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The Prospector, April 14, 2015

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ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

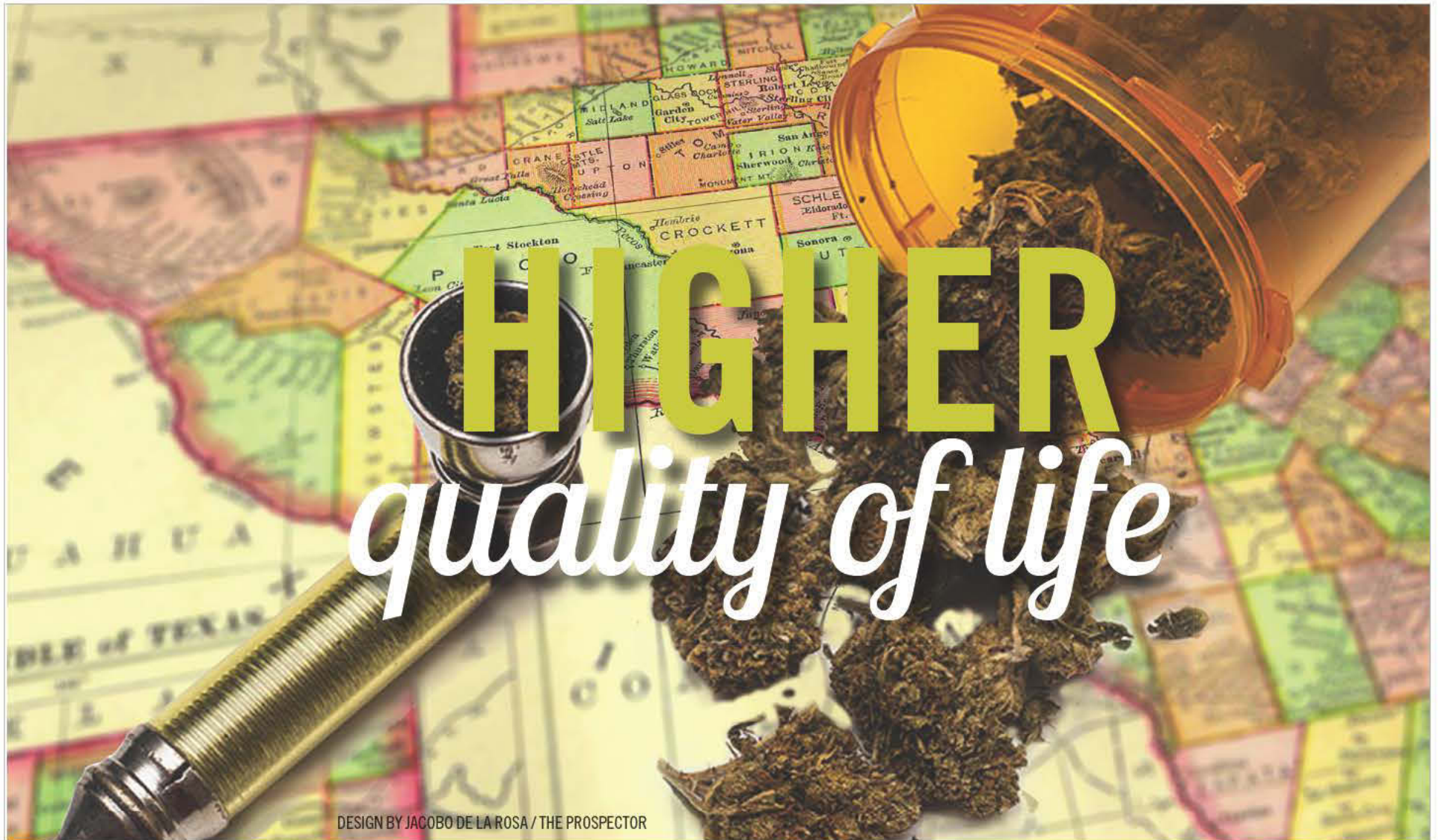
THE PROSPECTOR

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VOL. 100, NO. 24

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

APRIL 14, 2015



House bill aims to decriminalize marijuana possession

BY MARIA ESQUINCA

The Prospector

It was a regular Sunday evening for Daniel Gonzalez, until his friend took a wrong turn and they got stopped by a cop. His friend got a DUI, but Gonzalez got arrested for being in possession of two marijuana joints and drug paraphernalia and was sent to jail.

"Being in the same jail cell with a rapist and a thief, that's not right," Gonzalez said. "I'm not hurting anybody, you know?"

Gonzalez, a sophomore communication major, was arrested and sent to jail. It was his third time getting charged for possession of marijuana, and under Texas law that's a felony. He was able to get a good lawyer, who got his charge dropped from a felony to a class B misdemeanor, allowing him to attend UTEP.

A new bill introduced into the Texas legislature could help people in his situation in the future.

The bill authored by Texas representative Joe Moody, D-El Paso, would decriminalize marijuana by making possession of one ounce or less of

marijuana a class B misdemeanor and subject to a \$100 citation, removing the possibility of arrest, jail time and a criminal record.

"HB 507 will push forward to helping people like myself to stay out of jail, and it's just a waste of money putting me in jail, putting me in the court system," Gonzalez said.

Currently in Texas, possession of two ounces or less of marijuana is considered a class A misdemeanor punishable by up to 180 days in jail and a \$2,000 fine.

Ellic Sahualla, chief of staff and general counsel for Rep. Moody, said there are 70,000 arrests for marijuana every year in Texas, which costs \$734 million each year.

"What we do get are people—mostly young people—being convicted of drug offenses," Sahualla said in an email. "Those convictions give them a permanent criminal record that can lead to financial aid for school being pulled, loss or denial of jobs or housing...and even deportation. Good government means laws that lead to smart, fair outcomes in a cost-effective way."

The 2013 Texas Crime Report by the Texas Department of Public Safety states that the number of arrests for drug possession in 2013 was 123,483—marijuana possession comprised 57 percent of drug arrests. Out of those arrests, the 20-24 age group had the highest amount of arrests.

"It's not stopping individuals from doing it, all it does is create a burden for the system," said Dr. Mary Cuadrado, chair and assistant professor of the Department of Criminal Justice. "The only reason it's a crime is because we have defined it as such."

Figures from the El Paso District Attorney's office reveal that 4,752 cases were processed between 2013 and 2014 for possession of less than two ounces of marijuana.

Critics of current marijuana laws also point out that laws present a civil rights concern.

"We supported HB 507 because marijuana arrests disproportionately impact African Americans. This makes marijuana policy a civil rights issue," said Matt Simpson, senior policy strategist for the ACLU of Texas, in an email.

A report on marijuana by the ACLU in 2010 showed that nationwide the white arrest rate was 192 per 100,000 whites and the black arrest rate was 716 per 100,000 blacks, indicating that racial disparities exist nationwide regardless of household income level. However, marijuana use is roughly the same among blacks and whites. In 2010, 14 percent of blacks and 12 percent of whites reported using marijuana.

"There's clearly some kind of bias and how we're enforcing these laws, and if we want to actually have real justice in our country, we need to change these laws so they're not disproportionately affecting certain demographics of our community," said Hunter James White, communications director for Republicans Against Marijuana Prohibition.

HB 507 is one of 13 bills related to marijuana that have been introduced into the state legislature, including HB 2167 by state representative David Simpson, R-Longview, which would remove language from Texas statutes relating to marijuana so it wouldn't be considered a crime.

"It is a bipartisan issue certainly amongst the younger generation of Republicans and Democrats, the views on marijuana have very clearly changed," White said.

A poll conducted by the 2013 survey by Public Policy Polling, revealed that 61 percent of Texas would support decriminalization.

"Many Republicans hold the idea that the government should interfere as little as possible in a person's life. Nothing says interfering with someone's life like telling you what you can or can't put into your body," White said.

Danny "Kike" Perez, director for El Paso's National Organization for Reform of Marijuana Laws, agrees.

"That's why we have a high following of Republicans within this movement, because it is a right and they're starting to notice it," he said. "People believe that everybody that smokes cannabis is a loser that lives on their mom's couch and that's all they do is smoke weed. There's a lot of people, a lot of professionals, people like myself, we work really hard, we have our see MARIJUANA on page 8



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APRIL 14, 2015

PERSPECTIVES

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
LORAIN AMBROCIO, 747-7477

Texas Tramples the LGBT Community

BY MARIA ESQUINCA
The Prospector



As I stood in front of the restroom of the Family Life Center in Austin, an older lady came out of one the stalls. She said “hold up, I’m just going to put some lipstick.”

From one of the stalls another voice was heard, “I’m going to do the same,” she said. As she came out she jokingly added, “what else does a transsexual do in the restroom?”

As I look back now, I think how symbolic that moment was for Freedom Advocacy Day.

As a member of Texas Freedom Network, I joined a group of students, activists, organizers, trans men and women alike, who came together for a day of lobbying against anti-LGBT legislation at the Capitol on April 13.

Huddled at the steps were 120 supporters of the LGBTQ movement, the event was spearheaded by Equality Texas, and joined by the Human Rights Campaign and Texas Freedom Network.

“It’s a day of advocacy, where people have come together to share their stories about how the laws in Texas can have a negative impact on their daily lives,” said Chuck Smith, executive director of Equality Texas.”The laws in this state don’t treat everyone equally in regards to sexual orientation and gender identity.”

This day was particularly important considering the slew of nasty, anti-gay bills that were introduced into the legislature. More than 20 anti-LGBTQ bills were introduced, representing a 30 percent increase from the previous legislative session

Among them are HB 1747 and 1748, both authored by Texas Rep. Debbie Riddle R-Tomball. HB 1747 would prosecute transgender individuals for using a public restroom that is appropriate for their gender identity, but that does not coincide with the gender on their driver’s license. HB 1748 is similar, but it would prosecute a transgender person for using a public locker room, shower facility or toilet facility, appropriate to their gender identity, but not to the individual’s chromosomes.

While HB 2801, authored by Rep. Peña R-Pasadena, would fine school districts up to \$2,000 for allowing students to use a bathroom or other public facilities that do not coincide with their sex chromosome.

Bills Kathy Miller, president of the Texas Freedom Network, called “state-sponsored bullying.”

I’m reminded of the trans women in the restroom, who was full of life and humor. She was also black. I mention her race because being black and a trans woman means that the ugly fabric that dictate the oppression and marginalization of minority groups, are enmeshed by a magnified amount into her everyday life.

It’s American’s little unreported secret that trans woman, and in particular trans woman of color, get murdered under a veil of invisibility.

Latina Kristina Gomez, was the seventh trans woman to get murdered this year. The other six were trans woman of color.

Not only are transgender people getting murdered by a society that is silent and blind to the violence they face, but now they are being targeted by politicians who are using them as their political pawns.

“We cannot let homophobia and heterosexism and transphobia to exist in our state and we are glad they are here to say that we will not allow these bills to pass,” said State Rep. Mary Gonzalez D-El Paso, who is openly gay, when speaking to the crowd on Freedom Advocacy Day.

But the transphobic bathroom bills are just the beginning.

Others include Amendments to the 1999 Religious Freedom Restoration act, which would allow business owners to deny service to individuals based on their religious beliefs.. It has been compared to Indiana’s RFA act.

A slew of five bills such as HB 1911 would nullify non-discrimination ordinances in cities, even if they were passed by popular vote.

“When this can become a conversation about people that they know...if that can become a conversation that relates to someone that they know, then it becomes much harder for people to stand on the side of discrimination,” Smith said.

We’re all touched by members of the LGBTQIA community, they are our fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, cousins, friends, colleagues and peers. People fighting for the minimal of rights.

But if TFN, and advocacy day have taught me anything, is that we can ALL participate. As state Rep. Celia Israel, D-Austin, said, “this is your Texas, so own it.”

If these issues matter to you exercise your right to make your voice heard, VOTE, vote crazy Republicans like Riddle and Tomball out of office. Send a letter, an e-mail, drop by their office.

Make your voice heard, so everyone can be heard.

Maria Esquina may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

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PHOTO BY MARIA ESQUINCA / THE PROSPECTOR

Texas State Rep. Ron Reynolds, D-Mo., speaks to a crowd on Freedom Advocacy Day at the state capitol. he sponser for the Young Americans for Liberty.

THE PROSPECTOR

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The Prospector is published by the Student Publications Editorial Board, 105 Union East, 500 W. University Ave. El Paso, Texas, 79968. The Prospector appears in print once per week on Tuesdays during the fall, spring, and summer semesters. The newspaper is not printed during holidays and when classes are not in session. The Prospector does provide news online at www.theprospectordaily.com.

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Weather forecast for the week of April 14, 2015, featuring the abc 7 kvia.com logo and the text 'StormTRACK WEATHER'.

Table with 7 columns: TUES, WED, THUR, FRI, SAT, SUN, MON. Each column contains a weather icon, high/low temperatures, and a brief description of the weather (e.g., 'Partly Sunny', 'Sunny, Windy').

Young Americans for Liberty bring awareness to prison system



MARIA ESQUINCA / THE PROSPECTOR

Senior commercial music major, Robert Vega speaks about his time in prison.

BY ALONSO MORENO
The Prospector

As Robert Vega stood in front of a podium in a small room located in the third floor of the UTEP Union, he took a deep breath and proceeded to read an article he wrote, where he detailed his harrowing experience in the Texas prison system.

Vega, a UTEP music student, was one of three speakers present at the Young Americans for Liberty, Incarceration Nation Battling for Our Freedoms in a Police State. The event, which was held Thursday, April 9 at the Templeton Suite in the Union East Building, was held to create awareness about the rising incarceration rates and the dangers they might pose to the economy.

the highest prison population and the second highest when it comes to incarceration rate—707 per 100,000 population. "The problem is getting heard, considered. Especially in the state of Texas, which refuses to admit they are wrong or if there is even a problem at all," Vega said.

Although Vega considers himself fortunate to be one of the few exceptions to beat the odds, the reality is that he may have been much more than fortunate, as 76.6 percent of released prisoners are arrested within five years of release for a new crime.

The rules of law and order that govern free society have no law over the laws of survival and respect of the prison system.

- Robert Vega, senior commercial music major

spoke about the legalization of marijuana and the criminalization of those who consume it, which has led states to spend over \$3 billion in order to enforce marijuana laws every year. "Recently, a Texas teen was facing the possibility of life in prison over pot brownies," said William Roman, vice president of Young Americans for Liberty, UTEP chapter. "His life could be ruined for something that cannot be used to harm anyone." According to the American Civil Liberties Union, 52 percent of all drug arrests in 2010 were marijuana related, and more than seven million people were caught with marijuana from 2001 to 2010.

The third and final speaker at the event was Dr. Mimi Gladstein, professor of English and sponsor for the Young Americans for Liberty at UTEP, who addressed and informed the students that were present about opportunities to study outside of El Paso. "I wanted to encourage you all to get out of town," Gladstein said. "You can certainly get a quality education here at UTEP, but I encourage you to go out, meet people, explore and get educated."

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



MARIA ESQUINCA / THE PROSPECTOR

English professor, Dr. Mimi Gladstein is the sponser for the Young Americans for Liberty.

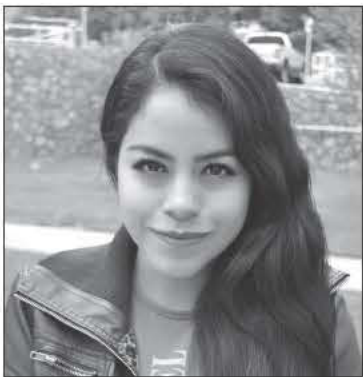
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Do you do your own taxes, why or why not?

RUBY CERINO, HUGO BRITO, ANDRES MARTINEZ, SEGRIO ZAMORA/ THE PROSPECTOR



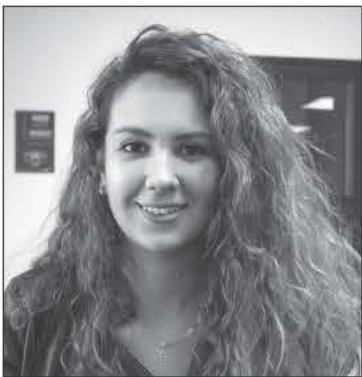
IVANIA OCHOA
Sophomore accounting major
“No, I don’t because I’m not working right now.”



SAIDA VALENZUELA
Sophomore business major
“Yes, because It’s an oportunity to have extra money and I could use that towards my tuition.”



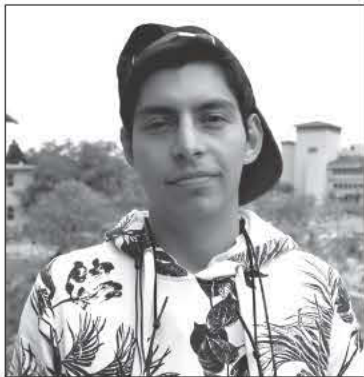
JOANNA VELASCO
Senior speech pathology major
“My parents do my taxes for me. I don’t send them to anyone else.”



MARIANA SOTELO
Senior finance major
“I am not a citizen of this country, so I don’t do any taxes.”



OTHONE HERMOSILLO
Junior social work major
“I do my own taxes. I’m married and independent.”



NICK PETERS
Sophomore civil engineering major
“I will do my own taxes in the upcoming years. For now I send it to people like TurboTax.”



LESLIE VALDEZ
Sophomore social work major
“I used to file with my parents, but now I file by myself.”



BRIAN MARTINEZ
Senior biochemistry major
“I go see someone because it is a hassle. I’ll learn eventually.”




ANDRES PADILLA
Sophomore kinesiology major
“I go with someone for assistance as I’m just starting to deal with taxes, and I want to learn in time.”

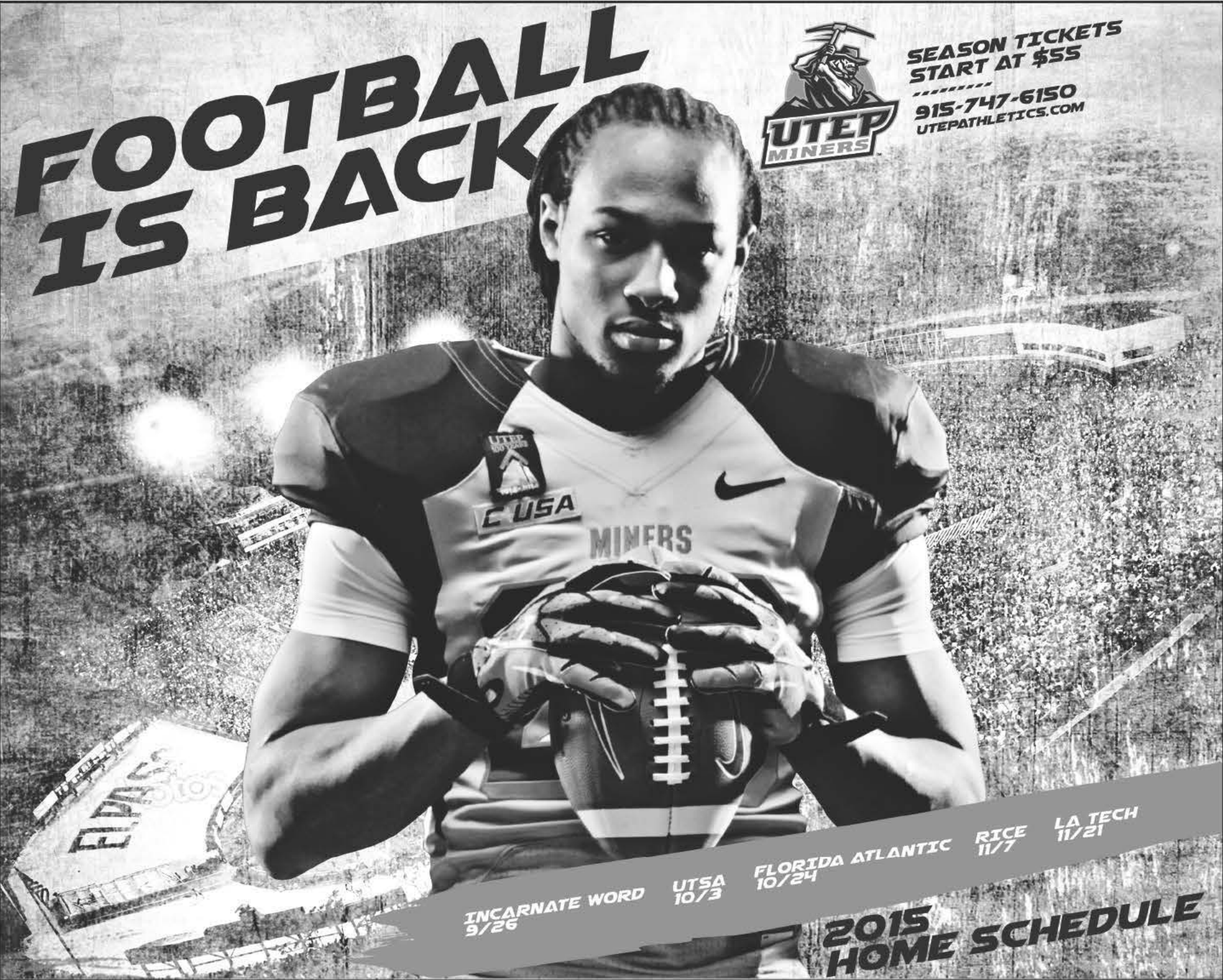


ALEJANDRO ARRIOJA
Junior psychology major
“Not at all, I have no idea on how the process works, so I just have somebody to do them for me.”

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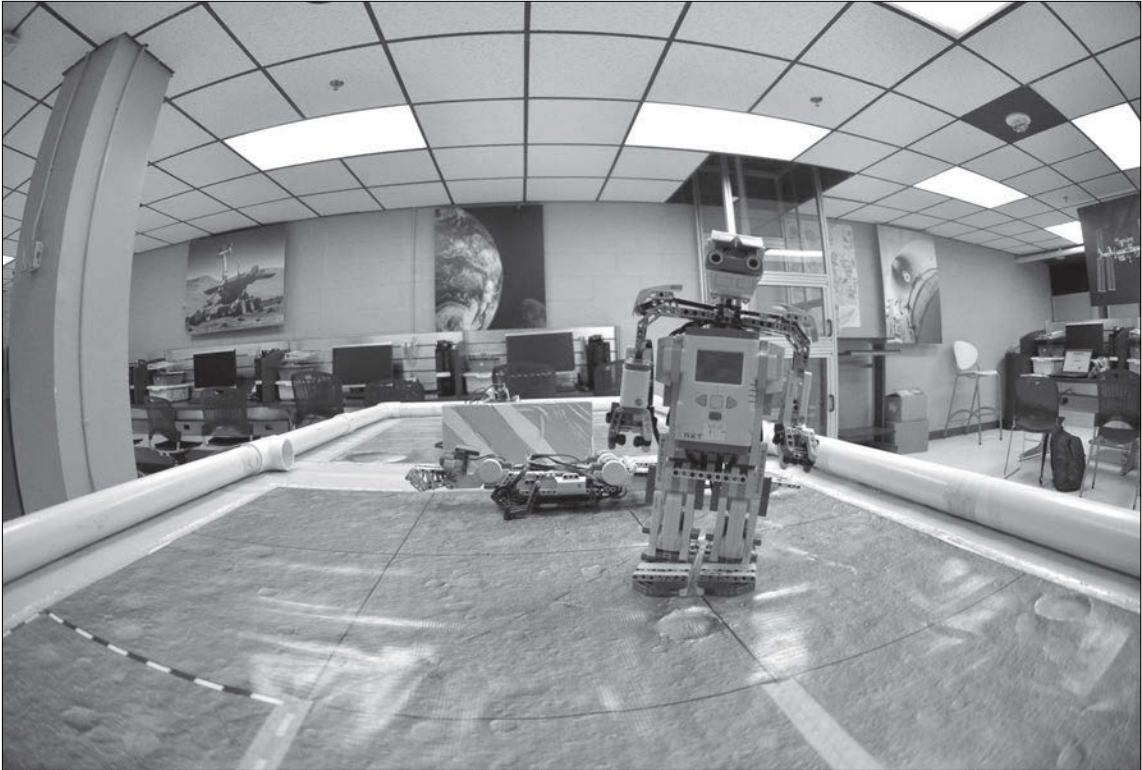
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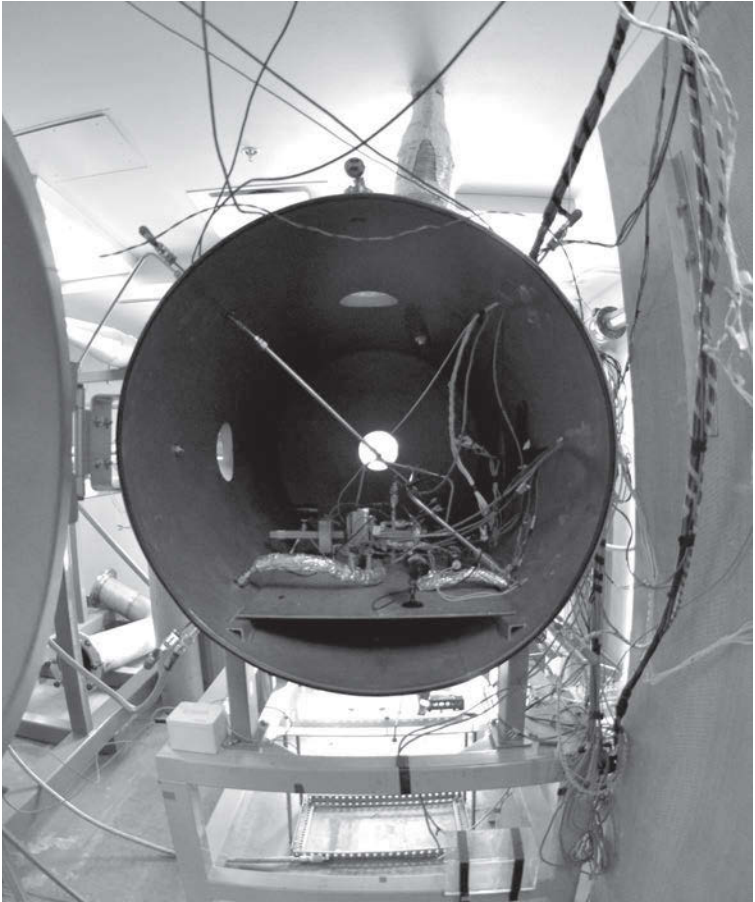
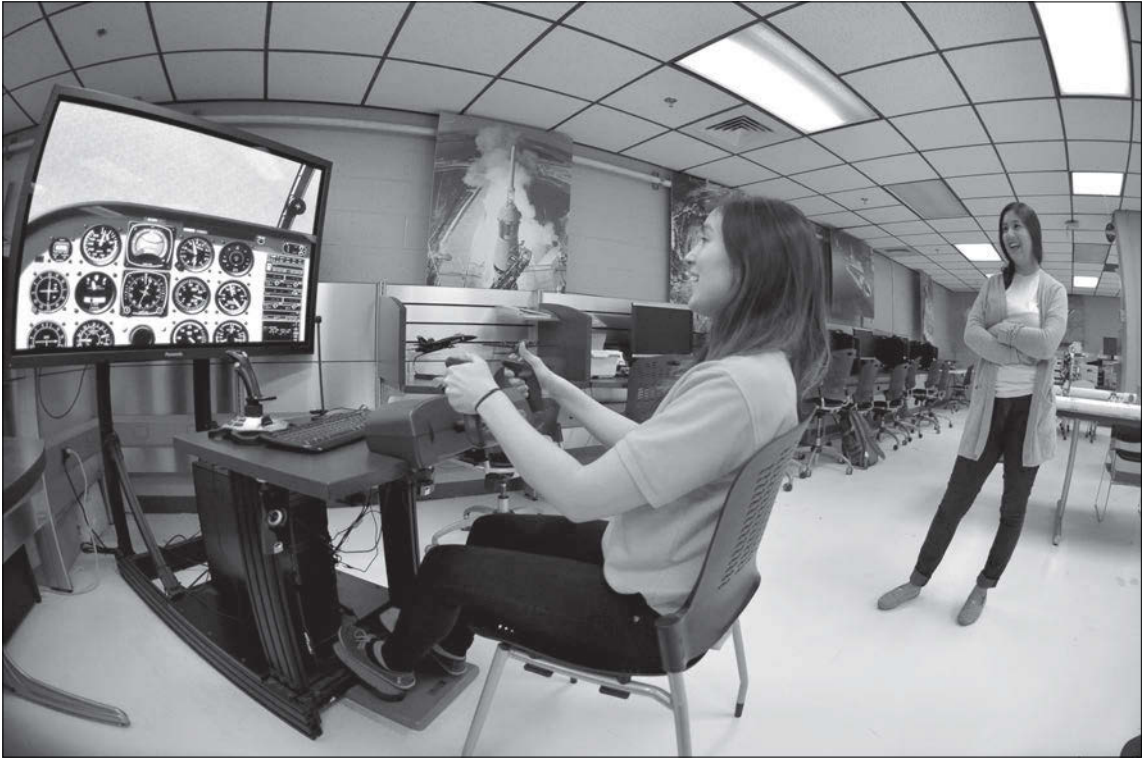
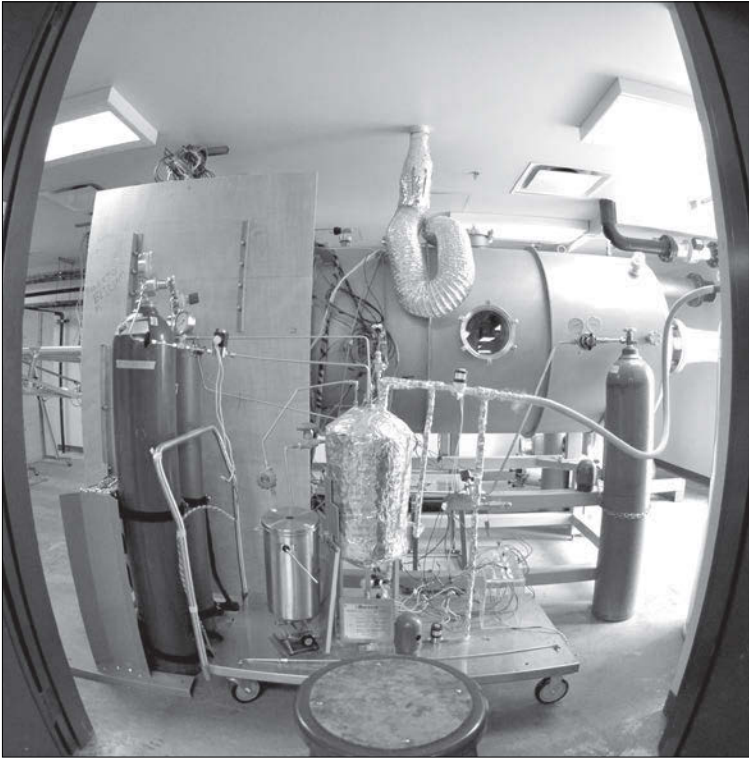
APRIL 14, 2015

OUR VIEW PHOTO EDITOR
MICHAELA ROMÁN, 747-7477

Inside The Center for Space Exploration Technology Research Center



UTEP recently signed a five-year, \$5-million contract with NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC) contractor Jacobs Technology, which assists with a number of projects. Some of those projects include support work on the main and subsystems of the International Space Station, systems development and testing of the Curiosity Mars rover and the development of the new Space Launch System. The partnership compliments the space-focused research already taking place at UTEP, such as the Center for the Advancement of Space Safety and Mission Assurance and the Center for Space Exploration Technology Research.



SGA closes out semester with confidence



ANDRES MARTINEZ / THE PROSPECTOR
(From left to right) Hector Gomez, SGA senate secretary, Saad Sheikh, attorney general, and Vice President of internal affairs Marissa Rodriguez.

BY STEPHANIE FRESCAS
The Prospector

The spring semester may be coming to a close, but the Student Government Association is keeping busy. This year's administration has several events planned for the next few weeks, right through to the elections for next semester's administration, which will begin April 27.

"The fall semester was really just making sure that our senators and everyone in SGA knew what they were doing and what their responsibilities were," said Hector Soltero, senior organizational and corporate communication major and SGA executive assistant. "But there's a lot more going on with SGA this semester."

Some of the events still to come this semester include the College of Liberal Arts Street Fair on April 15, an Earth Week competition, a symposium on how to improve the school and a variety of events during finals week.

"Last semester they had donuts and coffee, so that was really great," said

Leslie Ortega, sophomore economics major. "It was perfect, so I really hope they do that again for this finals week."

Raul Villarreal, freshman English major, said he doesn't keep up with school events, but said that SGA has done a good job so far.

“All of our goals when we were running were practically met.”

- Hector Soltero,
senior organizational and
corporate communication major
and SGA executive assistant

"I did notice when they had chalkboards out, and people wrote down like what they wanted," he said. "I think they could reach out more, but that's a pretty good idea."

The main focus of this administration's campaign was reaching out to as much of the student body as possible, and although Soltero said there was a slow start, he was very content with what SGA accomplished and would accomplish by the end of their time in office.

"All of our goals when we were running were practically met," Soltero said. "One of the things (SGA president) Robert ran with was he wanted to get a scholarship where students brought in ideas of how to better our university, and it's actually happening. Then we'll have an actual symposium where people can present their ideas."

The opening date for the scholarship hasn't been announced yet, but it will take place this semester. Students who are interested in participating and competing for the scholarship will have two to three weeks to apply.

Besides popular projects like their Valentine's Day Couple contest, Soltero said SGA worked with the university administration on several projects, many of them from the chalkboards students wrote on.

Although not all these projects were completed this year, Soltero said the ideas had been raised for things like a one-time sign in for Wi-Fi, instead of every three hours.

"I know the things that we've done this year have made a difference," Soltero said. "Even though some of those things you might not see now, but you'll definitely see in the future."

Stephanie Frescas may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

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THE PROSPECTOR
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO SINCE 1915



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MARIJUANA from page 1

“It’s so beneficial, it’s about keeping innocent people out of jail.”

- Daniel Gonzalez, sophomore communication major

degrees, we’re the ones trying to lead this movement in a positive way.”

Perez is also a proponent of HB 2391, a Texas law passed in 2001 commonly known as cite and summons, which gives law enforcement officers the option of issuing citations rather than taking certain low-level offenders to jail. The bill was passed in order to reduce jail overcrowding and reduce court backlogs.

“There’s only two counties that have taken it right now, one of them is Travis County, the other one is Harris County. Here in El Paso, we’re working on that and hopefully we can get it up and running this year,” Perez said.

Low-level offenses would include things like possession of marijuana, graffiti, petty theft and DWI, among others.

However, El Paso NORML’s goal is full legalization, and Perez said that’s why HB 507 is important.

“In Colorado and Washington and a lot of those other places, you have a structure, so our structure is decriminalize, create a medical program and then full legalization, so that’s kind of the way that every other state has structured it,” he said.

There are two months left in the legislative session, whether HB 507 will get passed is up to legislators to decide.

“It’s so beneficial (HB 507), it’s about keeping innocent people out of jail,” said Gonzalez. “I’m having the best time of my life, but if I would ever have the choice to stop smoking I wouldn’t do it because it’s not a crime.”

Maria Esquinca may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.



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GRAND OPENING FALL 2015



APRIL 14, 2015

ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR
KIMBERLY VALLE, 747-7477

Doctoral student’s research explores the impact of yoga on diabetes



Doctoral candidate, Maricarmen Vizcaino demonstrates the yoga she teaches to UTEP faculty and staff members.

ADAM ZIEGENHALS / THE PROSPECTOR

BY JULIA HETTIGER

The Prospector

Maricarmen Vizcaino, doctoral candidate in UTEP’s Interdisciplinary Health Sciences program, is writing her dissertation on the impact of yoga on people who have been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes. Vizcaino, a certified yoga instructor, has been teaching yoga classes for faculty and staff members at UTEP for two years.

This summer, she will be conducting research on a group of 40 participants who have type 2 diabetes. The research will include a three-month intensive yoga program.

Vizcaino has been researching this topic since 2008, when she decided to write her thesis on the subject. She hopes to bring more awareness about the impact yoga can have on diabetes.

For the future, she plans on researching the impact of yoga on different diseases like type 2 diabetes.

Finding new roads of investigation for future researchers.

“Once I graduate I would like to continue my research in this topic, investigating the impact of yoga on patients with different health status, obese or normal weight, with complications or without complications, well-controlled or poorly controlled as far as glycemic values,” Vizcaino said. “Also, the impact of different types of yoga and meditation and the impact of yoga on different types of diabetes medications.”

The yoga classes take place every week on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in the Centennial Museum at noon. The purpose of these classes is to help encourage faculty members to get in shape, build flexibility and give them an opportunity to exercise regularly.

She believes yoga to be more of a lifestyle than a sport, and she said she has matured because of it.

“It has become a way of life for me. I truly believe that I’ve become a better human being because of the journey that I started. Learning about ancient Eastern philosophical traditions has

changed my vision of the world, human nature and my capacity to grow spiritually,” Vizcaino said. “I’ve taken responsibility for my own happiness, I’ve become aware of my duty toward society and more compassionate toward all living beings.”

It has become a way of life for me. I truly believe that I’ve become a better human being because of the journey that I started.

- Maricarmen Vizcaino,
Doctoral
Health Sciences

She began conducting this research because of a sports injury she suffered in her lower back when she was 21-to 22-yearsold.

“I was inspired by the life-changing experience that yoga has been for me,” Vizcaino said. “After constant yoga practice the pain was gone and never came back, not even now that I have run two half-marathons and I train for sprint triathlons.”

Conducting this research and being a part of the health science doctoral program has impacted her life in many ways and requires a lot of dedication and hard work.

“Being a graduate student is not easy, especially if you go for your doctoral degree,” Vizcaino said. “You have to place your entire life on hold and have very limited time.”

While she has made sacrifices in order to be a part of this program and conduct this research, it is very rewarding for her because she loves what she does.

“Feeling passionate about this topic and enjoying what I do is what keeps

me going every day even when I feel

tremendously exhausted or over-

whelmed about all the work that has

to be done,” Vizcaino said. “When a

poster gets accepted for a conference,

when a presentation goes well, when

a paper is accepted for publication,

you know you are on the right path

and you just keep going.”

Julia Hettiger may be reached at theprospectordaily.

ent@gmail.com.

Casa Pizza offers a unique twist on Greek and Italian food



Casa Pizza is located at 1311 Magruder St. in Central El Paso.

SERGIO ZAMORA / THE PROSPECTOR

BY JULIA HETTIGER
The Prospector

I had the opportunity to eat at Casa Pizza, located at 1311 Magruder St. The restaurant offers a quirky mash-up of Greek and Italian cuisine. My feelings toward the experience are just as mixed as the options on their menu.

The restaurant rests in a quaint duplex building with the Timberwolf Apartments leasing office as their neighbor. On the outside, it seemed to blend in with the surrounding architecture, but the inside was full of character.

At first I thought the restaurant would be fancier, but the atmosphere was a bit more relaxed. Everything is painted blue, but not in a hospital room sort of way.

It was a nice twist eating Italian food while being surrounded by Greek décor. The walls had a wide strip of wallpaper featuring Greek houses in between sheets of blue. The radio chirped quietly in the background, playing what can be considered to-

day's hits, giving the restaurant a little bit of an Americanized feel.

My friend and I were helped right away by a waiter who was more awkward than friendly. Our drinks came out pretty quickly too, but when my second friend arrived, it was about 30 minutes before she was helped.

The restaurant wasn't too busy. There were a few other people there and the number of empty tables outnumbered the amount of seats taken. No one came to take her food or drink order for a long time. While she was waiting, she made eye contact with our waiter, but he never assisted her.

Eventually, she was helped by a different waitress, and our waiter went on to help other patrons instead of us. The service improved a bit and our food came out shortly after.

My friends and I all ordered different variations of their spaghetti. I ordered it with sausage one of my friends got it with shrimp, and the other ordered it with meat sauce.

The food I ordered tasted just as delicious as it looked in the picture on the menu. The pile of spaghetti on my plate was large enough to feed a few people, and I am pretty sure I ate enough for two people. The Italian sausage I ordered with my spaghetti was pleasantly spicy, but not in a way that my mouth was burning for an hour.

The waitress also provided us with a seemingly unlimited supply of garlic bread, which seemed toasted to perfection.

We stayed at the restaurant for a few hours, even when we had already finished and boxed our food.

It was a nice environment to talk and catch up with one another.

When it came time to pay, we walked up to the counter and the man who helped us was nice, exuding the mom-and-pop friendliness you'd expect at family-owned establishments.

Although my experience was mixed at best, I would still suggest this restaurant to anyone who is a fan of Italian or Greek cuisine.

The food was tremendous, the prices were not too high—and with the portion sizes as large as they are, you truly get what you pay for—and the restaurant rests on the fine line dividing fancy and overdressed from fast-food casual.

The restaurant is a different experience compared to some of the other mainstream restaurants and eateries, and it presents a nice change to the humdrum of eating the “same old, same old.”

While the service may have been lacking, it makes up for it in affordable, appetizing and unique food.



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Julia Hettiger may be reached at theprospector@dailyent@news@gmail.com.

Latinitas host girl empowerment fest



PHOTO COURTESY OF LATINITAS FACEBOOK PAGE
The fourth-annual Chica Power Fest will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Business Administration Building.

BY VALERIE HERRERA
The Prospector

A girl empowerment conference, aimed at building confidence in young women, will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. April 18 at the Business Administration Building on the UTEP campus. The conference is open to girls from 9-18 years old. The fourth-annual Chica Power Fest will be hosted by Latinitas, a non-profit organization, and the UTEP chapter of Women in Business Association. The conference will feature interactive workshops, inspirational speakers and offer a teen resource fair on the topics of girl power, confidence, body image and leadership.

“It is important for young women to have these sources that will prepare them for college and help them build confidence in themselves.”

— Alicia Rascon
founder and executive director of Latinitas.

Alicia Rascon, founder and executive director of Latinitas, said the purpose of the event is to boost young women's self-esteem and bring to light the importance of education. “It is important for young women to have these sources that will prepare them for college and help them build confidence in themselves,” said Rascon. “We are happy to bring this

event to the community for the fourth year in a row and hope to continue hosting it for many years to come. The focus of the event is to encourage girls to build confidence, to help them discover their voice and express themselves, and promote healthy lifestyles and to make wise decisions. An information fair will have booths featuring community groups and local youth resources. Jennifer Tellez, junior organizational and corporate communication major, is working with Latinitas and the Chica Power Fest by making lesson plans and creating activities the young girls can engage in. “The media today tends to make young girls believe that if they are not like models we see daily on the television or magazines, they are not considered beautiful,” Tellez said. “Models tend to have certain features that most young girls don't identify with, so this is even more damaging to one's self-esteem if they don't look a certain way.” The event will feature informative and inspirational workshops led by inspiring guest speakers and panelists, who will help girls learn about issues they may face and discover real solutions on how to overcome these challenges. A fair and multimedia presentation will be offered by local female leaders on topics such as body image, confidence, peer pressure, media literacy, leadership, healthy relationships, cultural identity and bullying. Leslie Ross, senior organizational and corporate communication major, said her society class for service learning will be giving group presentations on different topics related to body image and mass media during the conference. “Our presentation will focus on how mass media affects young girl's perception and body image. We will give tips on how to avoid those perceptions and allow girls to be happy

in their own skin,” Ross said. “I'm excited about it because it gives me an opportunity to help mentor young girls.”

The empowerment conference expects to have about 100 girls in attendance. Pre-teen and teen girls will discuss the challenges they face today and explore positive ways to deal with stress through hands-on creative expression activities such as poetry, acting, photography, art and song. Young girls and their mothers will also enjoy dance performances, a fashion show and music entertainment toward the end of the conference.

“When you look at the statistics—suicide, teen pregnancy and high school drop-out rates are the highest among Latinas,” Rascon said. “That is why we created Las Latinitas 13 years ago and host events like this, so we can provide resources and assistance to girls facing similar challenges.” For more information, laslatinitas.com/elpaso. Valerie Herrera may be reached at theprospectordaily. ent@gmail.com.

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Hollywood talent to give workshops at UTEP

BY FERNANDA LEON

The Prospector

The Department of Theatre and Dance will be hosting an Educational Acting Workshop with talent agent Tony Martinez on May 23 at the Studio Theatre in the Fox Fine Arts Center.

Tony Martinez is a graduate from the School of Visual Arts in New York and has worked in video production with bands such as The Black Crowes, Run-DMC and The Beastie Boys.

Martinez has represented series regulars on television shows such as “Desperate Housewives,” “CSI” and “Lost.” He is also the author of “An Agent Tells All,” a book about the acting business.

Martinez is currently working with Kazarian, Measures, Ruskin & Associates (KMR) as part of their theatrical department.

“Tony has worked for many top agencies, he was my agent and by far he was my favorite agent at my favorite agency,” said Joel Murray, chair of the Department of Theatre and

Dance. “He does not mince words and will tell the truth about the realities of Hollywood from various angles and his eye is trained to recognize talent and to recognize one’s potential.”

In this upcoming workshop, theater students will be able to perform scenes and monologues. Martinez will provide feedback on their work. After a lunch break, students will be able to have a question-and-answer session with him.

“I always try to make it a point to attend workshops that have guest artists,” said Maria Elena Mendoza, sophomore theatre arts major. “It is important to support people from our culture, I think Tony Martinez will provide UTEP with a great opportunity to learn and grow as artists.”

When it comes to talent agents, an actor should work hard to find an agent that would know his skills and abilities perfectly so he can find a job that best suits the actor.

“One needs an agent in Hollywood—99.9 percent of the time one cannot audition for union television,

“The workshop will help the students realize that you can do whatever is you want to do; if you set your mind to it, of course.”

-Maria Elena Mendoza
sophomore theatre arts major

film, commercials, etc. without one,” Murray said.

Having a talent agent like Martinez come to the university gives students an insight about the competitive industry of acting and gives them a preparation of what they are most likely to encounter in their professional life.

“It is important for our students to gain as much perspective and experience as possible,” said Adriana Dominguez, senior lecturer at the Department of Theatre and Dance. “Tony Martinez’s personal experience and knowledge can help prepare students for their time outside of the university.”

For Mendoza, these kinds of workshops are of high importance to her since she is a theater major. She believes that these opportunities not only broaden her concentration, but also let her meet people who are related to her field of study.

“What I enjoy most about attending workshops is learning how they got there,” Mendoza said. “Like, what made them become an artist in that field and their background story.”

Since this is an educational workshop, students need to be prepared with any questions or doubts that they might have regarding the world of acting. Most of all, students should be ready to open themselves to new ideas and knowledge as this opportunity may be beneficial to their future careers.

“The workshop will help the students realize that you can do whatever it is you want to do; if you set your mind to it, of course,” Mendoza said. “Once you realize that anything is possible, and by the help of those who are already in that field, then it will open many doors.”

Fernanda Leon may be reached at theprospectordaily. ent@gmail.com.

ACCURACY WATCH

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EVENT / DATE	LOCATION	SUPPORT	PRICE/AGE
4/19 Nosaj Thing & Clark	The Lowbrow Palace		\$18 pre-sale \$20 day of All ages
4/23 Night Drive	The Lowbrow Palace	L.I.G.R.E.	\$8 pre-sale \$10 day of Age: 16+
4/28 The Bright Light Social Hour	The Lowbrow Palace	Talk in Tongues	\$13 pre-sale \$15 day of Age: 16+ (\$3 surcharge for 16-20)
4/30 Reptar	The Lowbrow Palace	TBD	\$10 pre-sale \$12 day of Age: 16+ (\$3 surcharge for 16-20)
5/2 Lydia	The Lowbrow Palace	KT Neely	\$10 pre-sale \$12 da of Age: 16+ (\$3 surcharge for 16-20)
5/7 The Convalescence	The Lowbrow Palace	All That Bleeds,	\$12 pre-sale \$14 day of Age: 16+ (\$3 surcharge for 16-20)
5/16 Acid Mothers Temple	The Lowbrow Palace	Arsonkill	\$10 pre-sale \$12 day of Age: 16+ (\$3 surcharge for 16-20)
5/27 GBH	The Lowbrow Palace	ST 37	\$8 pre-sale \$10 day of Age: 16+ (\$3 surcharge for 16-20)
6/7 Melvins	The Lowbrow Palace	Total Chaos	\$10 pre-sale \$12 day of Age: 16+ (\$3 surcharge for 16-20)
6/8 Clap Your Hands Say	The Lowbrow Palace	TBD	\$15 pre-sale \$17 day of Age: 16+ (\$3 surcharge 16-20)
6/8 Yeah	The Lowbrow Palace	TBD	\$17 pre-sale \$20 day of Age: 16+ (\$3 surcharge 16-20)
7/3 Jacco Gardner	TBD	The Lowbrow Palace	\$15 pre-sale \$17 day of Age: 16+ (\$3 surcharge 16-20)

UTEP PICKS TALENT

SGA hosted a talent competition at Magoffin Auditorium Saturday, April 11. The 20 finalists performed in front of a live audience and five judges. Arturo V. Gonzalez Lopez, senior microbiologist, won first place. The Twin “Ukes,” made up of freshmen pre-pharmacy majors Cristina Rolph and Sydney Wharton, took second place. A prose poem titled Speak American, performed by junior nursing major Meghan Boling and junior biomedical science Manuel Duran, won third place.

APRIL 14, 2015

SPORTS

EDITOR
LUIS GONZALEZ, 747-7477

Chihuahuas split opening series, host Reno next



ANDRES MARTINEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

Chihuahuas third baseman Brett Wallace throws the ball toward first base during the team's season opener.

BY LUIS GONZALEZ

The Prospector

With an opening record of 2-2, the Chihuahuas now turn their attention to the Reno Aces, who are in town from April 13-16.

The Aces are the affiliate of the Arizona Diamondbacks and come to El Paso after splitting a series with the Albuquerque Isotopes.

A very capable offensive team, Reno scored 32 runs in their first four games, including 16 in the series finale versus the Isotopes.

As a team, the Aces have recorded 55 hits to start the season and are led by outfielder Peter O'Brien and infielder Danny Dorn. O'Brien has a batting average of .450 with nine hits, four RBI's and one home run. Dorn has an average of .400 with six hits, five RBI's and one home run.

The Chihuahuas split their four-game opening series with the Tacoma Rainiers. After winning the first game of the series on April 9, El Paso edged Tacoma 7-6 on April 12 in the final game of the series. The Rainiers best-

ed the Chihuahuas in the two games in between.

"The Tacoma team is loaded with talent all the way around," said Chihuahuas manager Pat Murphy. "They do a lot of nice things out there."

On opening day, in front of a record crowd, the Chihuahuas used their offense to cover for the struggles the team had on the mound. The offense, led by Abraham Almonte's perfect 5-5 night at the plate, recorded a total of 18 hits, including two home runs. El Paso gave the 10,047 fans who attended Southwest University Park plenty to cheer about from the start, putting two runs on the scoreboard in the first inning.

Tacoma made plenty of contact with the ball, having 11 hits on the night, but they only made it count during one inning. Starting pitcher Jason Lane had a rough fourth inning, when he gave up all of his four earned runs of the night and surrendered the lead momentarily to the visitors.

"Lane had some tough luck," Murphy said. "We didn't turn a couple of double plays we should've, we

didn't get to some balls we probably could've."

With the Rainiers leading 4-2, the El Paso offense went to work once again. The Chihuahuas scored at least a run in four of the next five innings, while Tacoma—after that four-run inning—would not have another player run across home plate for the remainder of the game.

Almonte, playing for the first time as a Chihuahua—against his old team nonetheless—performed his job as the leadoff hitter to perfection. The 25-year-old outfielder from the Dominican Republic got on base every time he had the opportunity to.

"That's what happens when you get yourself in a good position and swing at good pitches," Almonte said. "That's the most important thing."

Helping Almonte on offense was another debuting Chihuahua. Third baseman Brett Wallace, who played for Murphy in college, knocked four runs in on a 3-5 night that included a double and a home run.

Tacoma got more than even with the Chihuahuas the following night,

thrashing the home team to a final score of 17-5.

After El Paso once again got off to a quick start, scoring three runs in the first inning, the Rainiers answered with a seven-run second inning. The visitors only expanded their lead in the following innings, scoring 12 runs in the next three.

El Paso starting pitcher Aaron Northcraft allowed seven earned runs before being pulled out after less than one-and-a-third innings of work. Murphy called on a five other pitchers.

"Our defense and our pitching just broke down," Murphy said. "It was a bad night for both of them to break down."

The struggles on the mound continued into the third game of the series on Saturday, with the Chihuahuas allowing Tacoma to score 10 runs in another lopsided win. The Rainiers' starting pitcher Sam Gaviglio controlled El Paso's offense, shutting them out for all of the five innings he was in the game.

Gaviglio allowed just five hits and left the game with a 6-0 advantage on the scoreboard, which would turn into his first win of the season.

"We saw him twice in spring training," Murphy said of Galvigio. "I've known him since '09, I know what type of pitcher he is. He's a pitcher."

Even after Galvigio took a seat in the visiting dugout, the Chihuahua offense continued to struggle. They mustered a total of four hits in the final four innings, scoring a couple of runs to avoid a complete shutout on the night. Almonte, who struggled the night before with an 0-5 performance, was responsible for one of the runs when he went he homered in the eighth inning.

The main concern for El Paso though is not at the plate, but at the mound and on defense.

"It's obvious to everybody that our pitching and defense is less experienced," Murphy said. "What happens is that it has an effect on your hitting and then you feel like you have to do so much. We just have to get into a rhythm."

To close out the series, that had seen nothing but blowout wins in the first three games, El Paso and Tacoma produced a very close fourth game, in which the Chihuahuas were able

to avoid their first series loss of the season.

The struggles on defense continued on Sunday, but not without some glimmer of hope for the miniature canines.

Starting pitcher James Needy had three solid innings before giving up a couple of home runs in the fourth. Needy left the game in that inning charged with five earned runs and that's when the relievers took over.

Cori Mazzoni, Marcos Mateo and Kevin Quackenbush combined to pitch just over five innings and allowed just three hits and a run.

"They changed the game," Murphy said. "Those three, I'll take with anybody. It's a good enough pen to survive in Triple-A, and let's make no mistake—this team we played (Tacoma) is hot and good."

Almonte continued to be a factor on offense, getting on base three times, all thanks to walks, but it was Wallace who came up big when it counted. Twice, in the sixth and eighth innings, Wallace came to the plate with the score tied and twice he put the ball in play to bring in runs that put the Chihuahuas up—the second one for good.

"I just tried to stay within myself," Wallace said. "Anytime you have guys on base they have to pitch to you a little differently and it forces their hand. If I got a pitch, I was just trying to put it in play and keep us going."

It is a long season and four games in, it's hard to judge exactly what these Chihuahuas are made of. Gauging their potential and whether or not they will be able to improve last year's performance is impossible. With all the movement that can occur almost on a daily basis when dealing with the minor leagues, Murphy and the Chihuahuas are just focused on the present.

"A lot of things are possible. Bottom line is, we're going to have a million changes," Murphy said. "We're just enjoying every day, keep the kids in the right frame of mind and make sure they play the game the right way."

Luis Gonzalez may be reached at theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com.

Spieth ushers in new generation for golf

BY JUAN CARLOS NAVARRETE

The Prospector



The Masters is the epitome of Golf, the highest mountain to climb and the biggest trek of them all. Jordan Spieth reached that summit yesterday, when the 21-year-old became the second-youngest player to claim a green jacket.

The native Texan had a chance to become the youngest player to ever win the coveted Masters championship last year, as he and Bubba Watson competed in the final group. Watson, of course, won that year, but it left the

rest of the golfing community with a glimpse of the future.

Much like Tiger Woods, Spieth is built differently than most golfers.

Give Woods and Spieth a birdie and they come back at you with an eagle. Birdies propelled Spieth to the top early on and he never looked back.

Unlike Rory McIlroy at 21, Spieth was able to go into the final round with a lead and hold it. McIlroy went into the final round of the 2011 Masters with a four-shot lead and ended up tied for 15th when it was done.

For Spieth, the win at the Masters was a chance to prove that last year was more than just luck. It proves that this guy is a legit golfer and has a real chance of making a lasting impact on the game and how it is played.

Tiger Woods is now 39 and is in a race against the clock to reach Jack Nicklaus' major wins record and the title of best golfer ever. Since his extracurricular activities found him on the cover of every tabloid, he has fought to even stay relevant in the sport. Woods finished tied for 17th after an impressive round of golf considering the past few years, but nowhere near the historic rounds he used to play.

Now, the win for Spieth does not mean he is the new face of golf or that he is the best in the world, but it's something we've seen before with Woods 20 years ago.

There are a lot of parallels between golf's old faces and its potential new one. There has been only one player who has won the Masters at a younger age—Tiger. Spieth finished the tour-

nament at 18 under par, again the only person to do that before? Tiger Woods.

He even bested Woods in one category. The 28 birdies Spieth managed to score during his historic run at the green jacket are unrivaled by anyone.

Spieth did what McIlroy couldn't do, and he was able to replicate what Woods was able to do, he just did it with more swagger. Spieth never looked back, even when old lefty Phil McKilroy was in second place. Again, something McIlroy could not do back in 2011.

It's bad enough that Woods has to share his iconic Nike brand with McIlroy or that kids are now wearing bright orange like Rickie Fowler, but you add Spieth to that and now there's a whole generation of golfers pushing

Woods toward playing in the seniors' Masters.

Spieth is probably not going to be the next Nicklaus or Woods, but he solidifies the claim of the new generation of golf being here to play.

Most of these golfers grew up watching Mickleson's and Wood's rivalry at every Masters and would probably not want anything more than to put them into retirement.

For McIlroy, Fowler, Jason Day, Speith and others, a final round of golf is something they have already accomplished in their young careers. They are all under the age of 30, which means their best years are still to come.

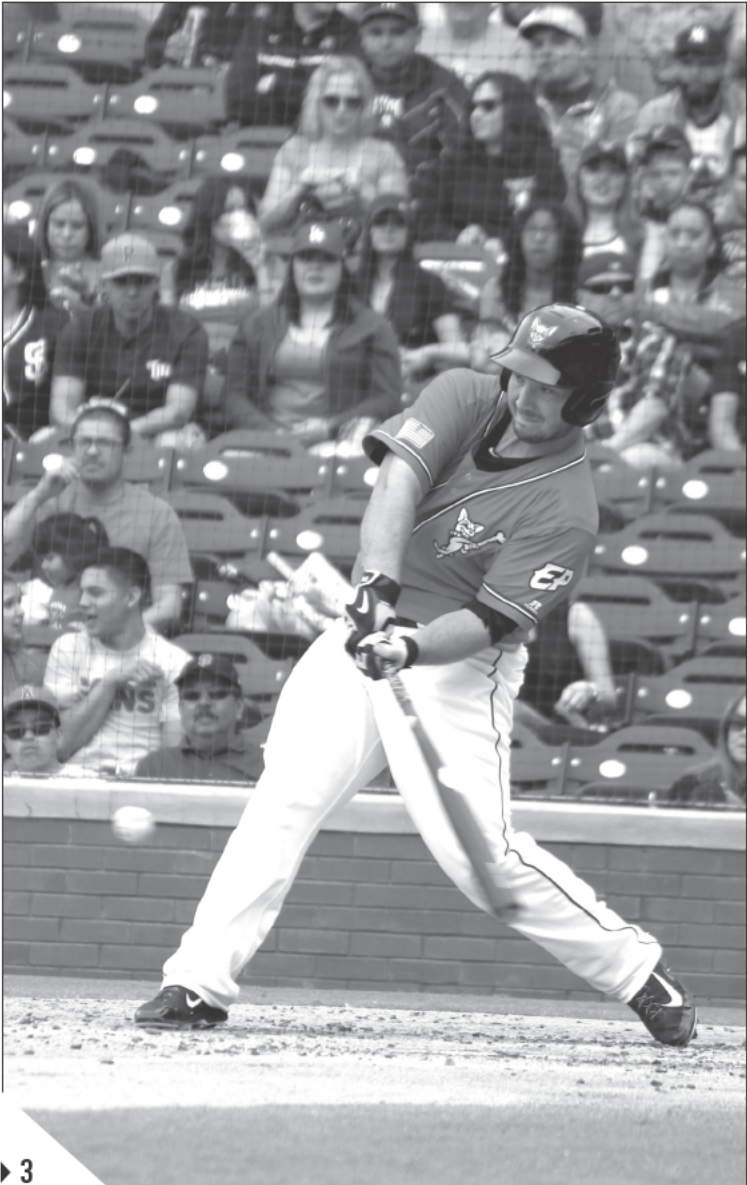
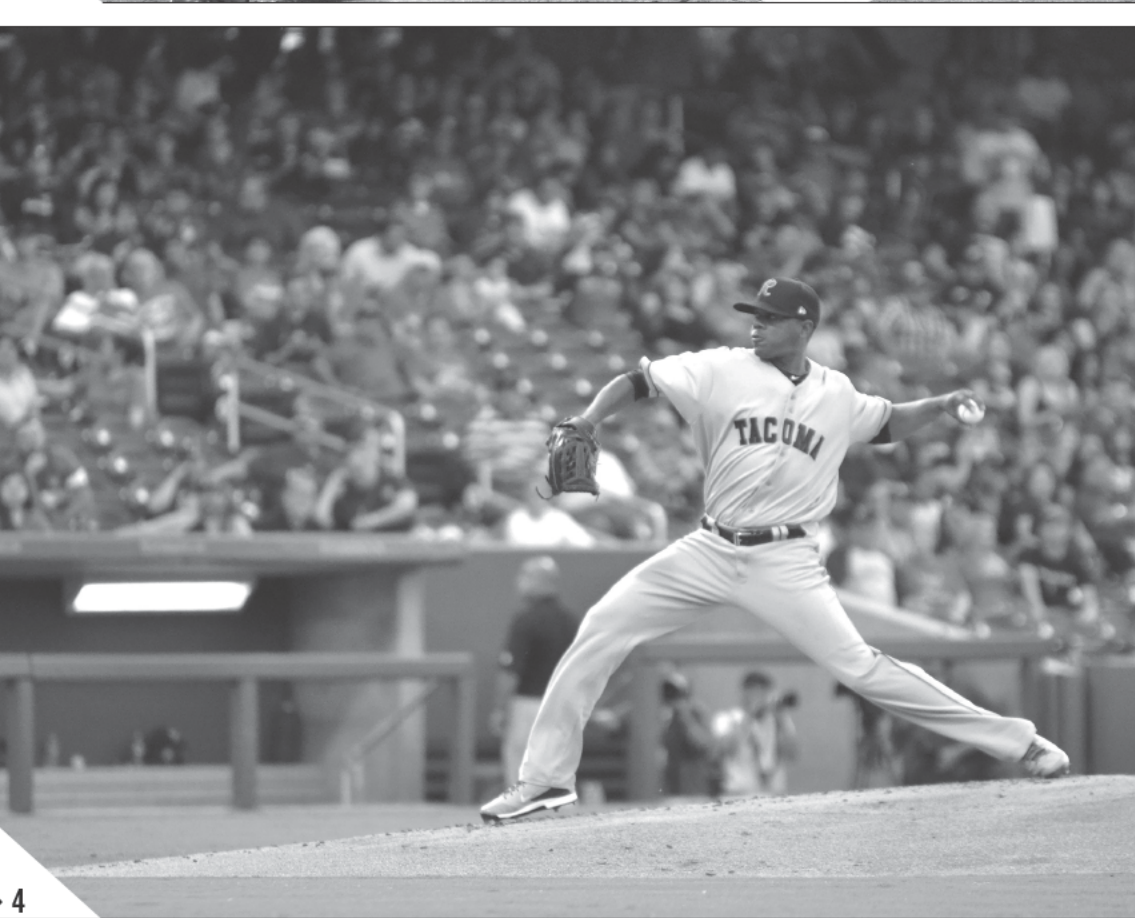
Juan Carlos Navarrete can be reached at theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com.

APRIL 14, 2015

OUR VIEW

PHOTO EDITOR
MICHAELA ROMÁN, 747-7477

“Let’s go Chihuahuas!”



1. Designated hitter Cody Decker is introduced into the starting lineup. 2. Left fielder Rymer Liriano pops up in one of his at bats against Tacoma. 3. The Chihuahua offense opens the season with an 18-hit game. 4. Tacoma pitcher Roenis Elias throws a pitch against the Chihuahuas at Southwest University Park 5. Outfielder Abraham Almonte looks on while standing at second base.

RUBY CERINO, ANDRES MARTINEZ, MICHAELA ROMAN/ THE PROSPECTOR

Hunter leaves, blame it on the system

BY JASON GREEN

The Prospector



Last week, UTEP basketball's top offensive player, sophomore forward Vince Hunter, declared for the 2015 NBA draft. Throughout the 2014-15 season, NBA scouts were seen at UTEP games and rumors circulated about Hunter leaving school to pursue his NBA career. The situation brought one of the sports biggest points of debate a lot closer to home.

A lot of people feel that the current system for the NBA draft is flawed. The "one-and-done" culture that has developed in the NCAA Division I basketball ranks that has developed in recent years is looked down upon by more than a few. The rule that a player cannot be drafted until they are 19 years old may be hurting the system.

A player, who goes to college for one year knowing that they will be heading to the NBA after one season, has no incentive to even attend class.

Perhaps the NBA would benefit from a system like the one in the National Hockey League. Instead of only allowing European players to play for another team while under NBA team control, this idea can be expanded to all prospects including the ones in college.

In the NBA, a lot of the drafting is based on projected talent.

Opinions vary widely on where Hunter will be drafted—his team and coaches believe that he will be drafted regardless.

UTEP men's basketball assistant coach Bob Cantu believes Hunter's was an informed decision.

"With coach Floyd's connections, he could get any bit of information from any GM or team," Cantu said. "He's advised Vince on his future."

Teammate Omega Harris also thinks Hunter will have no problem at the next level.

"Everybody says he's not ready, but his knee is injured...they haven't seen his full potential," Harris said. "When his knee gets back right, they'll see. He's just got to show up when the lights come on."

If Hunter's injury or the dearth of talent in this year's draft were to cause him to not get drafted, he has other options.

He could end up playing with an NBA summer league team in hopes of being signed or he could head to Europe to play professionally.

If Hunter hires an agent during the draft process, the one thing that he can never do again is play basketball for the Miners.

The El Paso Rhinos are a junior A hockey team that plays their home games at the Sierra Providence Events Center in El Paso. The players range from 18 to 20 years old and come from all over the world. They have come here to demonstrate their talents for professional scouts and college coaches.

Rhinos head coach Cory Herman says that 95 percent of his players receive college scholarships following their time here in El Paso.

The NHL draft consists of players from around the world who are 18-20 years old. Unlike every other NCAA sport, players can be drafted by an NHL team and still play in college.

When either the player or the team that owns his rights decides that they are ready physically and mentally for the NHL, they will sign a contract and leave school. The NHL team holds the

rights to the player until 30 days after they leave college.

Any player who is not drafted by the age of 21 is considered a free agent and allowed to sign with any team.

Herman feels that this system is great for young players who may not be completely ready for the rigors of the NHL.

"Going to the NHL at 18 is very tough to do. Players going to college have a chance to develop, get bigger, stronger and more mature," Herman said. "Getting a college degree that they can fall back on if hockey doesn't work out."

Former Miner basketball player Tyler Tafoya feels that an NHL-type of system could work in the NBA and that it would encourage teams to take more chances on players such as Hunter.

"I think it would give some extra advantage to teams because they are looking at long term and saying he still has some years for development instead of being thrown into the fire immediately," Tafoya said.

Under an NHL-type of draft system, Hunter would not have to de-

clare himself for the draft. He could be drafted and still finish his time at UTEP, as long as the NBA team who picked him feels that he needs to develop more.

Cantu is all for a system that would allow players time to develop and not cost them their eligibility should they decide to test the draft waters.

"I definitely support anything that allows kids more time to get ready. You have to have a lot of skill and mental toughness to make it in the NBA," Cantu said. "I think a system like the one in the NHL would be great. It would help kids have a better career and better long-term options."

Although it seems to be agreed upon by most people that the current NBA draft system needs to be improved, anyone involved with college basketball currently is very wary of players being involved with pro teams while in school.

Cantu said there is a fine line that would have to be toed between the pro ranks and college.

"It comes down to amateurism. At a certain point a player is no longer an amateur. You have to draw the line

somewhere," Cantu said. "In a perfect world, a system like that would be great, though."

Tafoya, currently a high school basketball coach, also said he sees the potential for conflict with a player belonging to an NBA team while being coached by a college head coach.

"There may be some conflict with this," Tafoya said. "The pro team might want the player to work on things differently."

It appears that the NBA could benefit from a stronger minor league system. Currently, the NBA has a developmental league with 18 teams and approximately 13 players per team. Clearly this is not enough roster space for the number of players that NBA teams would probably like to draft and watch develop.

Coach Cantu would like to see the NBA develop a stronger minor league – the way that Major League Baseball has. Each MLB team typically has four to five minor league teams.

Currently, due to the lack of space in the NBA D-League, many American players are playing in European leagues. Harris said that the NBA

would find you there if you were truly ready.

"I know a couple of people back home that went overseas and the D-League and did all that stuff. They get their money and stuff. If you do your work, do what you're supposed to do, you'll get drafted up to the league," Harris said. "The league is just the top goal to get to. There's just steps that you have to take to get there."

Across the board, the belief is that the system is currently flawed. It remains to be seen whether Hunter will be drafted or if he will be one of the players developing in Europe or on an NBA D-League.

A tweak in the process may be the answer to addressing one of college and professional basketball's biggest concerns. Borrowing ideas from other leagues like the NHL and MLB could hold the key to improving.

The fact remains that the Miners, and possibly Hunter, would have benefited from his developing on the court at the Don Haskins Center.

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

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