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The Prospector, July 21, 2015

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ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

..... THE
PROSPECTOR

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

JULY 21, 2015



CALLING IT *Quits*

Equality for better or for worse

BY JUAN RAYGOZA

The Prospector

One month after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the ban on same sex-marriage as illegal, new questions arise when it comes to the new ruling such as adoption rights for same-sex couples, divorce and custody of children. Along with the more than 40 same-sex marriage licenses issued in the county of El Paso since the ban was lifted, same-sex divorce cases have also emerged.

Three days after the ban on same-sex marriage was lifted, the first same-sex divorce was granted in El Paso by Judge Mike Herrera of the 383rd District Court. The couple, Jennifer Gasca and Stephanie Michelle, were married in New Hampshire, but moved to El Paso when the marriage between same-sex couples was still banned. According to court records, they had applied for divorce since late

October 2012. On June 29, their divorce was granted.

Before June 26, the only way a same-sex couple could end their marriage in states where their marriage was banned, was for the couple to change residency to where they were originally married or by dissolution of marriage outside of the courts.

Judge Carlos Villa of County Court at Law No. 5, said statistically, around 50 percent of all heterosexual marriages end up in divorce. However the rates for same-sex divorce have yet to be seen since it is relatively new.

A 2011 study conducted by the Williams Institute on marriage patterns of same-sex couples in United States, found that in states where same-sex marriage was permitted at the time, same-sex divorce was slightly lower than those of heterosexual marriages. The study found that 1.1 percent of same-sex couples divorced annually on average, whereas 2 percent of different sex couples divorced annually.

“What has happened has opened up a whole new area in law because I believe same-sex couples will be divorcing,” Villa said. “I don’t know if in higher numbers, same number or lower numbers, but some of them will end up in divorce.”

Jason Martinez, senior multimedia journalism major, said that it will take time to see how same-sex divorce statistics will develop in contrast to straight couples.

“I think same-sex divorce numbers appear to be low because the straight marriage ratio is larger,” Martinez said. “I think divorce will go up in the end and we even might see an increase in domestic abuses.”

Villa, who conducted the first same-sex marriage in El Paso County, said the Supreme Court ruling has granted same-sex couples the right to marry and they will be recognized around the nation as married individuals, granting them all the civil rights of a married couple. However,

this ruling does not force any religion to marry same-sex couples.

Sarah Tarango senior organizational communication major, said she was very happy when she found out about the court ruling.

“It was the first thing I saw that morning. I got really emotional and even teared up a bit,” Tarango said. “It’s been an issue that has gone on way too long. It was about time they gave everyone the equality to marry whomever they want.”

If the case should arise where a judge refuses to marry a same-sex couple, Villa said that at least in El Paso County, the judge might be reported to a judicial ethics committee because a judge cannot discriminate against individuals based on sexual preference.

“If you are in public office, you have to comply with the law,” Villa said.

The ruling has raised issues concerning how the law will proceed

SERGIO ZAMORA / THE PROSPECTOR

when a same-sex couple that has adopted children files for divorce.

Under the new ruling, same-sex couples are recognized as a legal union and therefore will have the same rights a heterosexual couple has. When the same sex-couple has adopted children and the marriage dissolves, the most important factor is what is in the best interest of the child.

In custody fights, the couple will have an agreement on whom the managing conservator and possessory conservator will be, the decision based the child’s best interest and regardless of who the parents are. It will proceed the same way with a same-sex couple after a divorce ensues.

“It always comes back to what is best for the child,” Villa said.

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



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JULY 21, 2015

PERSPECTIVES

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
AMANDA GUILLEN, 747-7477

The Prospector’s Centennial year

BY AMANDA GUILLEN
The Prospector



A century of news filled with information, drama, controversy and triumph–The Prospector has been the assayer of student opinion for The University of Texas at El Paso and is still a university staple 100 years after it began.

Since its first issue was published in magazine format in July 1915, The Prospector has grown and evolved into what we now know as an online daily publication.

In February 1919, The Prospector was officially published as a monthly newspaper and was sold at 5 cents a copy, which today would be the equivalent of \$1.17.

Now, as both a weekly print publication and a daily online publication, The Prospector is committed to providing students with news, sport, and entertainment stories that directly relate and affect them.

This is accomplished while simultaneously giving young aspiring journalists the opportunity and experience to work in a professional newsroom.

As one of these students, I am proud to say that everything I have learned about journalism has come from my education at UTEP, but if I were to tell you where I have grown the most as a student, person and a journalist– it has been while working for The Prospector.

Like those before me, I came into the newsroom unsure of my abilities, but anxious for the opportunity to practice what I have been taught in the classroom.

Before writing my first story I thought I had everything mastered, but with the red ink bleeding through the paper I quickly found out I was wrong.

Working for The Prospector has given me the gift of educational freedom. In this sense, my definition of this is

that I have been given the opportunity to learn without the fear of being condemned for my mistakes while producing a product that will be made available to a large-scale audience.

Serving over 23,000 students is a big responsibility and this has allowed many past, present and will allow future students to earn their journalism stripes.

Behind the doors of The Prospector office, there are more than just writers, the paper has also served as a platform for aspiring photographers, cartoonists, graphic designers and media account executives.

Students from each profession at the newspaper have won local, state and national awards.

Just this past year, students from Mine-ro Magazine and The Prospector won 23 Texas Intercollegiate Press Awards.

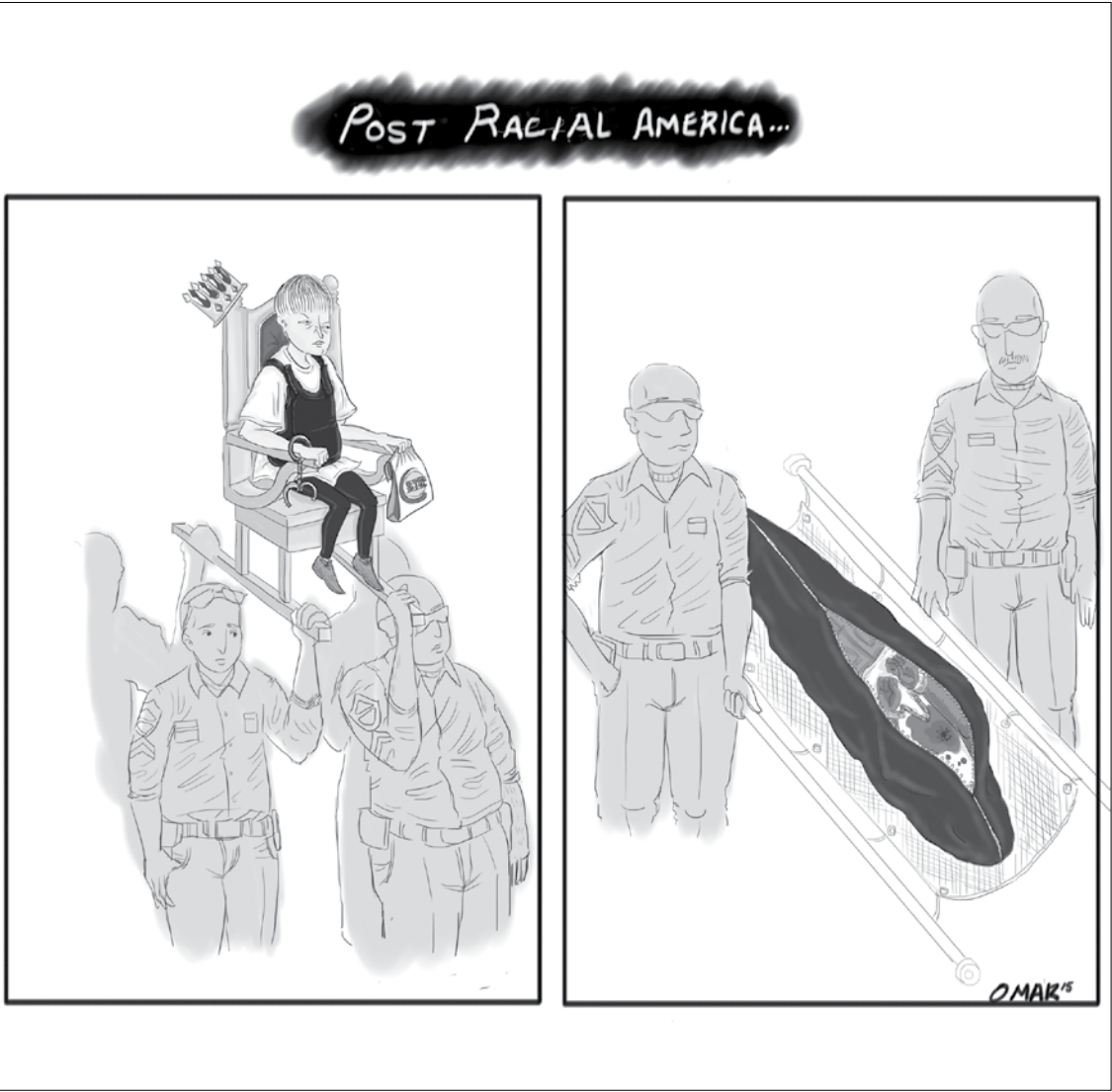
Many have gone on to accomplish incredible things in the field of journalism and many continue to reach milestones that they credit back to their time at The Prospector.

Prospector alum have gone on to work for The El Paso Times, The San Antonio Express News, The Dallas Morning News, The Austin American Statesman, The New York Daily News, The Associated Press-Mexico, The Wall Street Journal and USA Today, just to name a few.

As for myself, I thank The Prospector for opening the doors to my interning at our local ABC News affiliate KVIA-ABC7. In the fall, I will be moving to Washington D.C. to work for the Scripps Howard Foundation as a reporting intern, and for this I credit my work at The Prospector for allowing me to practice and hone my craft.

All in all, The Prospector has given back to students just as much as it has covered the history of the university. It is the ultimate win-win situation and I think I can speak for the many that have been fortunate enough to work for The Prospector when I say that we will always look back at the experience as the highlight of our college careers.

Amanda Guillen may be reached at theprospectoraily.news@gmail.com



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What did you spend the most money on this summer?

ANDRES MARTINEZ, SERGIO ZAMORA/ THE PROSPECTOR



ANDRES VALENCIANA
Freshman engineering major
"I spend most of my money either on food or going to the movies."



ASHLY DAIIOUB
Senior biomedical sciences major
"A trip to San Antonio cost me about \$500."



DAMIEN VELASQUEZ
Freshman engineering major
"This summer, I have spent the most money on video games and my car."



MICHELLE HIDALGO
Freshman political science major
"I've spent most of my money this summer on clothing because I have too much winter clothing."



ERIC HERRERA
Junior electrical engineering major
"I bought a \$600 42" Sony TV this summer."



MAITE MARTIN
Senior environmental science major
"I bought a plane ticket for a science conference, \$1,400."



ISAAC ARCINIEGA
Freshman mechanical engineering major
"I've been spending mainly on restaurants and food this summer."



ANNA AGUILAR
Freshman nursing major
"I bought a pair of pants not too long ago that were about \$45."



DAVID ZWICKER
Junior computer information systems major
"I spent \$2,400 on a trip to San Diego."



REGINA GOODWIN
Sophomore mechanical engineering major
"I bought a \$400 Dell laptop for school"



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JULY 21, 2015

ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR
JOSE SOTO, 747-7477

Our Friend The Mountain fuses genres for a unique style



PATRICK-DAVID WALKER / SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

Our Friend The Mountain creates music that transcends from rock to indie while mixing folk and alternative as well.

BY JULIA HETTINER

The Prospector

Brought together while attending UTEP, one local band has impacted the El Paso music scene, blossoming into a prominent band in the city. Their music transcends from rock to indie while mixing folk and alternative as well.

Omar Cuellar, lead vocalist and guitarist of Our Friend The Mountain, said he started the band after a random spark of inspiration struck him.

“I thought it’d be cool to have a band, so I asked some friends and

my brother, who plays drums, to join me,” Omar said.

The band is comprised of Cuellar’s brothers, Adrian and Irving Cuellar, who play guitar and drums respectively, pianist and violinist Jazmin Gonzalez, Jaganath G. Raspopovich, who plays bass, Albert Moreno on lead guitar and Salvador Maltby who plays trombone.

The members of the band came together while enrolled at UTEP.

“We all met at UTEP and once when I walked out of the library, I saw Jaganath playing guitar and asked if he could play bass,” Omar said. “My

brother is a music major and plays percussion. It’s just where we all met.”

The band’s inspiration is derived from songs by Townes Van Zandt, a singer-songwriter prominent in the music scene during the ‘70s and ‘80s.

“Townes Van Zandt is a really big influence for my brother and me, it’s who we named the band after,” Omar said. “His song ‘Our Mother the Mountain’ is a sad song, but it’s a big one for us.”

Each member of the band has a different influence in music, ranging from pop, punk and indie bands. This drives Our Friend The Mountain to try new styles.

“We’re influenced by bands like Band of Horses and Of Monsters and Men, and our pianist, Jazmin, really likes Damien Rice and our guitarist likes a little bit everything,” Omar said. “We’re all really big fans of Arcade Fire and Tony Blair and we even cover some of their songs.”

Our Friend the Mountain celebrated their four-year anniversary this July. The band has worked hard to help carve a name for themselves in the local music industry.

“We’ve been through so much in the music scene, and we’ve been doing a lot,” Omar said. “There are not many bands like us.”

According to Omar, the music scene has improved drastically over the years.

“Back then was bad, we never got paid, bookers were shady, but now our bookers are young guys who play music as well,” Omar said. “I don’t want to say I’m playing to get paid, but you need it. When you first start playing, you do it because you like it, but eventually you need it.”

The band has toured throughout cities in the Southwest including Austin, San Antonio, Los Angeles, Phoenix and cities in Mexico. Omar said touring and performing with his band is the job he wants to continue doing.

“The best part is playing music and performing it,” Omar said. “Do the

job you love because it’s not really going to be a job.”

Our Friend the Mountain was chosen for the “El Paso’s Choice” award for the Cool Canyon Nights concert series in June. Omar said winning the award was a great experience.

“It was awesome,” Omar said. “It goes to my brothers and Jazmin playing super hard for that.”

Jazmin Gonzalez, pianist for Our Friend the Mountain, said playing in the band is a lot of fun.

“What I appreciate about it is we all come together to create music, and there’s not one person dominating. We all contribute and I have full control over my instruments,” Gonzalez said. “It’s reflected in our music and it gives us a unique sound.”

The band is currently working on their second album and new ways to market it in the local music scene.

“With the new album, we really want to get that out there and really start marketing ourselves outside of El Paso,” Gonzalez said. “We have a decent following, but we hope we can tour somewhere new.”

Our Friend the Mountain will be playing Cool Canyon Nights on July 30. The concert begins at 6 p.m. For more information, visit the Our Friend the Mountain’s official Facebook page.

Julia Hettiger may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com

The Organic Taco Machine serves a healthier El Paso favorite

BY JOSE SOTO

The Prospector

“In what art of science could improvements be made that would more powerfully contribute to increase the comforts and enjoyment of mankind?”

This is a quote from Sir Benjamin Thompson from a 1974 essay on the art of cookery, which has helped inspire and motivate a local chef who has taken a different approach to one of El Paso’s favorite dishes.

Marko Herrera is the owner of The Organic Taco Machine, a food truck that has been offering El Pasoans a healthier alternative to a local favorite by cooking up tacos with organic produce and meat.

Herrera and his on-the-go business are giving locals the food they want with a healthier alternative.

“Not only do I like for people to eat healthier, but I also want people to think outside the box,” Herrera said.

Herrera’s idea for his taco business came to be while he was an active fire fighter in the U.S. Air Force.

“That might be where I learned how to drive big trucks,” Herrera said.

After finishing up in the Air Force, Herrera attended Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Austin. Upon graduation, Herrera began working at an Austin restaurant called La Condesa.

“Living in Austin really exposed me to cooking with organic material,” Herrera said. “A lot of restaurants source locally in Austin and organically. I wanted to bring that back to El Paso.”

Herrera moved back to El Paso with the aspiration to open up a restaurant. Finding it extremely expensive to do so, he found that driving around in a truck serving food was a lot more frugal.

“One day, I opened up the newspaper and found and inexpensive

truck,” Herrera said. “I purchased it soon after, painted and renovated it myself. I painted the logo.”

The Organic Taco Machine opened in April at the Tablas Pop-Up Mercado.

“That went very well because there was a lot of local produce vendors, so most of the people were interested in our organic take on the taco,” Herrera said.

Since then, The Organic Taco Machine has been hustling around town to different locations and hitting up different bars and venues like Boomtown, Blackbird and The Lowbrow.

“It’s good to switch locations so that different groups of people try the food,” Herrera said.

Among the tacos The Organic Taco Machine offers are Asian tacos and their popular Sriracha-glazed tacos.

“A lot of people think of organic produce and dishes as bland, but that isn’t always the case,” Herrera said. “In the Mexican community, we’re not used to think of using organic food to make cultural dishes like tacos. I wanted to transform the taco, be innovative with the way we see and eat tacos. A modern version, if you will.”

The business sources its produce locally from Mountain View Market, Skargard Natural Farms and Costco.

In the future, Herrera hopes to open up a venue with a garden so he can source his own produce and downgrade outsourcing.

“The business has really aimed to create authentic yet contemporary concepts of taco recipes,” Herrera said. “It’s all about a relaxed and accessible experience with eating organic.”

For more information on The Organic Taco Machine, visit their official Facebook page at www.facebook.com/theorganictacomachine.

Jose Soto may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com



PHOTOS COURTESY THE ORGANIC TACO MACHINE FACEBOOK PAGE / THE PROSPECTOR

The Organic Taco Machine offers El Pasoans a healthier alternative to a traditional Mexican dish.

Flamel, persiguiendo un sueño



PHOTO COURTESY FLMAEL FACEBOOK PAGE / THE PROSPECTOR
Angel Ramirez y Sergio Hernandez integrantes de Flamel tocan en un concierto.

BY FERNANDA LEON
The Prospector

El rock contemporáneo y space rock son los géneros musicales que una banda local esta utilizando para la creación de su música con canciones compuestas en español.

Fundada por el vocalista Daniel Corpus y el bajista Ángel Ramírez a finales del año 2013, Flamel, una banda de rock, nació por la necesidad de estos dos individuos de cumplir uno de sus grandes sueños; crear música.

Para Corpus y Ramírez, la música es la manera de poder expresarse, y junto con el guitarrista Sergio Hernández y el baterista Alejandro Barragán, Flamél les ha brindado

la oportunidad de expresarse libremente en el ambiente musical.

“Pues en lo personal la música siempre la he llevado desde chico ya que mi abuelo era músico y siempre se me inculco la música”, Hernández dijo, quien además es estudiante de la carrera de periodismo en la Universidad de Texas en El Paso.

“Cuando estoy tocando ya sea en un show o algo, se me olvida todo lo que está pasando. Nada más me gusta estar pensando en el sentimiento que le puse a mi canción o melodía”, Hernández dijo.

Nombrada en honor a Nicolas Flamel, alquimista francés del siglo catorce, la banda de rock originaria de El Paso se dedica a participar en eventos locales y también en Ciudad

Juárez para dar a conocer su música a un público más amplio.

La banda también ha tenido la oportunidad de abrir o tocar en conciertos con otras bandas de rango internacional.

“Unas de las bandas importantes con las que hemos tocado ha sido con Acid Mothers Temple que son de Japón”, Hernández dijo. “También hemos tocado con una banda de España que se llama Cápsula”.

En la actualidad, la banda tiene en pie la producción de su primer material discográfico que se titulará “Vol. 1”.

“Caballo de Mar” será su primer sencillo.

“Nuestro próximo objetivo es empezar con el CD y abrimos camino”, Ramírez dijo, también estudiante de UTEP en la carrera de publicidad. “Junto con el CD vienen cosas como el video, que estamos grabando con ZGN Productions, para nuestro primer sencillo”.

Dentro de los objetivos a largo plazo de la banda se encuentran viajes, sencillos, giras y buscar la oportunidad de sobresalir en la escena musical de México y en un futuro, internacionalmente.

“Los planes que tenemos a futuro es sobresalir más allá de lo que es la escena musical fronteriza”, Corpus dijo. “Queremos no solamente ya expresarnos, sino queremos ser una banda sobresaliente en México. Conquistar cualquier rincón musical que aquí hay en México”.

En el ámbito mexicano, Flamel ha tenido oportunidad de presentarse en lugares como la Plaza de la Mexicanidad en Ciudad Juárez, y ha participado en un concierto junto con la banda originaria de Puebla, México, Joliette.

Con su rock en español, Flamel planea salir a tocar a otras ciudades para mostrar su dedicación a la música.

“Porque con la música, no pienso en nada más que no sea en mí y la música”, Hernández dijo. “Y ese proceso se vuelve mejor si haces música con la gente indicada”.

Para mayor información sobre la banda local Flamel y sus próximos eventos, visten la página oficial de Facebook www.facebook.com/flamelmx y la cuenta de twitter www.twitter.com/flamelmx.

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

“Whiplash” lashes out some truth

BY JOSE SOTO
The Prospector



I recently watched the motion picture titled “Whiplash” upon my brother’s very adamant request, as he had seen it recently.

We were kind of late to jump on the bandwagon of this 2014 release, which was heavily acclaimed with numerous positive reviews and having won three Academy Awards.

Most importantly, at least to me, it won the approval of my brother and I.

We are far from avid film critics, but we do have a niche for distinguishing brilliantly produced music, a focal point of the film.

“Whiplash” is the story of a young ambitious jazz drummer, Andrew Neiman, who is enrolled at Shaffer Conservatory of Music, a fictional music school in New York City.

One of his professors, Terence Fletcher, notices the drive that this young student has and transfers him into the studio band, the highest of ensembles at the conservatory.

Ruthlessly pushing his young student through exhausting rehearsals and unobtainable prolific talent, Fletcher eventually manages to break his student’s spirit, causing him to be dismissed from the music program.

Fletcher’s intimidation is extreme. Without spoiling too much of the story, the main moral to “Whiplash” is that people are no longer pushed to bring out their raw talent.

Fletcher claims in the film that the world has become excessively accepting of the phrase, “it’s okay.” Whenever people mess up, everyone tells them “it’s okay,” he said.

The film gives the example of Grammy Award-winning jazz saxophonist Charlie Parker, who wasn’t coined with the nickname “The Bird” until after an infamous night when he jammed out with Jo Jones, the drummer for the Count Basie Orchestra.

Parker eventually lost the beat, causing Jones to throw a cymbal

at him. Parker went on to cry himself to sleep that night, or so the story goes, but woke up the next day to practice until he achieved perfection.

That made me ponder a little about things, especially about myself.

When I first started college, I was not a multimedia journalism major. I was actually a music major, specifically with the alto saxophone.

I quit that major after a year and a half. It wasn’t because I had stopped liking music or playing my instrument, I had just become stagnant.

What if I had a mentor who pushed me like Fletcher pushed his students?

Had all teachers pushed their students like Fletcher did his, what kind of talent would be discovered?

Perhaps Fletcher is right, we treat so many of these students, musicians or not, well like students. The word usually carries around a negative connotation of being naïve or weak.

What if there is more to them than what meets the eye?

During an internship I took in Washington, D.C., the director/editor was extremely pushy. She probably didn’t know it, but she was intimidating. I repeatedly got stories sent back for corrections, for added details and sources or they were simply shot down.

She was always pushing me to work in ways that I was not used to. I endured this for months. Today, I can thank her for making me a better journalist.

At the end of the film, Fletcher’s student outdoes himself onstage with a drum solo that impresses not only Fletcher, but also the rest of the auditorium.

Pushing through the resentment and anger that he had harbored toward Fletcher, he was able to push himself to another level.

The best part of the story is this: one can find the true extent of their talent and possibilities if there is always someone behind us pushing us forward instead of patting us on the back and saying “it’s okay.”

It’s really not okay. We must all continue to struggle upward on the path toward our goals, no matter how hard the path gets. We don’t need a babying “it’s okay.” We need a harsh, yet realistic, push forward.

Jose Soto may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FUTURE DEATH

Wed. July 22
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PAT BENATAR

Thurs. July 23
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JULY 21, 2015

SPORTS

EDITOR
LUIS GONZALEZ, 747-7477

PBC and Showtime put on a show

BY LUIS GONZALEZ

The Prospector

It's boxing. There will be good fights and there will be bad fights. On Saturday, July 18, Premiere Championship Boxing and Showtime Championship Boxing made their way to the Don Haskins for a full day of boxing. On a day where two title belts were on the line, undefeated Irishman Carl Frampton made his American debut, former heavyweight contender Chris Arreola fought to a draw, up and coming Amir Imam earned a title shot and Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. beat fellow Mexican Marco Reyes.

The day got started early, with fights beginning at noon inside the Don, but the cameras came on for Arreola's fight against Cameroonian Fred Kassi and for the Frampton versus Mexico's Alejandro Gonzalez bout.

Kassi, about to turn 36, was supposed to be a comfortable opponent for Arreola as he looks for another heavyweight title opportunity, but "Big Fred," as Kassi is nicknamed, gave Arreola all he could handle.

Kassi was the more active fighter throughout the 10 rounds of action.



Undefeated light welterweight Amir Imam knocked out Fernando Angulo in the fourth round.

Kassi out-threw Arreola 534-317 and out landed him 135-97. Although his punches never seemed to really hurt Arreola, Kassi was significantly more effective and precise with his offense.

After the 10 rounds, one judge gave the bout to Arreola and the other two called it a draw, rendering the fight a majority draw. "Big Fred" was not pleased with the outcome.

"I'm not happy (with the decision)," Kassi said. "I won every round of the fight. I showed tonight I was the better fighter."

Throughout the fight, Kassi switched back and forth between left and right stances, causing trouble for Arreola, who never really looked comfortable inside the ring.

"He was very awkward," Arreola said. "It was just a tough fight. Fred came to fight and he is a survivor. He held right, he moved right. He came here with a good strategy and got a draw out of it."

"The Nightmare" Arreola will continue to work toward another title opportunity, like the one he got in 2009 against Vitali Klitschko, and then again versus Tomasz Adamek in 2010.

"Obviously, I'm not ready to fight with (Deontay) Wilder," Arreola said. "I want to earn that shot and I didn't today. I want to get back in the gym



Featherweight champion Carl Frampton takes a punch from Alejandro "Cobrita" Gonzalez.

right away and fight as quickly as possible."

In the main event of the first half of the doubleheader, undefeated junior featherweight champion, "The Jackal"

"The ref overreacted to the low blows, I was just doing my body work," Gonzalez said. "I'm not a dirty fighter, I play by the rules and this was disappointing."

Once settled, the faster, more experienced Frampton set the tone for the fight and Gonzalez was never really able to regain the control he had in the early stages of the fight. The "Cobrita" did not make it easy for Frampton—making the champ work for every round.

The 22-year-old Gonzalez even felt like he did enough to earn the decision and the belt.

"I definitely, on the fight, I was much more effective," Gonzalez said. "I want a rematch and I'm happy to do it in his hometown. He's a good fighter, but I'm the best he's ever faced."

Although he got the victory, Frampton was not satisfied with his performance as this was his introduction to the American boxing market.



Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. and Marco Reyes trade blows Saturday at the Don Haskins Center.

#NOERAPENAL

BY LUIS GONZALEZ

The Prospector



Get over it. It's been more than a year since that very annoying hashtag, battle cry, "No Era Penal" (It was not a penalty) was born in Brazil. Now, thanks to another tight call in the Gold Cup, this time favoring the Mexican national soccer team, not only is the phrase back, but also allegations of conscious favoring toward one of the favorites of the tournament. And you know what—it is all absurd.

The way it was absurd a year ago to blame Mexico's round of 16 loss on the referee buying Arjen Robben's clear dive inside the Mexican box, it is crazy to say Costa Rica got robbed on an even tighter play Sunday afternoon in New Jersey.

If Costa Rica wants to blame somebody, they need to blame themselves, their coach and training staff. They had their moments in the first half, but, for the most part, the Central Americans executed a cautious game plan that rarely paid off. Not to mention the fact that their guys on the field were dropping all over the field out of exhaustion in the later stages of the game.

Now, to the play itself, the referee's performance and the resulting outcry and disappointment because of the clear favoritism showed toward CONCACAF's cash cow.

I can't believe I am about to defend CONCACAF and their morality when they are one of the leaders in corruption inside FIFA.

But, there was nothing in that quarter-final game to support these allegations.

The foul called inside the box with time expiring was very tight, but there was contact. As Mexican forward Oribe Peralta went up looking for a ball in the air, a Costa Rican defender made contact with Peralta's back. There was a push.

The severity of the contact is unclear, but anybody who has ever played competitive soccer knows that when you are in the air, any sort of contact can make a world of difference. The Mexican player could very well have exaggerated the contact and the fall, but the contact did exist and it is unfathomable to me that so many fans and "experts" are so certain it was not a foul. It's just not that clear.

It was a normal soccer play that could have easily gone either way. I'll put it this way—if that foul happens at midfield and it is called, no one would have a problem with it. I'll go even further, the same media guys who are questioning the call would be questioning it if it had not been called.

The idea that it was all a way to ensure Mexico's survival is not far-fetched, but with the way the match developed that was just not the case.

The referee was bad for both sides, which should not come as a surprise—North and Central American officials are just bad, period. But if anything, Mexico was on the wrong end of the calls for most of the match.

The referee had plenty of chances throughout the 120 minutes prior to the controversial call, where he

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line to fight for the vacant WBC junior welterweight title. But that's not the only thing Imam's promoter, Don King, has in his sights for the young boxer's future.

"He demonstrated the skill, the agility, the ability, the dexterity and the punching power to steal tonight's show," King said. "We're calling out Floyd Mayweather...we want the best out there."

The second fight of the Showtime card was for the vacant junior bantamweight title. Undefeated fighters McJoe Arroyo and Arthur Villanueva promised to put on a show, but it turned out to be an unwatchable affair that saw Arroyo win the belt on a technical decision due to a cut above Villanueva's eye.

The over-9,000 fans in attendance cheered when Villanueva and Arroyo finally left the ring, not just because the fight was finally over, but because it meant the main event of the evening was next.

For the first time that evening, the atmosphere was different. The crowd was invested in this fight.

Chavez Jr., a former middleweight champion, is mainly known for his legendary father Julio Cesar Chavez, and for his lack of discipline and credibility when it comes to opponents, which makes him quite the polarizing figure among boxing fans.

After failing to make weight once again, Chavez Jr. was clearly the bigger stronger fighter when he stepped into the ring. Reyes, nicknamed "El Dorado," was the active precise one from the start, but the smaller man from Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Mexico, could never hurt Chavez Jr.

"That was a difference," Reyes said. "He was much bigger. I made weight.



Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. speaks to the media at the press conference after his fight with Marco Reyes. MICHAELA ROMAN / THE PROSPECTOR

He didn't make weight. He was like a light heavyweight in there, but I put up a good fight."

Chavez Jr., on the other hand, worked inconsistently throughout the fight, but every time he landed a punch, Reyes seemed to feel it. Although Reyes was landing more punches, Chavez landed his harder.

During several instances of the fight, Chavez Jr. took total control of the fight, using his jab effectively and keeping his smaller opponent at bay. But he was never consistent and the

fight would go the distance to everybody's disappointment.

The son of the legend attributed his lack of finishing power to an injury.

"The guy is a good fighter," Chávez Jr. said. "I hurt my hand. Is it broken? Maybe. I'll see the doctor. I hurt him to the body, but I didn't finish him."

Chavez Jr. earned a unanimous decision after 10 rounds. The mismatch between fighters and several instances where Chavez Jr. complained to the referee left the crowd unhappy with the decision.

Nonetheless, Chavez Jr. was pleased with his performance as he continues to try and return to the top of the middleweight division and make a name for himself in the world of boxing.

"I felt good in there. I felt like I did some good things," Chavez Jr. said. "Reyes is a tough fighter and I expected him to give me his best and he did."

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could have favored the Mexican squad and he didn't.

Every time there was a set piece and Mexico sent the ball into the box, players were getting manhandled and bear hugged—he could've called a penalty every time and he didn't.

Costa Rica fouled significantly more times than Mexico all throughout the match and there were more than a few occasions in which cards should have been showed and they weren't.

Yes, Oribe Peralta, the focus of the controversial call should have been ejected five minutes prior to the foul because of a two-footed tackle. But by that logic, Costa Rica should have had one player booted for an elbow to Peralta a lot earlier in the game.

There were other instances where Costa Ricans, who were already booked with a yellow, committed fouls deserving of a second and the referee let them live.

The point is, the play was tight, not as clear-cut as many want it to be, but most importantly one isolated play does not define a game. Mexico was better, even if the referee made a mistake—when that happens it is part of the game. Costa Rica can't be mad at the call, be mad at the fact that you didn't do enough to win the game.

The same way Mexico quit playing against the Netherlands that June afternoon in Fortaleza and lost because of it—not because of Robben's dive—Costa Rica lost because they were not the best team on the field, period.

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