding

of animal shelters, animal abuse and the unnecessary death of innocent animals. “When animals are trained and cared for properly, they are less likely to be given up to a shelter,” Hoover said. Providing for your pets’ physical needs and caring for them with love are the first requirements of responsible pet owners, but these are not the only requirements. Many pet owners have a busy lifestyle and tend to live within a boundary system set up of social standards and often don’t take the time to notice the signs in their pet’s behavior. For most people owning a pet is considered a privilege and results in a mutually beneficial relationship. Gerardo Reyes, senior mechanical engineering major, owns a 6-year-old boxer named Ticho. Reyes said pet owners need to be attentive to notice their behavior because they can’t communicate. “I raised my boxer since he was two months old and he is truly my best friend. I consider pet responsibility like taking care of your own son or daughter,” Reyes said. “They are defenseless beings and really depend on us just as an infant would.” According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, animal cruelty laws and regulations are set up by municipalities, cities or counties and can vary widely from state to state. “It is a requirement in El Paso to get a domestic animal micro-chipped whether it’s a cat, dog, rabbit or a ferret. It is also important to provide adequate food and shelter for the ani-



VALERIE HERRERA / THE PROSPECTOR

The Humane Society of El Paso is spreading Pet Awareness during the month of February.

mal especially during the hot summer and cold winter days,” Hoover said. “There are also chain and tethering regulations in the city.” Hoover said pets show signs in their behavior, their water consumption, their eating habits and activity, so as caring and concerned pet parents, these signs must be sought everywhere. “Another way of contributing to responsible pet ownership, even if you yourself don’t own a pet, if you see an animal that is not being treated properly, you need to report it to authorities so that they can look into it and ensure that the animal is removed from the situation,” Hoover said. The benefits of pet ownership do come with obligations, so it is important to stay informed on current tips to educate yourself about how to care for your pet. Rene Miranda, sophomore mechanical engineering major, owns two dogs and a goldfish and said it is important for pet owners to be informed about the responsibly of owning a pet before they get one. “They are completely dependent on us for their welfare and it is important,” Miranda said. Hoover said that animals may go through depressing times and hurt and cry just like human beings do because they have been separated from

their family and most often will shut down without any interaction. “We’ve experienced a number of reasons why people want to return their animals such as they are moving or the animal is too fragile,” Hoover said. “Which is why we always offer adoption counseling and parental guidance for first-time pet owners as well as other services to parents who have questions.” For more information, contact the El Paso Humane Society at 915-532-6971. Valerie Herrera may be reached at theprospectordaily. ent@gmail.com.

Ghost hunting on the most romantic day of the year

JESUS LOPEZ
The Prospector

There is no need to wait until Halloween for ghost tours, they will begin early this year on Valentine's Day weekend at Concordia Cemetery and Downtown El Paso.

"Concordia Cemetery has brought you stories of history, legends and lore of the City of the Dead," said Henry Flores, president of El Paso del Norte Paranormal Society.. On Friday the 13th, Ghosts915 will take visitors to the darkest and scariest parts of Concordia Cemetery and on Valentine's Day, the Yandell

gates will open wide for paranormal investigations. "Now that's love," Flores said. The ghost tour of Downtown El Paso will feature many spooky stories of hauntings and urban myths from this region of the Old West. People will be able to enter and explore many ghost-infested buildings from local places, including the remains of the Palace Saloon and the resurrection of the Wigwam Saloon. As attendants are guided through the halls and buildings, where terrifying events took place. They will get to experience a paranormal investigation firsthand. "It sort of sounds weird to attend a ghost tour on Valentine's Day," said Victoria Saucedo, freshmen business major.. "However, it kind of fits. Maybe taking a date and clinging on to their arms as we walk through the scary cemetery. It sounds like an interesting plan." Children over the age of 13 are allowed to attend the tours, but an adult must accompany them. These tours are a great opportunity for all guests to experience becoming ghost hunters. Recording devices are encouraged. "The Paso Del Norte Paranormal Society Inc is a 501 nonprofit organization. What we do is research on the paranormal, assist in educating the public when it comes to history of our region and also, we aid other nonprofit organizations of the type to raise funds." Flores said. "But mostly, our organization focuses on raising money for Texas historical landmarks such as Concordia Cemetery."

On Feb. 13 and on Valentine's Day, Concordia Cemetery will open its somber gates to a ghost tour at 9 p.m. Bring your flashlights and night vision goggles. Entrance fee is \$10 per person. Downtown El Paso tours will be held the same days for \$15. Ghosts915 also has many other mystic events coming up during the year, including many more ghosts tours including El Paso Ghost Stories, an open mic event where people attending can share their ghost sto-

ries and listen to many others. The Ghosts915 offices will also, feature free black-and-white movies of the paranormal during the spring. Tickets to these events may be purchased at the day of the event or by make reservations by calling 915-274-9531. For more information on the ghost tours and future events of the uncanny nature, visit ghosts915.com. Jesus Lopez may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.

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ANDRES MARTINEZ / THE PROSPECTOR
On Feb. 13 Concordia Cemetery will open its fates for ghost tours at 9 p.m.

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COLUMN

Genital modification no longer considered a taboo

BY JESUS LOPEZ
The Prospector

Body modification began as an archaic art, but in today's society, it may not be considered a taboo anymore. Body modification has been seen since the beginning of history. Many tribes of the past had traditions that included tattooing, skin stretching, piercing, scarification and self-mutilation—procedures that did not exclude the genital area. Today, the practices are still used. People tend to modify their genitals for many reasons, including sexual reassignment, medical necessity, cultural tradition, health-related issues or for aesthetic purposes.

"I don't think that there really is a difference between people who get the regular plastic surgeries and those who decide to have genital alterations," Jorge Hurtado, freshman engineering major said. "None feel comfortable with a specific aspect of their body, it doesn't matter if it's focused on their genitals or not. To me, it's the same principle." Taboo surgeries and practices, from genital piercing and

tattooing to genital bisection—where the penis is split in half—are actually undertaken for different purposes, such as adding sexual pleasure to an individual and their partner, for ethnic tradition and aesthetic appeal. "I don't think that there is anything wrong with it. Although, I do believe that the peer pressure of our surroundings is a weighty factor that has great impact on people who get these surgeries," Hurtado said. Clitoris and penis enlargement and vaginal rejuvenation are a few of the many genital modifications practiced by people today to heighten the level of comfort with their own bodies and the pleasure during intimacy with their partners during sex. These surgeries and modifications, however, have proven to be risky. Genital piercings, just as piercings in any other part of the body, carry the risk of infection. Although most men get their penises pierced with the purpose of increasing sexual pleasure, nerve damage can occur in the area, causing discomfort and swelling. The same risks occur with tattooing.

Surgeries like labiaplasty are less controversial and more common today than in past centuries, especially in the modern western world, where they have become a popular topic. Although people are more comfortable with the sexual aspects of their lives, because of social media and the sexual liberties of the contemporary world, they are also prone to lowered self-confidence when it comes to their bodies. The exposure to pornography has also had an impact on how people face the daily issue of body image, since the focus is fixated on their sexuality. "I have heard a lot about this topic recently, especially about the surgery women get on the internal labia, you know, because bodies tend to change over time," Karla Sofia Perez, freshman general studies major said. "I am guessing they do it to feel more comfortable about themselves and to be happy with their own bodies." When it comes to men, getting a circumcision may not be a personal choice. Most boys who are circumcised have the procedure done at a

very young age. Many people and groups, such as Jews Against Circumcision, believe the surgery of circumcision to be a barbaric practice. It has said that circumcised penises lose sensitivity over time. "I feel that circumcision is mostly a sanitary myth and that it is not realistic at all," Perez said. "Hygiene in that area really depends on the individual, but if anyone wants to get it done, it's their choice." Opinions are varied on the matter and individuals who decide to get their bodies modified, either from

necessity, sexual pleasure or for issues of confidence, all have many things to consider before taking the final step, making sure to assess the risks and benefits of all genital modifications. Jesus Lopez may be reached at theprospectoraily, news@gmail.com.

Hot and heavy at the drive-in

BY VALERIE HERRERA
The Prospector

The Fiesta Drive-In Theatre is an adult movie theater that was established in the 1980s and is one of the few operating drive-ins showing adult movies in Texas. It is located in east El Paso on 13800 Montana Ave. and has two motion picture screens with a maximum capacity for 500 cars. The throw-back themed drive-in is considered a historical landmark that is open year round and screens X-rated films to adult audiences only. With HD-quality movies being shown every night, Fiesta Drive-In doubles as an adult video store and an adult theater.

Lee Wilson, manager of Fiesta Drive-In, said movies are being produced in this industry every day, so their customers can expect to see a new movie aired every night. According to the United Drive-In Theatre Owners Association, during the peak of drive-ins in the late 1950s, there were almost 5,000 drive-ins across the country. Only 368 remain in the United States and decline by two to three per year. However, Fiesta Drive-In appears to be doing just fine, even gaining an audience. In 1960, there existed about 20 theaters in the U.S. that showed adult movies exclusively. In the late 1960s and early 1970s they spread to the rest of the country. Wilson said Fiesta Drive-In is a cinema structure with two large outdoor movie screens, a projection booth and a concession stand. "We have a large enclosed parking area for automobiles, where customers can view movies from the privacy and comfort of their own cars," he said. The store area is open every day seven days a week from noon to 12 a.m., and airs movies starting at around 9 p.m. Considering the explicit environment of the adult industry, all customers must be 18 and over and follow 21-and-over alcohol consumption laws. "We do follow strict regulations of the law and ask for identification of all our customers before entering the premises," Wilson said. Wilson did not say which movies would be shown on Valentine's Day, since movies are usually picked to air that same day, but he said Fiesta

Drive-In does expect to see a great crowd that night. Snacks are sold on site, but people are encouraged to bring their own food, drinks and alcohol. "The theatre is BYOB, meaning bringing your own beer, booze, babe, burger, barbecue, etc," Wilson said. "Yes we have experienced people bring their own barbecue grills, so it's however you would like to interpret it." According to Federal laws, local governments commonly prohibit adult theaters from operating within a certain distance of residential areas, parks, churches or schools. Restrictions on adult theaters vary by region and may be restricted by local and state regulations. Often adult theaters have been forced to move to the outskirts of cities in order to protect real estate prices in city centers. For the patrons, rules are generally less strict regarding activity taking place in their vehicles. "We don't really have any regulations with what the customers are doing in their cars considering this is a privately owned business and property as long as they are not bothering other people around them and aren't doing it outside of their vehicles," Wilson said. The company is originally known as a couple's friendly and full-service adult superstore. They have the largest selection of adult DVDs, sex toys and intimacy items to satisfy everyone's taste. Adrian Herrera, senior computer science major, said he was never aware that El Paso had a drive-in theater, but would consider checking it out. "I've been to adult stores before. I didn't know there was such a thing as a drive-in theater that shows pornography on a big screen," Herrera said. "It seems kind of weird, but I would probably try it out sometime." Wilson said the environment is very friendly and nice. It is a different type of crowd, a more mature crowd who just want to enjoy themselves. The drive-in is currently going through a construction phase, but renovations are expected to be complete in the next few weeks. "We have considered changing the name to suit the modernization of the company, but we decided to keep the

old name because of its reputation. But many people like to call it, fiesta de l'amour, which is French for fiesta of love," Wilson said. Cost of admission is \$6 for men and free for females. For more information, call Fiesta Drive-In at 915-857-0000. "Whoever presents this article will get free admission to the theater," Wilson said. Valerie Herrera may be reached at theprospectoraily, ent@gmail.com.

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History at your finger tips

BY ALEXANDRA CARDWELL
The Prospector

The grand opening for Digital Information Gateway in El Paso, the first digital wall in America, will be on Feb. 14, at the El Paso Museum of History from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

DIGIE is a map and a major collection of various videos and pictures of El Paso's past and present. The goal of the digital wall is to attract many visitors and learn as much as they can about the city while being fully immersed in it. There is also the opportunity for children to be fully engaged and aware of the city's history and culture.

"People will be able to see the history of our city and our culture with their fingertips," said Marilu Valenzuela Aleman, marketing director for the museum. "You can even upload your own pictures to our website so they may be available to view on the wall.

The digital wall is a total of 35 feet long with a 36-foot protective 3-D touch screen over it. It is also five feet tall, with five Samsung digital monitors that people can use simultaneously.

"Viewers will not need 3-D glasses to view DIGIE," said Cindy Diaz, secretary of the museum.

Participants will be able to view many different photos depending on the theme or time selected. Visitors can view El Paso in all directions and can use a map to find exact locations. In order to be able to upload photos,

participants must be over the age of 13. All photos are subject to approval by the museum directors.

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

The inspiration for the digital wall came about when Julia Bussinger, the director of the El Paso Museum of History, went to an international museum conference in Berlin and met with the director of a the Museum of Copenhagen, which launched its digital wall in 2010.

Aleman said there would be performances by various dance academies, henna tattoos will be available, face painting, jugglers, mariachi, country, blues bands and much more. Flores Mexicana de Papel, will be providing free activities for children from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

More than 5,000 photos have already been uploaded to the DIGIE website dating back to the late 19th century to the present day.

Many of the earliest photos of El Paso have been supplied by UTEP. Besides landmarks, early photos are mainly of people passing through the city and members of the Asian and African American community.

"I've lived here all my life and I don't really know the history of El Paso," said Adriana Pena, sophomore political science major. "If people have to know the history of the United

States, then they should know their local history."

The structure of the building that houses the digital wall has been under construction for three years and the technical assembly for the actual wall began in January 2014 with digital artists from Danish design company, Spild af Tid International, and technicians of the New Zealand's Gibson's Group Touch City, Ltd.

"This is an opportunity for photos that would otherwise be lost in an attic or subject to disintegration to be stored safely while contributing to the history of our city," museum curator Everett Thomas said. "It's El Paso's history, Texas history and United States history."

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

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

Alexandra Cardwell may be reached at theprospector@daily.com.

ILLUSTRATION



ILLUSTRATION BY ASHLEY MUÑOZ / THE PROSPECTOR

Would you date someone with kids?

HUGO BRITO, RUBY CERINO, ANDRES MARTINEZ, MICHAELA ROMAN / THE PROSPECTOR



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



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



DORRIS HARRIS
Sophomore social work major
"Yes, I would date someone that has kids because when you pigeon hole the 'I would date him because he has kids' you miss out on really good people."



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



HAYLEY K LECKER
Sophomore biochemistry major
"No, because if there is a break up and you get attached to the child its more harmful on them. Children get attached really easily to people and things dont always workout."



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



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



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



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



TIFFANY M. SCHWEDA
Senior biological science
"Yes, because usually they already have their lives in order if they have a child, they are more mature and know where their lifes are going."

FEBRUARY 10, 2015

SPORTS

EDITOR

LUIS GONZALEZ, 747-7477

Local wrestler carries on the Guerrero legacy



JASON GREEN / THE PROSPECTOR

Local professional wrestler Hector Rincon uses canned air to get rid of the crowd's bad smell.

BY JASON GREEN

The Prospector

Hector was sitting on the toilet when he got the call.

He still chuckles when he thinks about Mando asking him if he was sitting down.

Then he wipes a tear from his eye.

He had lost a high school teammate—a training partner—a sometimes tag team partner.

He and the wrestling world had lost Eddie Guerrero.

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

Hector had known Eddie since they wrestled together at Jefferson High School under the watchful eye of coach Grayson Gwynn III. It was there that Hector asked Eddie if he was one of “The Guerreros.” It was from that question that a lifelong passion to learn the art of professional wrestling would begin in Hector.

Not long after a simple conversation on the practice mats, Hector would find himself in a backyard ring with “The Gory Guerrero.”

Guerrero was a legend in El Paso and before that he was an even bigger legend in Mexico. Gory had a distinguished pro-wrestling career that spanned four decades.

Hector would train with the best and be trained by the best.

It was not long before he and Eddie were wrestling on both sides of the border—sometimes with each other, sometimes against each other.

Hector’s dad was not too keen on his desire to become a pro wrestler. Hector’s mom was almost completely scared off when he came home with a nose that had just been popped back into place while he was regaining consciousness in the ring—the result of letting Eddie Guerrero practice a new dive off of the top turnbuckle onto him.

Hector attended UTEP mainly to appease his father, whose dream it was for Hector to be a civil engineer. It wasn’t long before the booing crowds—Hurricane’s been a heel, rudo or just plain bad guy almost from the start—began calling him back to the ring.

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

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

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

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

Hector suddenly found himself out of college and working at Orange Julius. He continued to train with

the Guerreros. Hector and the gang would train after school—for those who were still in school—and every Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon.

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

“Eddie had his work cut out for him. Guerrero is already known—his last name—when he went to Juárez he got booked pretty much automatically. But, he had to live up to the expectations of his brothers and his dad,” said Hector. “It wasn’t ‘hey look, I’m Eddie Guerrero’—it wasn’t that easy.”

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

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

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

“My procrastination—I won’t say it was my demise—it’s what kept me from going anywhere. Eddie was always there and saying ‘come on bro, I’ll take you to Japan,’” Hector said. “I

went to visit him one time when he was wrestling with WCW. He said ‘bring your stuff, I’ll introduce you to the promoter down here, we’ll give you a dark match.’ It was me—it was

“
I do it for the love of the sport. It’s kinda like a drug, it’s very addictive.
”

- ‘Hurricane’ Hector, local professional wrestler and trainer

me more than anything else. When we were in Florida, I was already married and had a family.”

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

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

When he talks about his wife and kids, Hector’s face lights up even more than it does when he talks about the good old days of traveling around the borderland with the Guerreros.

Hector has found his niche. He is not an engineer like his father desired. He is not a wrestling coach at a high school like he had desired at one time. He is a professional wrestler—locally, not necessarily what Eddie Guerrero desired for him.

He is a man who has made a good living with an elevator repair company for 24 years. He is a loving father and husband. He is even a wrestling teacher—albeit in a backyard ring much like Gory Guerrero’s.

Hector is a man who has walked his own path and made the tough decisions along the way. He may have never felt the spotlight of the big time, but he still enjoys the booing that he receives most weekends.

“I do it for the love of the sport,” he said. “It’s kinda like a drug, it’s very addictive. If you actually love the sport.”

Like any proud father, he is happy to see his trainees perform in the ring—as a conduit of lessons learned from one of the greatest of all time.

More importantly than any of that, Hector is being there for his own children almost every evening. He has lost friends and mentors along the way, but “Hurricane” Hector Rincon would not change a thing.

Jason Green may be reached at theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com.

Men’s basketball looks to continue streak

BY LUIS GONZALEZ
The Prospector

Five of the final seven regular season games will be at home for coach Tim Floyd and the UTEP men’s basketball team.

After coming back from Florida with two wins this past weekend against Florida Atlantic and Florida International, the Miners are preparing for their longest conference home stand of the season.

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

FAU beat UTEP on a last second

“

We would love it if we can (get a top-four seed). We’ve got three in a row at home, that gives us a chance.

”

- Tim Floyd,
UTEP men’s basketball coach

shot, last season at the Don Haskins. Thursday night, UTEP repaid the favor, beating the Owls by a final of 63-57 in Boca Raton, Fla.

Senior center Cedric Lang scored a season-high 16 points and sophomore forward Vince Hunter led all scorers with 22 as the Miners dominated FAU down in the paint to end their road-losing streak at two.

“We got good efforts from our bigs,” Floyd said. “Vince was aggressive, Cedrick was really aggressive.”

The two Miner bigs were especially dominant in the second half when UTEP outscored FAU 24-6 in the paint. With the score tied at the break, Hunter made sure the Miners did not lose their third-straight road game by scoring 17 points in the final 20 minutes of play.

With a little over two minutes to play and the score tied at 54, UTEP finished the game on a 9-2 run, all

Miner points coming from the free-throw line.

After their third-straight win, Tim Floyd and his squad headed 45 minutes south to Miami to play Florida International. The Miners were in control throughout the first half and went to the break with a nine-point lead over the home team.

The comfortable lead fluctuated in the second half, from as many as 11 points to just two, and then disappeared with less than a minute and a half to be played.

The Panthers got their first lead of the game with 1:23 remaining and with UTEP’s winning streak in danger.

Freshman guard Omega Harris went into the paint, grabbed an offensive rebound and put the Miners back on top, where they would stay for good. UTEP once again closed the game out on the free-throw line, scoring the final three points.

“We feel very fortunate,” Floyd said. “We were able to get to the line and that was really the difference in the game.”

After an unexpected Western Kentucky loss at home against Rice, there is a three-way tie at the top of the Conference USA standings. UAB and Louisiana Tech caught up with the Hilltoppers with a conference record of 8-2. UTEP trails all three of them by just one game.

“We would love it if we can (get a top four seed in the conference tournament),” Floyd said. “We’ve got three in a row at home, that gives us a chance.”

The first of those three games will be on Thursday night, Feb. 12, when the Miners host Charlotte on the floor of the Don Haskins. Charlotte is coming off a close loss at Old Dominion, in which they gave the 18-4 Monarchs all they could handle. With a 3-6 conference record, the 49ers are tied for ninth place with North Texas and Rice.

In Charlotte, the Miners will face one of the best statistical offenses in Conference USA, but also one of the worst defenses.

In fact, the 49ers are the team that allows, on average, the most points per game to an opponent. On average 72 ppg is what an offense has scored this year when playing Charlotte. On the flip side, they are the second-most explosive offense, averaging exactly 73 ppg.

UTEP is among the top five in scoring offense, scoring just under 70 ppg



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

MICHAELA ROMAN / THE PROSPECTOR



MICHAELA ROMAN / THE PROSPECTOR

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

and the top three in scoring defense, allowing just 63.3.

Three 49ers are averaging double digits—freshmen guard Torin Dorn averages 12.3 ppg, sophomore guard Braxton Ogbueze averages 10.5 ppg and senior guard Pierria Henry an even 10.

Finally, the matchup will offer some pretty good rebounders. For the Miners, Hunter leads the league averaging 9.7 rebounds per contest. Lang is second on the team with an average of 6.5. Charlotte has two players among the top 10 Conference USA rebound-

ers in junior forward Willie Clayton and junior center Mike Thorne Jr. Both players average 6.7 rebounds per game.

Miners and 49ers met last season on the floor of the Don Haskins with the favorable result going to UTEP by a final score of 73-68.

As they have done pretty much all year, the team that comes to El Paso on Saturday, Feb. 14, does so after a stop in San Antonio. For the first time ever, the Old Dominion Monarchs will be on the floor of the Don Haskins Center. These teams met last

year in Norfolk, Va., where the Miners prevailed 63-49.

This year the matchup promises to be a lot closer. Already established is the fact that UTEP is one of the best defensive teams in the league. Statistically there are just two better than the Miners and one of them is Old Dominion.

Once ranked nationally, the Monarchs boast the best scoring defense in Conference USA, allowing opponents to score an average of 57.3 ppg. The Monarchs have allowed just two teams to reach 80 points this year and one other has reached 70.

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

The Monarchs are led by guard Trey Freeman. The 6-foot-2 junior is averaging just over 16 ppg and could pose a considerable challenge for the Miner front court. No Monarch averages over 5.7 rebounds per game, but the team leads the league with a +5.3 rebounding margin.

With the two wins on the road, UTEP has assured itself a positive balance on the road this year in conference. Winning on the road could prove to be the difference the Miners need to pull ahead in such a tight league race—as long as they take care of business at home.

“We’ve got five road wins now, which is important,” Floyd said. “We’ve got to go back and play some very good teams at home and try to play them well.”

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Lady Miners to be tested on the road



MICHAELA ROMAN / THE PROSPECTOR

UTEP has just one win this season in Conference USA road games.

BY JUAN CARLOS NAVARRETE

The Prospector

The Lady Miners will be on the road to play Charlotte and Old Dominion on Thursday and Saturday, respectively. The Miners, who are coming off their first win at home after a six game losing streak, will look to get a different streak going on the road

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

The Miners, now 9-11 and 4-7 in Conference USA, can take a win away from the 49ers and continue their

pursuit towards the conference championships with a win against a weak team. Charlotte is 5-5 in conference play and has won two straight games since losing three consecutive in late January.

If the Miners can replicate their two last games in terms of rebounding getting a positive streak going should be that much easier. The Miners have

outrebounded its last two opponents by a combined 81-53, including 34 on the offensive end.

The Miners have played exceptionally well on defensive end as of late too. The Miners outscored FIU 25-8 off turnovers during the 72-56 beat down last Saturday—that can lead to another Miner win this week against Charlotte.

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

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

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

The Miners can see this game as a true test of their defense and recent rebounding success. The Monarchs have two players listed at 6-3 and six other listed that are at least six feet.

Old Dominion and UTEP have played two times. They met first in the 88-89 season at a neutral site with the Monarchs prevailing 77-71. Last

year, the Miners visited Old Dominion and came away victorious by a final of 65-55.

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

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

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

Playing on the road is never easy, regardless of team standing or record.

If the Miners can find a way to win both games they will start to move up the standings in Conference USA. The six-game losing streak could begin to fade at the sight of a three game winning streak and the Miners can take control of their season with two big games this week.

"We are competing," Adams said. "We were in a position to have a chance to win and that's what you want."

Juan Carlos Navarrete can be reached at theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com

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Softball heads to Vegas for the weekend



The UTEP softball team is winless after starting the season with five straight losses.

FILE PHOTO

BY JASON GREEN
The Prospector

The UTEP softball team opened the season this past weekend with the Kajikawa Classic in Tempe, Arizona.

This weekend, the team will head to Las Vegas for the Wilson/DeMarini Desert Classic.

UTEP is 0-5 after losing all five games of their season-opening tournament. The team lost two games when they were halted in the fifth inning because of run differential. The other three games were very close – UTEP lost two of them by one run and the other by only two.

UTEP lost the third game of their five-game tournament to Portland State (2-3) by a score of 7-5.

Prior to coming to UTEP before the start of last season, head coach Tobin Echo-Hawk was in charge of the Portland State softball team. After losing many close games, UTEP will undoubtedly be excited to match up again the Vikings in the first game of this weekend's tournament.

Heading into the Kajikawa Classic, Echo-Hawk felt that her current team would be well prepared to take on her former team

UTEP's second game of the day on Friday will be against Indiana University.

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

Nevada left the Kajikawa Classic with a 1-4 record, but the team twice held a lead on No.2-ranked Oregon Ducks before finally losing 12-8.

Saturday the Miners will match up against the BYU Cougars (2-3). BYU bested Virginia by a score of 2-0 in the Kajikawa Classic.

Virginia defeated the Miners in the opening game of the tournament by a score of 14-5. Before heading home on Sunday, the Miners will take on tournament host UNLV (3-2).

Much like last season, the Miners' hitters are carrying the load for the team. Senior Tahla Wade went 8 for 18 at the plate during last weekend's tournament and currently leads the team with a .444 batting average.

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

Prior to the start of the Kajikawa Classic, Echo-Hawk was not willing to call junior pitcher Danielle Pearson her number one starter. Instead, the Miners coach preferred to start the

season with more of a baseball style "pitch by committee" type of rotation.

"We'll put them in for a couple of innings and see how they do and then go from there—do it more of a baseball-type mentality where we have our starter, our reliever and our closer—just because they are all so similar," said Echo-Hawk.

Unfortunately—like last season—pitching seems to be a large part of the Miners' losses. The team left Arizona with a 9.80 team-earned run average.

The team's three starting pitchers—sophomore Taylor Grohmann, sophomore Kaitlin Fifield and sophomore Erika Harrawood—finished this past weekend's tournament with a combined 0-4 record and a total of 30 earned runs surrendered in 21.4 innings pitched.

Another problem from last year that plagued the Miners in their season-opening tournament is stolen bases allowed.

Last season, the Miners were one of the worst teams in the conference at throwing out would be base stealers.

During the Kajikawa Classic, the Miners' two starting catchers—freshman Linda Garcia and freshman Kaitlin Ryder—allowed a total of six stolen bases on seven attempts. Ryder caught one attempted base stealer on five attempts.

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

"That's going to be our determining factor in who starts and who doesn't—who can throw out runners," Echo-Hawk said. "We gave up 97 (stolen bases) last year. That's just something we're not going to do again, essentially giving up a double every time somebody gets on."

After a rocky start, the Miners have plenty of time to get things back in order prior to the start of conference play. A good showing in the Wilson/DeMarini Desert Classic would go a long way toward rebuilding some of the team's confidence.

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

Jason Green may be reached at theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com.

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XOXOXO

To: The Prospector Students
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Thank you for all your hard work!

Happy Valentine's Day!

To: David
From: Anna

Miu amuchi, I love you to the moon and back!

3 words, 8 letters.
Say it and I'm yours!

XOXO

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