

6-23-2015

The Prospector, June 23, 2015

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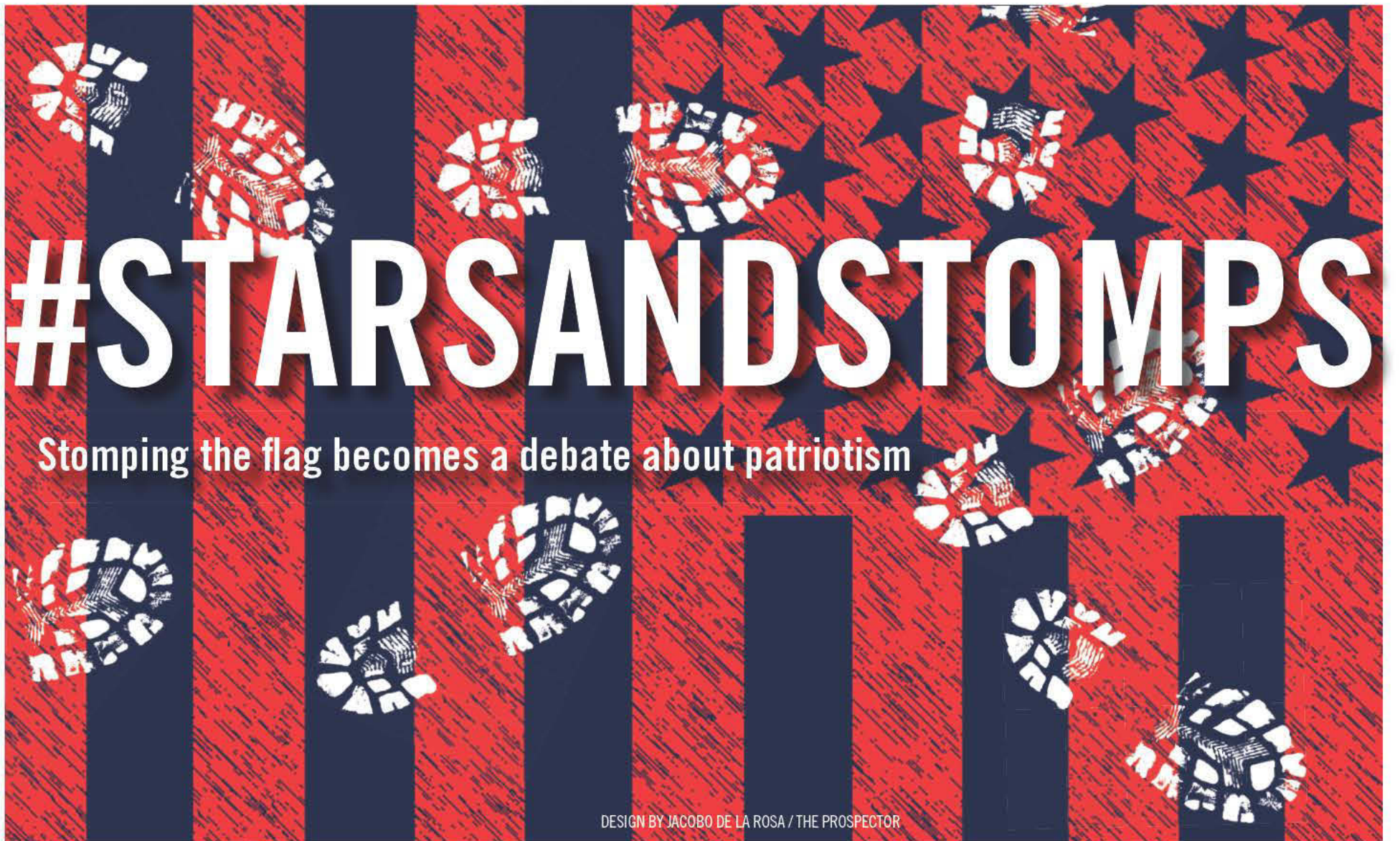
THE PROSPECTOR

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VOL. 100, NO. 30

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

JUNE 23, 2015



BY JUAN RAYGOZA

The Prospector

This past May, a new social media trend known as the Eric Sheppard challenge has outraged veterans, members of the military and Americans all over the nation. It has also empowered a movement in support of free speech.

Sheppard, who is an African-American student at Valdosta State University, stomped on the American flag during a student protest on April 17, while declaring himself a "terrorist against white people." In videos recorded by students, Sheppard is seen stomping the flag and saying it represents white supremacy and racism. He has called for everyone to stomp on the flag in order to step on racism and white supremacy.

Because the law protects freedom of speech, the Valdosta campus police said he was within his rights and did not ar-

rest Sheppard in spite of the student body outcry. However, Sheppard faced prosecution after police found a handgun in Sheppard's backpack.

Carrying firearms at a university is prohibited in Georgia. The Valdosta police chief said at a press conference that Sheppard was not being targeted by police for exercising his freedom of speech, but because he had introduced a gun to the campus.

A warrant for the arrest of Sheppard was issued and he was eventually arrested in Tampa, Fla. In the meantime, the #ericssheppardchallenge began to grow, and followers and supporters of Sheppard mimicked his actions and began walking over the flag as a means to promote freedom of speech as well as to protest racism.

Mimicking movements such as the #icebucketchallenge that went viral in the past to support a noble cause, the

#ericssheppardchallenge appears to be dividing Americans and has inspired counter-challenge movements such as #FlyTheAmericanFlagProudly and the #NeverOutgunned social media movements.

When it comes to the legality of Sheppard's actions, he was within his constitutional rights, said UTEP political science professor Todd Curry.

"There is a certain irony when expressing politically unpopular viewpoints: the more people you make angry, the more efficient job you are doing. Furthermore, his method of speech was entirely legal," Curry said.

Curry also said that when a speech is political in nature and it is done with accordance to the law, the law does not care about motivation.

"When we begin considering the motivation of the speaker before making determinations about its legality, we be-

gin to privilege certain types of speech over others. Freedom of speech isn't selective," Curry said. "There would be no need for the First Amendment if all speech was supportive of the political system. The First Amendment protects contentious speech, critical speech, minority opinions."

Bilingual education major Estephania Ronquillo said that stepping on the flag was just plain disrespectful.

"I don't think that's the right way to promote freedom of speech," Ronquillo said. "If this were to ever spread to UTEP, I think I would say something or try to stop it."

However, Professor Curry thinks the probability of this trend making its way to El Paso is highly unlikely since there is a very small African-American population in the city.

"It should be welcomed if some students do wish to engage in it. Speech

protections should be the strongest on college campuses to allow for a true marketplace of ideas," Curry said.

Darius Brown, junior accounting major, said he understood why people would get offended by it, but freedom of speech is a right every American has.

"There are probably better ways to promote freedom of speech, but if you want to carry a point across you have to get controversial," Brown said. "If this were to happen on campus, I wouldn't do anything, just let them do whatever they want. It's not really none of my business."

Juan Raygoza may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

Historic halls to be demolished to make way for new research facility

BY JUAN RAYGOZA

The Prospector

The long-decaying buildings, Burges and Barry Hall, located west of the El Paso Natural Gas Conference Center, have been scheduled for demolition, which is set to being the week of June 22.

The two former dormitories were constructed in 1963 and 1971, and recently Burges Hall has housed offices and a research lab. According to University Communications, faculty and staff who used to work in Burges Hall have been relocated to Kelly Hall, Prospect Hall, the Campbell Building and the Physical Sciences Building.

Burges Hall will be the first building to be brought down with the use of hydraulic demolition claws, and the debris will be carried out in trailers through University Avenue and the Sun Bowl Drive roundabout and then they will enter I-10 west.

As of now, there will be a brief closure of the sidewalk next to Burges Hall. Although a right-hand, northbound lane on Sun Bowl Drive, south of the University Avenue roundabout, will also be closed for about two months, the road will remain open throughout the project.

"I hope they don't close the streets, it's very hard to get to class, especially when it is the first day it happens," said

Edmundo Silva, senior math major, while he was outside the library overlooking the aging Barry Hall. "I only hope they build something the university needs right now when it's finished."

Associate Vice President for Business Affairs Greg McNicol said the demolition project will cost a total of \$1.9 million and the result makes room for the new \$70-million Interdisciplinary Research Building, which was recently approved by the Texas Legislature.

According to McNicol, this new facility will be an essential building block in UTEP's strategic plan to expand the research infrastructure required to recruit and retain top-tier faculty members and their research teams. It will also

serve as a catalyst to attract competitive doctoral and undergraduate students, while increasing the capacity to generate additional research revenues.

The university opted for demolition instead of renovation because, according to McNicol, the investment of renovation would have been cost prohibitive and of limited benefit due to inherent structural constraints.

The main benefit of this new project will be that this state-of-the-art research facility will make far more productive and efficient use of this prime location and help accelerate UTEP's progress towards becoming a nationally recognized research university. This facility will also provide critically needed

space to continue expanding the number of fast-growing, multi-disciplinary research initiatives.

The demolition is scheduled to be done by August 2015.

Although it will be a big project, it is welcomed by students such as Hector Ortiz, junior nursing major, who said he is excited to have a project that could take UTEP a step further in recognition.

"I don't care about closures, I ride my bike, if it makes a better campus let's just cope with it," Ortiz said.

Juan Raygoza may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

JUNE 23, 2015

PERSPECTIVES

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
AMANDA GUILLEN, 747-7477

\$310 million gone to waste

BY JOSE SOTO

The Prospector



Texas Governor Greg Abbott recently said there are 20,000 “dangerous” drug-related gang members in the Houston area earlier this month. He said this after he signed a bill that will allocate \$310 million to help secure the border with advanced technology and training.

Do you know where Houston is, Governor Abbott?

The Texas-Mexico border has always been a touchy subject with politicians, law enforcement and the community. You’re either on one side or another.

I, for one, don’t agree with the \$310 million going toward securing our borders. Abbott has always been very vocal about border security, stating that he will do this and that to ensure no illegal immigration or drug trafficking occurs, but that is all dream talk—in other words, in your dreams, Abbott.

That amount of money could be used for other logistical and substantial needs: education, road construction, the list goes on and on. Border security? Has that not been discussed before?

The reality is that the border is its own entity. It harbors its own dilemmas and situations, and it’s kind of like an island in the middle of our town. Yes, El Paso is a border city, but the border itself has its own existence.

Allocating millions toward border security is not going to fix anything. It hasn’t before and it doesn’t seem like it ever will. Abbott’s and the legislature’s contribution is one of the largest monetary investments in Texas history. Will it do any good? We will see, but it doesn’t seem like it will.

Three-hundred-and-ten-million dollars will be spent to enforce border patrolling. This includes southbound checkpoints that will look out for guns and cash transits.

Has that not been happening already? What were we patrolling for before? Yes, southbound regulation is a new aspect to the game, but does it require three million to do so? We already know what goes down into Mexico. This seems like a lot of money to invest into re-figuring that out.

Security here on the border is an on-going situation. Should it rely on that much money? Should it not be a continuous cash flow? State funding has proven to fail in halting the illegal transit of drugs, weapons, money and people. There is obviously more of an underlining issue here than security.

Not only will House Bill 11 “improve” border security, it will also fund a facility that will monitor border activity—in Hidalgo County. That is almost 800 miles from El Paso.

Yes, Hidalgo County is a border community, but wouldn’t it make sense to place such facilities in a town where jobs and income could be generated? We do have \$310 million to make up for.

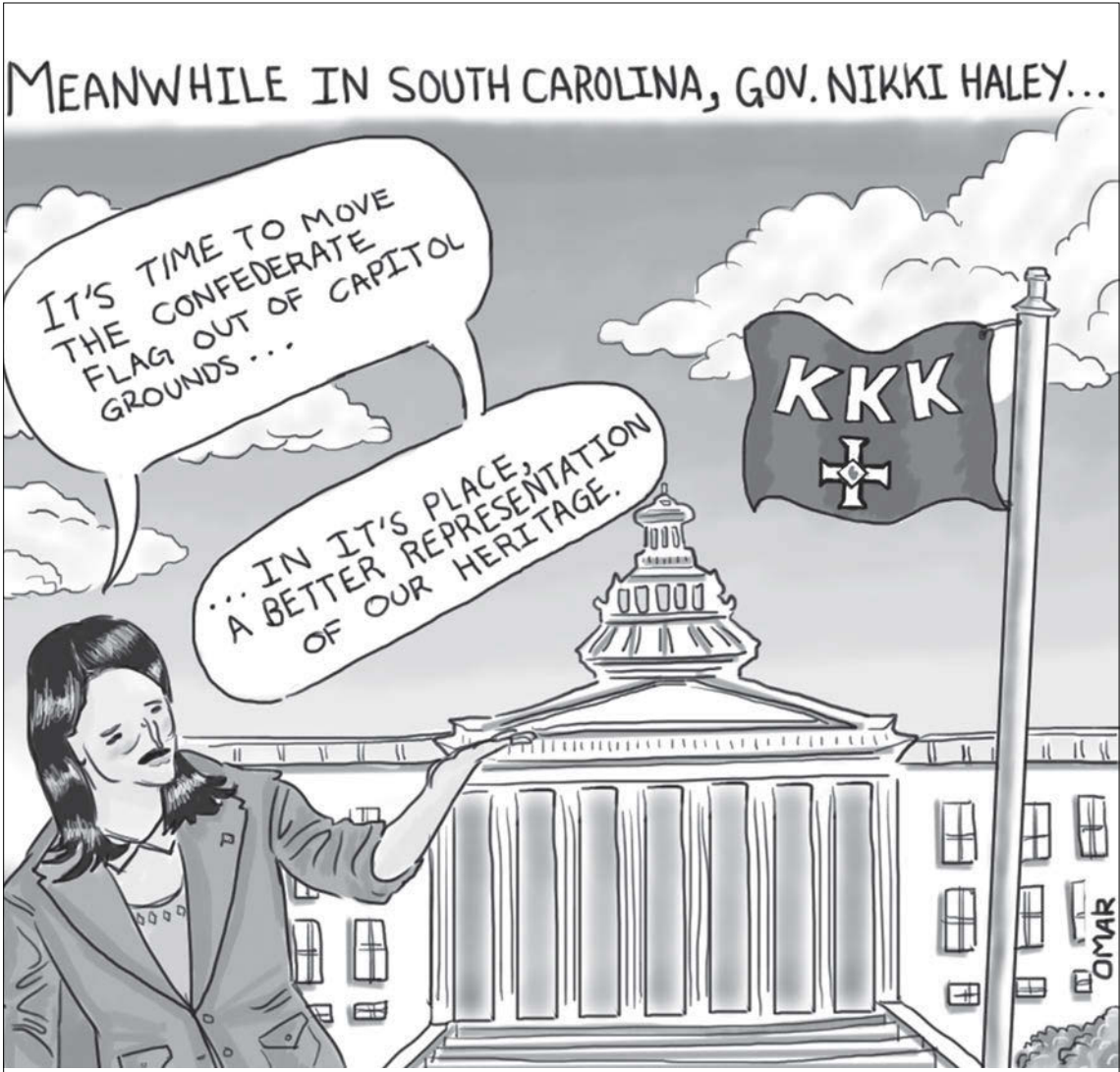
However, Hidalgo County is the area that sees a influx of undocumented immigrants. What are they fleeing from? What is the reason that they eagerly want residence here in the United States? We should be implementing that money into social causes to prevent or aid that cause instead of preventing it. These people are already here and more are to follow. It makes more sense to financially look into adjusting that social issue instead of spending money to prevent it.

Three million seems ridiculous. We already have a federal border security system set in place. Why not simply implement more training and procedures to the people who are already knowledgeable on the matter? Adding that amount of money to already implemented protocol seems absurd.

Furthermore, the border itself is an entity on its own. It doesn’t need additional security funding. What the border needs is research. We need to understand the social phenomenon that it is. It doesn’t need security. What it needs is understanding. How could we figure out the way and reasons why people are crossing it every day. It’s not a matter of funds, it’s a matter of knowledge.

There are thousands of undocumented immigrants who are currently working, attending school and investing in our economy. They are already an instituted portion of society. It is much easier—and smarter—to invest in their development instead of resisting their existence. Three million could go a long way for social causes instead of using that to cause social issues

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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 abc 7 kvia.com. Includes photos of Dan Martinez, Krystal Klei, 'Doppler' Dave Speelman, Nichole Gomez, and Iris Lopez. Features 'StormTRACK WEATHER' logo.

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Sweeping border security bill raises concerns



MICHAELA ROMAN / THE PROSPECTOR

House Bill 11 is aimed at securing the Texas-Mexico perimeter from human smuggling and cross-border traffic related crime.

BY: VALERIE HERRERA
The Prospector

Earlier this month, Texas Governor Greg Abbot approved a \$310-million border security measure that will increase intelligence and operation efforts on the Texas-Mexico border. House Bill 11 is the final piece of the massive \$800-million effort aimed at securing the Texas-Mexico perimeter from human smuggling and cross-border traffic related crime. This bill also gives law enforcement the authority to set up southbound checkpoints within 250 yards of the border that require DPS officers to screen for guns and illicit cash headed to Mexico. Dr. Josiah Heyman, professor of anthropology and director of the Center for Inter-American and Border Studies, said crime rates in the border region are at an all-time low and that the border security measure is moving the needed resources away from other parts of the state where crime rates are higher, such as in Odessa. "The bill is trying to fix last year's problems, while higher crime rates in the rest of Texas are not getting these deployments," Heyman said. In a press conference held earlier this month when he signed the bill, Abbot said there are more than 20,000 dangerous gang members associated with cross border traffic-related crime in the Houston area and that the measure would relieve the deployment of the National Guard on the Texas-Mexico border. "The issues exist in the first place because we have a failed federal government that has refused to address the issues to tackle those problems," Abbott said at the press conference. "Those are national, federal-based issues that we demand the United States federal government address and solve. Texas is doing what is can do by passing this border security plan." By creating a permanent presence of state troopers along the Rio Grande border region, the plan would impose

tougher penalties for human smuggling crimes, and expedite the hiring of up to 250 Texas Department of Public safety officers, with a specific emphasis on hiring military veterans who have been honorably discharged over the next two years. "The U.S side of the border is very, very safe because the crime literally stops at the bridge." -Dr. Josiah Heyman, Director Center for Inter-American and Border Studies In addition, funding for the bill would include the development of a permanent \$310-million transnational intelligence center which will be located in Hidalgo County on the border of South Texas to analyze the data. Heyman said the measure could be problematic since it is shown that existing deployment of DPS on the border has resulted in a increase in traffic tickets in those areas as well as deportations. "Previous DPS attempts have not been very efficient and it concerns me that a simple traffic stops can have a drastic outcome on our community," Heyman said. Among border cities, El Paso has managed to maintain a consistent rank of being one of the safest cities in the country with the lowest crime rate among larger cities. Just last year, El Paso was ranked the number one safest city in America for the fourth year in a row, according

to study completed by the CQ Press, which bases its calculation from crime rates reported for U.S cities with populations of over 500,000 residents. In fact, the independent research firm has consistently ranked the city of El Paso among the top-three safest cities in the country since 1997. Senior multidisciplinary studies major Guillermo Serrano feels the bill may help alleviate crime in some ways, but claims it's pointless. "We already have border patrol and police to take care of that, I don't know why we need to spend money on more law enforcement, especially since border areas like El Paso are the safest in the country," Serrano said. Serrano also feels the bill was passed to stop illegal immigration in Texas and the United States primarily rather than for its purpose of reducing crime. Heyman said the border is already being depicted as a dangerous region to reside in and the measure only adds to that stigma, which could damage the ability to attract tourists and maintain economic growth. "If you see the news, you will hear that the border region is dangerous and it may be true, but on the Mexican side of the border," Heyman said. "The U.S side of the border is very, very safe because the crime literally stops at the bridge." Opponents of increased border-security spending demanded that DPS officers produce statistics to prove that the massive border surge was working. Since oversight options to report border crime and maintain the quality of public safety were dropped from the final draft when it went to the Senate, the department is only required to collect and release data on apprehensions and drug seizures performed by all law enforcement agencies participating in the surge including local and federal police. According to reports collected from the Department of Public Safety, less than 10 percent of all arrests involved in smuggling crimes-guns, drugs and money-were made by DPS officers,

while the remaining amounts were made by local law enforcement and customs and border protection agents. Dr. Heyman said HB 11 is giving Texas its own version of a border patrol and feels the money should have been considered in other areas that could have benefited Texans and students in better ways. "That's a lot of money that could have been used for other things such as health services and education to help improve quality of universities and help reduce the tuition costs for students," Heyman said. Valerie Herrera may be reached at theprospectordaily, news@gmail.com

fh ar Foster Homeless Adopted Resources Donation Drive June 22nd through July 2nd. We are collecting personal hygiene and school supplies for our Foster Homeless Adopted Resource students from June 22nd through July 2nd. Please, no food or clothing items. Please bring all donations to the Academic Advising Center. Hawthorne Street, 1st Floor El Paso, TX 79968. When you drop off your donation, fill out a card to enter a drawing to win a gift card to the UTEP Bookstore! You can help by donating items such as: Tooth paste and brushes, Deodorant, Shampoo & conditioner, Feminine Care products, Body and hand soap, Razors, Lotion, Notebooks, Pens, Backpacks/bags/totes, Hand sanitizer, Wipes, Brushes/combs. UTEP logo.

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Would you step on the American flag as part of a deomonstration?

RUBY CERINO, ANDRES MARTINEZ, SERGIO ZAMORA / THE PROSPECTOR



DANIELA CONTRERAS
Senior organizational & corporate communication major
"I would never step on the American flag because it is extremely disrespectful to our nation and everything that the flag stands for."



ELIAS SAENZ
Freshman marketing major
"It's not correct because this nation is your home, even when in war you need to respect the flag."



DANIELA ALMERAZ
Junior pre nursing major
"I wouldnt because so may people have put a lot of faith in that flag and there are other ways you could go about how you feel in a proper, significant manner."



ESTEBAN ESPEJO
Junior engineering leadership major
"No because it's disrespecting the flag, also soldiers because they go through so muc to protect us."



FERNANDA FIERRO
Freshman bussiness major
"It's wrong because it represents your country, and alot of people have fought for the flag."



GENEVA NIETO
Junior health promotion major
"I wouldnt because I think there are alternatives to making a statement that does not involve being controversial and disrespectful."



HENRY RAYBUCK
Senior computer information systems major
A person that stomps on this symbol is giving up their right of freedom. Being influenced to do wrong to what their past fathers have built from their soul and heart."



PAULINA SARINANA
Freshman marketing major
"The flag represents the nation and steping on it is wrong."



PATRICK MCCOY
Freshman computer science major
"No, I wouldn't stomp on the American flag simply because that not only shows disrespect towards the country and which it stands for but also to the people who live in the U.S."



SANDRA COBOS
Senior health promotion major
"I think the flag represents our pride in being American and I beleive it's im-mature to step on the flag as part of a demonstration."



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ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR
JOSE SOTO, 747-7477

Fourth of July celebrated the El Paso way



FILE PHOTO

BY FERNANDA LEON

The Prospector

Whenever the streets are adorned with red, white and blue, it's unmistakably Independence Day. The national holiday is fast approaching and the event list in El Paso is ample, ranging from parades to theme parties that will entertain the El Paso community this Fourth of July.

City events will start in the morning and end late at night. Everything from dog hiking activities to patio parties and musical performances will be offered to the community.

Without exception, of course, are the annual classic fireworks shows

and the Fourth of July Parade, presented by The Rotary Club of West El Paso.

The parade will begin at 9 a.m. at the Western Hills Methodist Church, located at 530 Thunderbird and will end on Champions Drive, beside Coronado High School.

This year's annual theme will be "Fly Your American Flag."

According to The Rotary Club of West El Paso website, this event attracts thousands of spectators and is also the largest single community event in the area.

"Attending the Rotary Club Fourth of July Parade is a great way to show my patriotism and support for the

"The result of the parade means that people in need will benefit."

- Manuel Papadakis, senior criminal justice major

community," said Manuel Papadakis, senior criminal justice major.

During the event, families will be able to enjoy marching bands, floats and vintage cars that will relate to the theme.

"My family has been a part of a Rotary Club for over 20 years now, and I know that the money that will be collected from this event will later be used to help the community in other ways, so this is not just an event to go and enjoy, but the result of the parade means that people in need will benefit," Papadakis said.

Another event that will be forming part of the Fourth of July celebrations in the city will be the July Patio Party at Ardovino's Desert Crossing.

The Ardovino's Desert Crossing farmer's market will be taking place from 9 a.m. until noon, and during the evening beginning at 5 p.m. The FM Junkies Dance Band will be performing at 8 p.m.

"We will be having a great local dance band so we will also have a dance area," said Marina Ardovino, owner of Ardovino's Desert Crossing.

Instead of serving typical Fourth of July food such as hot dogs, Ardovino's Desert Crossing will be offering their smoked prime rib.

"The prime rib is raised in New Mexico," Ardovino said. "We will also be having fourth of July drink and food specials."

Attendants of this event may observe fireworks from the patio.

"The patio behind the restaurant has an amazing view to see these fireworks," Ardovino said.

For more information about the Fourth of July Parade, visit rotary-westelpaso.org.

For more information about the Fourth of July Patio Party and other Independence Day El Paso events, visit ardovinos.com or visitelpasocom.

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

Ciudad Juarez gets cultural

BY FERNANDA LEON

The Prospector

Objects of different materials, colors and sizes are what the recently opened Julia & Ernestina in Ciudad Juarez offers.

The store carries diverse articles that come mostly from different Mexican companies and designers.

"Julia & Ernestina is a new concept here in Ciudad Juarez," said Monica Renee Morales Gallo, owner of the store. "It offers you a different way to see things because we collect antiques."

For Morales, the store represents a huge achievement since it took many years for her to open the doors. She believes that being in the border could result in a disadvantage.

"Everyone runs to El Paso to buy things leaving Ciudad Juarez at a disadvantage," Morales said.

Morales said in order for Ciudad Juarez to resurge, money has to be circulating in the city and not outside.

The store is named after the owner's grandmothers. According to Morales, her husband's family had the habit of naming their businesses after the women in the family.

What Julia & Ernestina offers are products made by different Mexican artisans, designers and compa-

nies that fill the store with unique products.

All of the products come from different parts of Mexico.

"We have two providers from the United States that provide us with replicas from antiques because we don't sell our antiques," Morales said. "There are big companies from the U.S. that send us vintage things or replicas that we sell."

Among the things that the store offers are many collectible items from Coca-Cola and the Mexican Lottery.

"I have met collectors, a lot of collectors, for example, of the Mexican Lottery. The calacas is something that people come and search for all the time, it's something that I love and that I have," Morales said. "I also have a client who is a collector of Coca-Cola items."

Morales's family has a workshop where they fabricate furniture and fixtures that they sell at Julia & Ernestina.

"I think the store is fabulous because it is one of a kind," Morales said.

"There's nothing similar in the city and it has accessible prices and things that you don't find anywhere else if you want to know a little bit about Mexican traditions," said Karla Fonseca, a recent customer.

Morales likes to shop locally and is interested in young people that just finished their degree or are still in college.

"I really like industrial designers, graphic designers, and interior designers," Morales said. "What are they doing and what proposals do they have? They come and look for me and offer me what they are doing," Morales said.

From notebooks, wood bracelets and boxes painted by hand, Morales said people reach out to her to show and sell their products at Julia & Ernestina.

"They like my store to show their things and people come to me," Morales said. "This has helped me a lot to have different things that you won't find anywhere else."

For Morales, the business world is still ruled by men and this has represented different challenges for her in many factors. Things like her gender and age have made it difficult for her to stand out as a businesswoman and interior designer.

"To tell you the truth what impulses me a lot is my family," Morales said. "They always say 'you can do it, you can do it.'"

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

FOURTH OF JULY EVENTS

VIVA! El Paso
8:30 p.m. @ McKelligon Canyon Ampitheatre

Patriotic Pups Parade
7 a.m. @ Franklin Mountain State Park

Fourth of July Patio Party
5 p.m. @ Ardovino's

Dancing in the City
7 p.m. @ Convention Center Plaza

White Sands Sunset Strolls
7 p.m. @ Dunes Drive at White Sands National Monument

Concordia Cemetery Ghost Tour
9 p.m. @ Condordia Cemetery

Downtown Art & Farmers Market
9 a.m. @ Union Plaza District

Bug Fest
9 a.m. @ The El Paso Zoo

Laughter Yoga Club of El Paso
1 p.m. @ Dorris Van Doren Library Family Room

Joe Barron Band gives the country music scene a new beat



PHOTO COURTESY JOE BARRON BAND FACEBOOK

El Paso's Joe Barron is a country band that has been playing shows at local establishments since 2011.

BY JULIA HETTIGER
The Prospector

What began as two bands playing together has resulted in one of El Paso's fastest rising stars. Having shared

a stage with musicians such as The Josh Abbot Band and Kenny Rogers, the local band and assayer of country music has taken El Paso by storm. The band began playing gigs in 2011, continuing to make a name for

themselves by playing shows at local establishments. The Joe Barron Band is known for their covers of famous country songs as well as their own relatable, upbeat songs. The band is fronted by Joe Barron himself who

got the idea to begin playing music while he was in college. "I learned guitar in college when I was 19 or 20 years old," Barron said. "Growing up, I was really influenced by George Strait, so I began playing."

The other members of the band include drummer Mikey Jarnigan, bassist Rick Bolanos and Mark Ramos, who plays electric guitar.

Before The Joe Barron Band got together, Barron's friends were in their own band, but after playing a few songs for them, the group decided to integrate him into their musical endeavor.

"I got together with some buddies of mine, and one night I played them a couple of songs, and they started playing with me," Barron said. "Essentially, it was two bands playing together."

Since then, they've merged into one rising country music favorite.

"It took five years, but two bands formed into one," Barron said. "I have had several different people playing with me, including my friend who is a bass player, in the beginning he promised to find me musicians."

Barron said he attributes choosing to play country music to the way he was raised.

"I grew up listening to George Strait and other country artists," Barron said. "My family listens to country music, it's my number one go-to and it is all I listen to in my truck."

Besides listening to country music throughout his childhood, there were other influences on Barron that led him down the path to becoming a country artist.

"My mom had horses, so I've been around that lifestyle all of my life," Barron said.

Before becoming a musician, Barron worked in an oil field.

"I worked there for two years, and it was the hardest work I have ever done," Barron said. "It makes me really appreciate what I am doing now."

Barron said being a musician is the best job he could ever have.

"The greatest thing about being a musician is I can make a living, there's no nine to five schedule and I have a lot of freedom," Barron said. "I wouldn't trade it for anything else."

Even after six years of musician-ship, Barron plans to continue playing with the band and furthering his career as a singer.

“I grew up listening to George Strait and other country artists.”
- Joe Barron
local country band

"I'm auditioning for The Voice on July 26 in Los Angeles and I am not giving up," Barron said. "And I'm going to keep working hard at it and play as much as possible, and I plan on travelling outside of El Paso more."

You can catch The Joe Barron Band playing at the Cool Canyon Nights concerts at McKelligon Canyon or local bars such as Mark's Cantina, Rock House and Tumbleweed. They will be opening for Thompson Square at Freedom Crossing at Fort Bliss on July 3. The band is also working on releasing their first ever music video.

For more information about The Joe Barron Band, visit their Facebook page or go to reverbnation.com/joebarronband.

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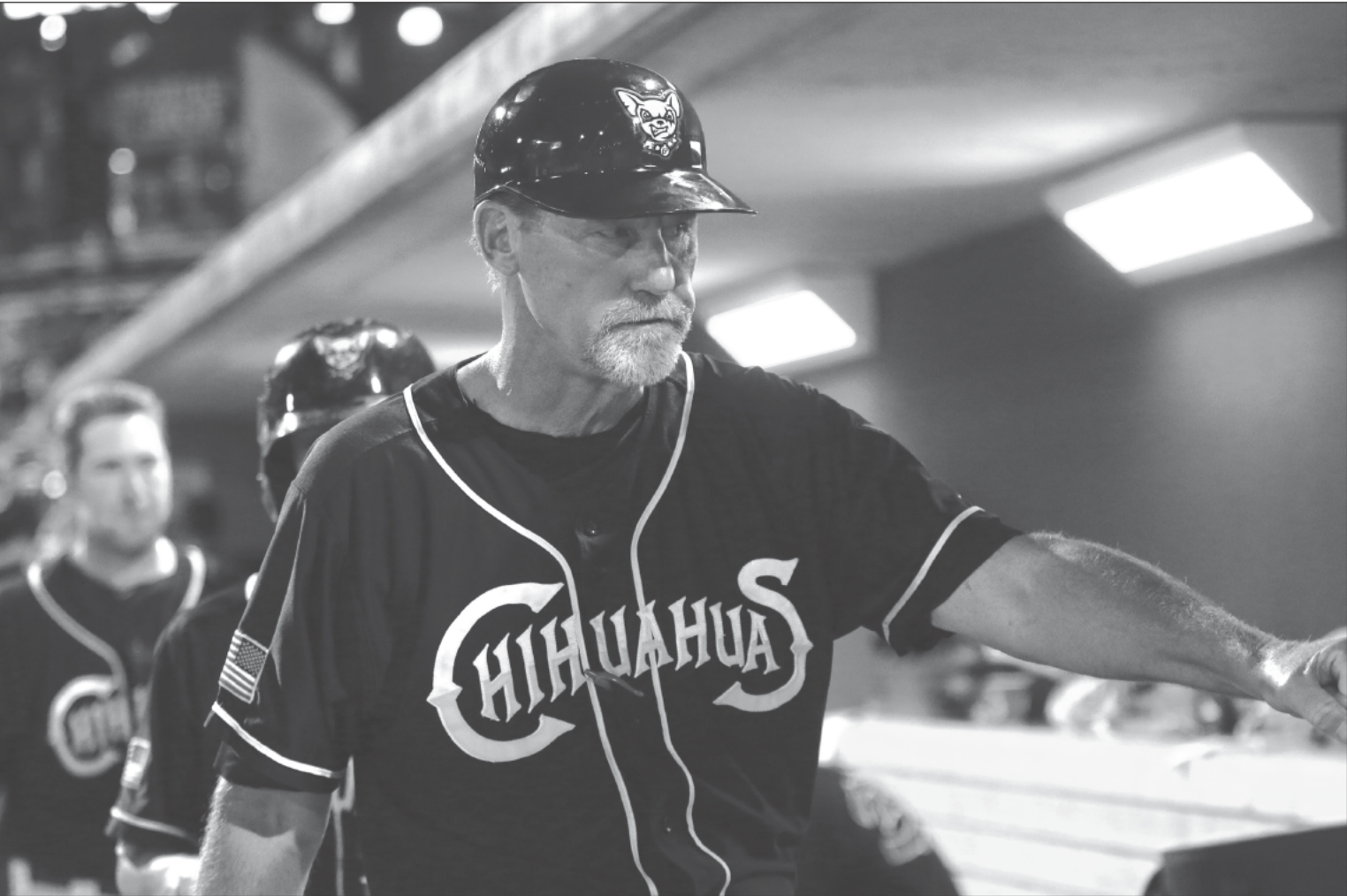
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SPORTS EDITOR
LUIS GONZALEZ, 747-7477

Jamie Quirk: I stress winning



New Chihuahuas manager Jamie Quirk has been involved with professional baseball for over 40 years as a player and coach.

BY LUIS GONZALEZ
The Prospector

It is the norm that the dugout of a minor league baseball team is in constant flux. The El Paso Chihuahuas know that all too well, but this season they have also dealt with a change in coaching. After the Chihuahuas' parent club, the San Diego Padres, fired their long-time manager Bud Black, El Paso's manager Pat Murphy was called up to take the spot, leaving a void in the Dogs' dugout. Jamie Quirk arrived in the Sun City last week to fill the void.

"When you're in the minor leagues and player development you're always striving to get back to the major leagues," Quirk said. "Players are trying to get there and believe it or not managers and coaches are on that same path. So I'm excited to get to the Triple-A level."

Quirk comes to El Paso from San Antonio where he was managing the Missions, the Padres' Double-A affiliate.

His life in baseball spans over 40 years, 18 of which he spent as a player in the Major Leagues.

Quirk was selected by the Kansas City Royals in the first round of the 1975 Draft with who he spent the majority of his career and won the 1985 World Series.

When he retired in 1992, Quirk had played catcher for organizations like the St. Louis Cardinals, Chicago White Sox, New York Yankees, Oakland Athletics and Baltimore Orioles.

His experience in the dugout includes coaching positions in Major League ball clubs and manager at the minor league level. He was a bench coach for the Colorado Rockies and Chicago Cubs, and a bullpen coach for the Houston Astros.

Through out his travels, he has some familiarity with El Paso and its place in baseball.

"El Paso's been a baseball town, a minor league city forever and very well respected," Quirk said. "I think of baseball when I think of El Paso."

As a manager he has been a part of the Padres' organization for the last couple of years, starting at the One-A level, getting promoted to double-A and now Triple-A. His involvement with the organization will help the transition because of the familiarity he already has with the Chihuahuas roster.

"(I'm) very familiar (with the roster) because I was in major league camp and I think 95-98 percent were in major league camp," Quirk said. "I've touched everyone of them at some point, somehow, know them very well, familiar with all of them, so that part of it is very easy."

Some Chihuahuas have already experienced being managed by Quirk outside of spring training. Pitchers Zack Segovia and Jay Jackson played in San Antonio while Quirk was managing the Missions.

Jackson was in San Antonio earlier this year before being called up to El Paso.

"He's a player's manager but, he wants you to get after it," Jackson said. "It's a double-edged sword. You've got the good parts about him, but then if you mess up, he's right there to get in you if he needs to—if you need him to."

“If there is 1A goal, it’s teaching them how to win also.”

—**Jamie Quirk, El Paso Chihuahuas manager**

The relationship with his players and his approach towards the game are one of the reasons he was chosen to replace Murphy.

Managing a minor league ball club is not an easy job. Dealing with the idea that winning is not the most important aspect of the game is hard for players, managers and fans alike. Balancing the aspect of developing a player and the competitiveness of every party involved and their desire to winning is crucial in the mind of Quirk.

Even though the main goal is getting guys ready to play at the top level, but winning will always be important.

"I think both are very important (winning and player development)," Quirk said. "Developing a player is absolutely critical, that's what the number one goal is, but if there is 1a goal, its teaching them how to win also."

In their short history, the Chihuahuas have had their share of both winning and losing. In their first season they finished with a .500 record and this year, after a great start, El Paso is back to .500 territory.

In his first home stand Quirk went 3-1 as the Chihuahuas hosted the Salt Lake Bees. After a day of rest, El Paso will host Albuquerque at Southwest University Park for a three-game series from June 23-24.

Coming up on the halfway point of the season, with first place in the division and a spot in the playoffs still within reach, Quirk is focused on both goal one and goal 1A.

"I've been fortunate to be in a lot of good teams over my career and I stress winning," Quirk said.

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Winning should not equal MVP

BY JAVIER CORTEZ
The Prospector



Every sports fan who intently watched the 2015 NBA Finals should have learned something that goes virtually unnoticed in sports. That is, winning is not always the best indicator as to who the best player really is.

People who watch sports tend to have these myopic tendencies to over congratulate winners and be overly critical of losers. It's pervasive throughout team sports and it needs to stop.

The Golden State Warriors capped a brilliant season with their first NBA Title in 40 years, but the bigger storyline was the jaw-dropping performance by LeBron James and the undermanned Cleveland Cavaliers.

James led the Cavaliers to a 2-1 series lead before the Warriors ultimately proved their dominance, but over the course of the six game series James was putting up unprecedented stat line after stat line.

Many people, like me, believed he should have won the Finals MVP despite being on the losing team. The Warriors Andre Iguodala won the Finals MVP for his exemplary defense on LeBron and doing just enough offensively to garner the award over his teammate and regular season MVP Stephen Curry.

Even though LeBron was not awarded the Finals MVP, progress has been made.

LeBron James proved that you can be equally great, and even greater, despite the outcome of a championship series. He was unequivocally the best player in the series by the widest of margins that we have ever seen in NBA Finals history.

This is no embellishment on my part. Statistically he was doing things we have never seen on the biggest stage of basketball, and if you take a look at the advance stats for the series, it's even more shocking what James did.

For example, James scored or assisted on a Finals record 62 percent of the Cavaliers' points in the Finals. Without LeBron on the floor, four of his teammates failed to make a single shot from the field. Lastly, LeBron is the first player in Finals history to lead all players in points, rebounds and assists.

The list of Finals records goes on, but somehow people buy into this perception that MVP awards should be rewarded to the player that wins the most, regardless of their individual contribution.

see MVP on page 8



PHOTO COURTESY UTEP ATHLETICS

Jallycia Pearson finished attempts to get over the bar during the high jump portion of the heptathlon of the C-USA Conference Championships at Kidd Field.

Jallycia Pearson, more than a hometown hero

BY JUAN CARLOS NAVARRETE
The Prospector

When asked about Jallycia Pearson, the first thing that comes to UTEP track fans' minds is hometown and crowd favorite—but there is much more to her than that. The senior heptathlon athlete is a conference champion, has competed at nationals and leaves UTEP with a lot to be proud of.

Born in Fort Bragg, N.C., Pearson attended high school in El Paso, where she started out with track and field. As a freshman at Coronado High School, her main focus had been playing basketball, but she expanded to track after fatherly advice.

"My dad said I should try it after basketball season," Pearson said.

During her time as a Thunderbird, Pearson excelled. Among her many accomplishments, Pearson led her team to a 1-5 A District Championship in 2011. She did so by winning gold medals individually in the 100-meter hurdles, 300 hurdles, long jump and the triple jump. Her great performances that year would take her all the way to state competition.

Thanks to her success at Coronado, she was recruited to UTEP. Her versatility and experience with various events helped throughout her career as a Miner, especially in running the Heptathlon.

"I learned a lot," Pearson said. "It helped with self-confidence and it taught me a lot."

Pearson has progressively improved with time and training. She began her career with middle to last finishes in conference, but quickly improved to excel at conference championships and earned the chance to compete at the national level.

After a 10th-place finish at the Outdoor Conference USA Championships in the heptathlon her freshman year, Pearson improved to fourth as a sophomore and finally landed on

the podium with a bronze medal as a junior.

Her finest hour in the orange and blue came as a senior. She is part of a group of historic Miner athletes. She was part of the team that won the Conference USA Indoor Conference Championship. She helped the team by winning the pentathlon title for that meet.

During the outdoor season, despite an injury, Pearson was named an All American in the heptathlon.

At the Outdoor Conference Championships, she led the heptathlon throughout until the last event. She ended in second place, but had a personal best throughout the competition. Her performance landed her a spot at the NCAA Championships.

Pearson has earned top-10 achievements in the triple jump, both for indoor and outdoor track competitions. She has finished as high as 15th nationally in the heptathlon, and this last season she ended her career in the top 25 for the heptathlon.

Pearson is not just an athlete; she is a great student as well. She was named to the USTFCCCA All Academic Honors, which means she had to have a GPA of a 3.25, and be able to rank nationally in the top 98.

"Being a student athlete was not easy," Pearson said. "It helped me with my time management and my priorities—like should I go out or do my homework and all that."

Pearson is working on a kinesiology major with a minor in biology. She may apply to a physical therapy program, but she is also an athlete who could compete after college if she were to remain healthy enough.

Pearson can look back at her career at UTEP with pride. She is an All-American with top-10 finishes nationwide, has set two school records and was an important piece of what may be considered one of UTEP's best women's teams.

The Miners will surely miss her on the track.

"The people that I have met have really helped me. I've worked with a lot of people, specially people that aren't from the state," Pearson said. "I got to meet a lot of cool people from other

countries that I will keep in touch with. It was a wonderful experience."

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

This black and white narrative of championship players always being better than their losing opponents is ridiculous. Spectators need to stop conflating winning championships with a player's greatness, it doesn't make sense.

These unintelligent, unanalytical arguments should be echoed by people who do not know what they are talking about, not by the sports writers who get the privilege to vote on individual accolades.

The award is called Most Valuable Player, so it defies logic when we do not give the best player on the court the award.

In the 2014 NBA Finals, LeBron was the best player on the floor but he did not win the Finals MVP because his team was gruesomely beat by the San Antonio Spurs in three of the five games. This year was different, LeBron brought a less-experienced, less-skilled team to the Finals and nearly forced the series to seven games.

This method of awarding MVP's to players for simply being on the winning team is completely antiquated, but we still use it. With the proliferation of advanced statistics in the world of sports today there is no excuse why we can't make more intelligent decisions.

We have the hard data to make the right choices, but we're still romanticized by winning to a nauseating degree.

So in closing I will say this. For everyone who watches sports, let's use the 2015 NBA Finals as a stepping stone to start watching sports in a more intelligent, analytical, logical way. If we do then we won't have to keep having conversations about why the best players are not rewarded with what they deserve.

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