

9-1-2015

# The Prospector, September 1, 2015

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# THE PROSPECTOR

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VOL. 100, NO. 1

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

SEPTEMBER 1, 2015



Hi Miner



## MyUTEP page gets an overhaul

University aims to make it more than a launch site



“(We) wanted to make sure that we developed something that met all of our current students’ needs.”

**Luis Hernandez**  
Enterprise Computing Director

< **BY LUIS GONZALEZ**  
The Prospector >

The main website for University of Texas at El Paso students has undergone a complete overhaul for the first time since it was launched almost 10 years ago. After a two-year research and development process, the MyUTEP page has been redesigned with only one thing in mind: the student.

“Originally this was launched six to seven years ago and our student population has changed,” said Enterprise Computing Director Luis Hernandez. “We wanted to make sure we were meeting your needs as they exist today.”

The concern over the website’s usefulness to the student population, and the growing use of mobile devices sparked a process that would result in the MyUTEP page available today.

Through tracking of the website’s traffic, the university noticed an increase in use, especially through the different mobile devices available today.

Making the website more mobile friendly was among the main concerns.

Enterprise Computing researched and developed the website for a period of 18 months. During this period of time, student

opinion was the top priority. Student focus groups were used throughout the process to test aspects of the website such as its design. Hernandez and his team used storyboards, paper models and computer renderings in search of the optimal website for the UTEP student.

“We had student input every step of the way,” Hernandez said. “(We) wanted to make sure that we developed something that met all of our current students’ needs.”

The mobile-friendly aspect of the new website is just one of the many changes the MyUTEP portal has undergone.

According to their research, Enterprise Computing found that the MyUTEP website was really only being used by students as a way to get to other sites. Accessing Blackboard, Goldmine or their student email were the main reasons for which UTEP students were visiting the MyUTEP website.

“I would mainly use it as a main source in order for me to be able to direct myself to other websites or databases, like Blackboard or the library,” said Jesus Chacon, senior nursing major.

The purpose of the website went way beyond just a launch page, but the students were simply not aware of this.

“When you logged into the previous iteration, you came to the landing page, it really didn’t show you anything, it was a lot of marketing, a lot of information,” Hernandez said. “Students really didn’t know about all the other functionality that was there because they would log in and they wouldn’t see it.”

The purpose of the MyUTEP website is to provide UTEP students with information they will need on a day-to-day basis. The university wants it to be an aid to students in their everyday collegiate life.

The website still provides a quick link to other important websites such as Blackboard and Goldmine, but now it puts other valuable information in front of the user to diminish the need of the other websites.

see MYUTEP on page 3

DESIGN BY JACOB DE LA ROSA / THE PROSPECTOR



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SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

PERSPECTIVES

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
LUIS GONZALEZ, 747-7477

Lock and loaded for campus

BY ALONSO MORENO



The Prospector

As we are roughly a year away from guns being allowed on campus, I would like to take a look back at some of the prominent

arguments that were made for concealed guns on campus.

Number one: It's in the Constitution

This is somewhat a funny one for people to bring up. To begin, the situation on guns in school was not something that was foreseen by our forefathers. We tend to forget that when they thought of this, the playing field was pretty even for all situations. The nation had just finished a war, and it made sense to want to protect themselves from any new tyrants that might arise.

This is a pretty rational train of thought if you consider it from ancient times. Today, it's not that simple or easy to breakdown. Whether or not I feel safe in campus is entirely up to me. I can choose to believe that highly trained police officers and personnel are prepared to protect me at all times, but I might also choose to believe that if a mad man decides to shoot up the school there is only a limited number of first responders who could save me. The university is a big, complex and scary place to be if you consider the amount of people who could waltz in with a gun (license or not) and is a potential gunman.

Going back to the time of our forefathers, mass school shootings were not a thing, and we didn't quite understand the love that the country would develop for its guns. Once again, it was a matter of perspective and how you particularly feel about the current situation.

Number two: We need to defend ourselves

This one is hard to argue against or for. In a perfect world, there would be no need to defend ourselves from each other. Instead, we all would be friends, hold hands and probably have fun or something like that. In our world, we often ask the question, "What if?" What if someone assaults me, rapes me or shoots me? Some may call this fear mongering, but it's not that far from the truth.

People in this nation have legitimate fears about other people and it's something that we have to deal with. It's hard to imagine the apocalyptic scenario that could result from everyone fearing random passing strangers because they might be armed, but for some people it's too real.

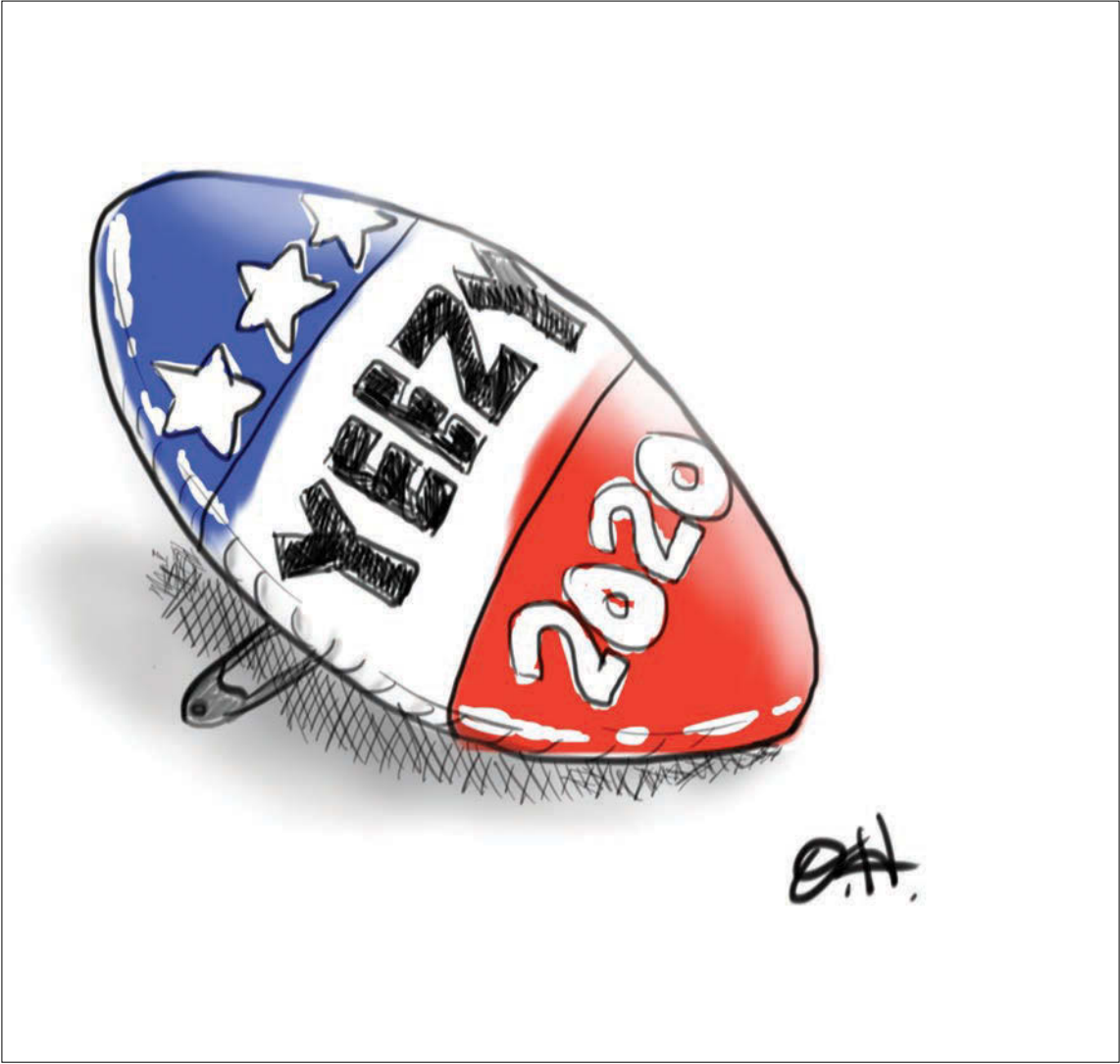
Case in point are the different police departments across our great nation. If I learned anything from the Ferguson incidents it was that our police departments are armed like a small private military company.

Makes me wonder, could there be a correlation with the fact that private citizens could potentially be armed? Probably, but I am no expert, the only evidence I have is that in the case that we actually tried to overturn our government, we would be up against drones, armored-personnel-carrier and top of the line technological weapons. Very different than the scenario our forefathers faced, where everyone had the same muskets and the same boats.

If this column seems simplistic and a tease for something much more in-depth, there is a very good reason for it. The gun dilemma boils down to one thing, people. We can't simply go about expecting the best from the situation when people are involved. If I have a gun and I am perfectly sane person, it won't matter if the mad one amongst us goes berserk. It won't matter if a politician stood at a podium and pleaded for everyone to understand why guns are something we need. What will matter are the actions and the results.

I once was told that the blood of brave patriots wrote our history and Constitution; I don't doubt that, but now I wonder if we are starting to stain that memory with the blood of our own innocent citizens? Feedback, we are listening.

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



ACCURACY WATCH

The Prospector is committed to accuracy. If you think we have made an error of fact, e-mail us at theprospectordaily.news@utep.edu.

THE PROSPECTOR

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# What do you think of the new myutep.edu website?

ADRIAN BROADDUS, ANDRES MARTINEZ, ANGEL ULLOA, SERGIO ZAMORA / THE PROSPECTOR



**ALEXIS GONZALES**  
Sophomore biological science major  
"I like it because it's more organized and more open. If you need to."



**ANGEL RAMIREZ**  
Freshman pre-business major  
"I think that the website is pretty easy to get through it."



**ASTRID MUNOZ**  
Freshman business major  
"It's nice and easy to navigate."



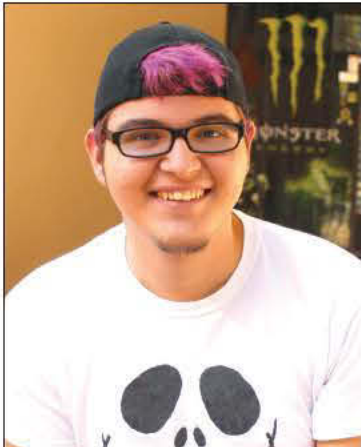
**ANTHONY ORTEGA**  
Freshman kinesiology major  
"It is really easy to navigate through and also very helpful."



**CRYSTAL CANDLARIA**  
Junior education major  
"It's a lot different than last year's website. It's like an app, so on your phone it's easy to navigate around."



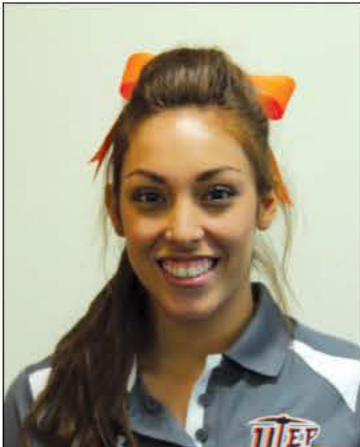
**DELANEY KUEHNEL**  
Sophomore, kinesiology major  
"The new utep.edu page is really easy to use, and really simple to scroll to the tabs that you actually want to see. I like it a lot more than the old outdated one. It's really Miner friendly."



**NICK HANTZOPULOS**  
Freshman chemistry major  
"It seems very easy to access and it seems very student friendly. I am not very tech savvy but I think it works pretty well for incoming students."



**KENDRA PHIPPS**  
Senior education major  
"I like all the colors but also I like the organization. It's really user friendly and I think that's really cool."



**SAMANTHA-JO HERRERA**  
Junior, Accounting major  
"After playing around with it for a while, I think it's way easier to manage and the fact that everything is displayed on the main section of the dashboard is really convenient. I like it a lot better."



**LAURA ROBLETO**  
Freshman engineering leadership major  
"It's very easy to use, it looks as if you are using a tablet so its very student friendly."

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# SGA pushes for greater visibility and transparency



Members of the Student Government Association pose for a photo during this year's Minerpalooza. ANDRES MARTINEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

BY MARIA ESQUINCA  
The Prospector

On a Thursday evening, inside room 304 in Union East, a gavel is loudly struck signifying the commencement of the first Student Gov-

ernment Association senate meeting of the semester. It is here that a series of decisions that affect UTEP students will take place. The room is packed. Seated around the large, oval wooden table are 23 senators, one for every 1,000 stu-

dents. Out of those 23, there's eight collegiate senators representing each college. Lining the wall are 12 students, but only one of them is there to voice a concern.

Her name is Samantha Stewart, senior biological sciences major, and she has a parking problem. Stewart can't find parking space in the lot she paid for. That's because UTEP Parking and Transportation sells more parking permits than they have spaces. According to Traffic Court Justice Peter Diaz, senior math major, UTEP's most popular lots are 15 percent overbooked. "We do have a lot more students than we have parking spaces," Diaz said. "It's an issue all students live with." Stewart was told that she should park in one of the remote lots, and she is then given Diaz's contact info so he can further help her out. "What we do is try to ease the relief students feel when they've been treated unfairly," said Hannan Alkhalifa, SGA vice president of internal affairs and senior psychology major, at the meeting. "We help students, we don't try and hurt students." Stewart's visit to the SGA meeting is not common. A trend Dominguez said is on the rise.

"There are times when there aren't any students at all that come to our meetings, but as of late there's more students that have been coming," Dominguez said. However, SGA minutes for the spring and summer of 2015 reveal no evidence of public comment. The lack of engagement between students and SGA is also highlighted through low voter turnouts, 2,803 ballots were cast during this year's election, a decrease from the total of voters in the previous election at 2,986. Brandon Thomas senior health promotions major, said he didn't vote in the last election because he felt he did not see any change occurring around campus. "Ever since that I kind of just view it like a popularity contest and I don't even bother," he said.

Something Dominguez is hoping to change this semester. Dominguez said he's pushing for greater visibility of SGA, which will lead to greater engagement from students.

To do this, Dominguez wants to implement regular town hall meetings called SGA Listens by the end of September. Students would be able to attend these meetings and voice their concerns.

"Students aren't fully aware of what student government is doing, they see a lot of things, but they don't associate that with us," he said. "That's why this year, during SGA listens, we're going to have that same type of energy and enthusiasm to show that were here."

Other proposals include regular class presentations similar to the ones that occur during election week where senators will be provide students with status reports.

"I think that's a step in the right direction," Thomas said.

Another change is a shift towards greater transparency.

"This year, a lot of our senators including the executive branch want to make sure we're being as transparent with the student body and administration as we can be," said Hector Soltero, SGA executive assistant and senior organizational and corporate communication major.

Some proposals for greater transparency include live streaming the senate meetings and uploading video reports to the SGA website that would update students on what SGA is doing.

Other projects proposed by senators include the installment of more tutoring centers around campus, a platform that would allow students to present ideas they have to improve student life on campus and a Fox Fine Arts festival, among others.

"We hope they see SGA as a relevant entity—a helpful organization—that it's worth voting for their elected officials," Dominguez said.

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

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SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR  
JOSE SOTO, 747-7477

# Uptown Cheapskate offers affordable clothing

BY FERNANDA LEON  
The Prospector

For many college students, the line between wearing trendy clothes or spending money on groceries and gas can be an extremely thin one. In many cases, both things can be of dire importance for students.

Buying, selling and trading affordable fashion is the intent behind the newly-opened clothing store called Uptown Cheapskate. The store, which has various franchises around the country, offers trendy, gently-used, in-style clothing and accessories at an affordable price.

“We buy clothes from the public and basically, when someone comes and brings their clothes in, we go through each item checking their condition,” said Kevin Drennen, owner of El Paso’s Uptown Cheapskate.

Uptown Cheapskate’s employees are trained to offer advice and service to their customers based on their knowledge on the latest trends, styles, brands and looks that fit best to each customer.

Some of the predominant brands that the store offers are Michael Kors, H&M, American Eagle and Free People, amongst others. The exchange store also offers designer brands such as Kate Spade, Marc Jacobs, Jimmy Choo and Yves St. Laurent.

“We are not all fortunate to go and buy at department stores that offer the best brands, and stores like this, that offer a great diversity in one place, it’s something that I think is very convenient and good,” said Jose Eduardo Galeano, junior art major. “I would definitely buy at this and many other stores that offer the exchange service.”

According to Drennen, the store is directed at a younger population such as college students.

“We really want a little bit for everybody, but our main target customer is the 20-something-year-old,” Drennen said. “College students typically love this. It’s cheap, it’s affordable, it’s fun, it’s different and it’s local.”

The store is located at 2900 N. Mesa St., which was chosen by the owners, Kevin and Jessica Drennen, with the purpose of making the idea of buying, selling and trading clothes a part of a college student’s life.

“

We really want a little bit of everybody, but our main target customer is the 20-something-year old

”

- Kevin Drennen  
Uptown Cheapsteak owner

“It will also provide them (the students) with many affordable choices to choose from, and give them a chance to clean out their closet and receive cash in exchange,” said Valeria Annette Mora, an employee at Uptown Cheapskate.

Apart of being an affordable exchange store, Uptown Cheapskate

also contributes clothing donations to local charities.

“All the clothes or items Uptown Cheapskate is not able to purchase, with the customer’s approval, we happily donate them to local charities,” Mora said.

Some of the local organizations that the store supports with donations are Candlelighters of El Paso, The Rescue Mission, and local low-income high school students.

“Uptown Cheapskate loves the idea of finding every single piece of garment a new home, and this is also a great option to do so while helping out the community,” Mora said.

In the future, Uptown Cheapskate will have contests, giveaways and many other events that will benefit both their customers and the store’s exchange dynamic.

“We want to give back to our customers for all their support since the

beginning of this fun journey. After all, we are all Uptown Cheapskate El Paso,” Mora said.

For more information about Uptown Cheapskate El Paso, visit their Facebook page or visit their store location at 2900 N Mesa. Suite B.

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



Uptown Cheapskate is located at 2900 N. Mesa St.

SERGIO ZAMORA / THE PROSPECTOR

# New study seeks correlation between yoga and stress



ANDRES MARTINEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

Education graduate student, Rasmiyeh Asam demonstrates one of the yoga poses she teaches.

BY JULIA HETTIGER  
THE PROSPECTOR

The goal of a new study at The University of Texas at El Paso is to evaluate the impact of yoga on the stress and anxiety levels of students and their academic focus. The study also aims to gain the students’ perspective on whether or not yoga was effective in relieving stress and anxiety.

Rasmiyeh Asam, graduate student in education, is conducting the study to see if there is a correlation between

yoga and self-diagnosed stress relief for first-generation college students. Starting Sept. 8, students interested in the study can receive free yoga lessons on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Memorial Gym, room 121. The study will last six weeks and all students are welcome to participate during the first week.

Those who wish to participate in the full study will receive a free yoga mat.

“My study is actually going to take place next week,” Asam said. “I’ve had

flyers up around campus for a while and in order to recruit students, the first week will be free, that way students can stay or quit at no loss to either of us.”

Asam chose to conduct this study based on her experiences as an undergraduate student, when she used yoga as a stress reliever.

“I, myself, was stressed and I took yoga for six semesters, and it really helped,” Asam said.

She says she owes a lot to her personal experiences, and this has led

Asam to try to help students who are in the same situation as she was.

Asam took a 200-hour yoga certification class and is now a certified yoga instructor. She is also constantly learning new things about yoga and reads many yoga-related books.

She also serves as a yoga teacher at Casa de Yoga, where she also takes classes.

“Anyone can learn yoga on their own, but I like going to the studio because of the social atmosphere and having a leader who really pushes you,” Asam said. “That’s what I hope students get out of coming to my yoga classes.”

According to Asam, yoga can help alleviate stress because of the breathing techniques involved, which she uses when she feels stressed.

“Learning how to breathe and taking it day by day helps me to not let things bother me as much and better understand them,” Asam said. “I don’t think many students know this, and if anything, I want them to remember the breathing techniques.”

Once when she was in her car, she used a breathing technique she learned through her yoga classes to calm herself down when she felt anxious.

“It may sound a little ridiculous, but I was stressed in my car, so I started doing a lion’s breath, which is the equivalent of a lion’s roar,” Asam said. “It started making me laugh and smile, and I forgot why I was stressed in the first place.”

Asam’s study will focus on first-generation college students, meaning students whose parents did not graduate from college. Being a first-generation college student herself, Asam understands the stress and pressure associated with being the first in the family to go to college.

“As a student whose parents graduated from college, you have people who’ve been through the college experience and can help you, but as a first-generation college student, you’re held with more stress,” Asam said. “I was so lost with what college meant and finding the right services and processes. Joining yoga classes helped with my stress.”

Asam believes yoga better serves as a stress reliever than many other common outlets.

“Many people could use it to get through stuff without using something that involves putting something else in you,” Asam said. “Not saying some people don’t need it, but yoga can still help a lot with stress.”

For more information about the study, email Rasmiyeh Asam at rrasam@miners.utep.edu.

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



# A beautiful 'Madness'

BY JOSE SOTO

The Prospector

The year has already seen many highly prolific albums dropped by some major artists. It seems, however, that one album has drawn both the most attention and anticipation all on its own. With three addictive and beautifully crafted singles released as teasers for the album, the anticipation grew to massive heights for many, including myself. Two tracks into "Beauty Behind The Madness," the second full-length album from The Weeknd, you can already hear that you're in for something beautiful.

With a blaring horn section and some jazz implementation, along with a guest spot by Labrinth, "Losers" kicks off the album in the musical trajectory that features unexpected musical terrains.

"Beauty Behind The Madness" might seem a bit poppy for longer-term fans of Abel Tesfaye—a.k.a The Weeknd—who are used to a more minimal, slow-tempo R & B/Hip-Hop fusion, but that is exactly the beauty behind the album. Not much has changed, however, as Tesfaye continues to utilize misogyny and long-time collaborator Illangelo on this album. Max Martin is brought on board to bring the Weeknd into a radio-friendly platform.

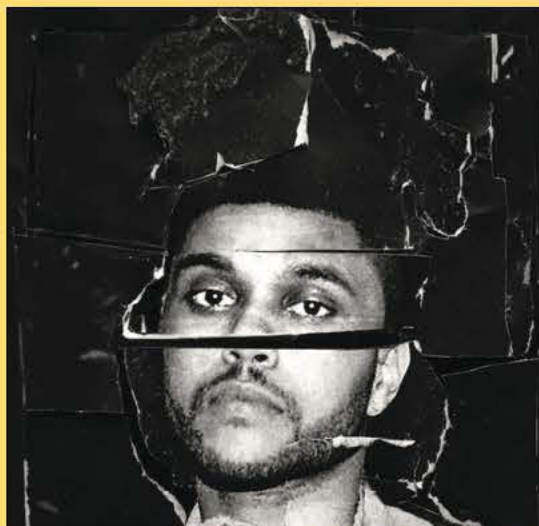
Tesfaye's 2012 self-released mixtape, "Trilogy," landed him a coveted spot amongst underground music listeners. "Kiss Land," his first major record label release, was supposed to do exactly what "Madness" has done, catapult The Weeknd into the spotlight he well deserves. Not many artists are as frank, honest and unapologetic as this soulful singer and morose songwriter.

Illicit drug use, promiscuous sexual encounters and a lot of swearing are still present in this new album, but they are sweetly disguised in well-produced, as well as eclectic and strong songwriting.

Of course there is "Can't Feel My Face," the '70s disco-tinged Michael Jackson reminiscent number that brought massive attention to the album. Although Tesfaye dropped his alternative R & B signature sound for this song, it definitely worked out well for him. Heavily relying on a compelling bass line, "Can't Feel My Face" single-handedly has assured the album some Grammy nominations. There isn't anything on the album as close to pop-perfection as this chart topper, but there are many other gems.

In "Tell Your Friends," the Kanye West-produced track, The Weeknd drops as many F-bombs, N-bombs, sexual innuendos and drug references as he normally would before, while accompanied by a lounge piano.

"Acquainted" is exuberant with deep bass lines and upbeat, while "Shameless" slows things down with a



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

gloomy, bleak guitar riddled confession about an interdependent, unhealthy romance.

"In The Night" finds The Weeknd singing to an '80s mnemonic melody, which is again very Jackson-reminiscent. Ed Sheeran is featured in "Dark Times," where they both exchange lyrics about being the wrong man to fall in love with amongst Sheeran's simple and swift blues-rhythmic guitar riffs. Although one would think that the odd pair would sound awkward since they are complete opposites, the track is polished pop.

The same can be said of "Prisoner," which features Lana Del Rey, whose smooth, swaying vocals suits Tesfaye's. Both are dark, blunt and depressive artists, which makes the track work wonderfully.

It should be noted that the album should have ended on this track, as it would have marked a beautiful ending. Instead it ends on "Angel," the most forgettable song of the album.

The one-standout track of the album besides "Can't Feel My Face" is "As You Are." A confessional track about stubborn love, the artist's vocal ability, which is Ethiopian-influenced, is showcased in this track as he smoothly takes fans back to his "Trilogy" days of falsettos and elongated high notes. "As You Are" starts off as a mid-tempo, synthesizer-based ballad and ends as a vocalized battle between the singer's many vocal octaves, a sonic delight to those who are searching for the old Weeknd.

The album is certainly Tesfaye's certification as an established artist instead of the passing fad many thought he would be. It has also served as his way of transitioning into a more experimental songwriter. Perhaps it was his fans imprisoning him into that sound. This colossal album proves that one solo sound was never his only domain.

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

# La Parada celebrates five year anniversary

BY JULIA HETTINGER

The Prospector

Every first Friday of every month for the last five years has been one where local musicians, artists and enthusiasts gather together to celebrate the art scene here in El Paso as one. Not many local events last long enough to become a regional tradition. One, however, has managed to persevere and will celebrate five years of providing El Pasoans with the opportunity to support their local art and music scene.

La Parada, a monthly event hosted at The San Carlos building located at 501 Texas, will be hosting their monthly artful congregation on Sept. 4 marking their fifth anniversary. Anthony Flores, an organizer for La Parada, said the celebrations have come a long way over the years.

This month, La Parada will feature music by Astronautica, DOT, Fetish, Jess Rox and Young Handsome as well as art from the Punk Rock Flea Market and Francella Salgado. There will also be a burlesque show with performances by dancers Khaleesi Love Skye, Madame Pearl, Abby Ripper, Betti Mae Wiggle and Feisty Baudelaire.

The Real Young Handsome, one of the performers lined-up for La Parada on Sept. 4, said with this being the five year anniversary of the event, the performance is going to be "special."

"It makes it a unique performance because this is the first time I have the opportunity to be involved with La Parada," said the artist. "I'm super grateful."

Alejandro Morales, synthesizer player for Fetish, said it is an honor to be able to be part of this event with such talent. The bands' La Parada event will be their last performance as a band.

"We heard a lot of good things about the event," Morales said. "It feels great to have been asked to play. The lineup all together sounds awesome. It's going to be a great show."

"The event is an ongoing arts, music and social party that has been going on for five years," Flores said. "We are always getting together, there's a group of us that put it on, and during meetings and collaborations we all throw in ideas, there are no bad ideas, and pick and choose the coolest."

This month will be different than the other months because the event will feature an all-female lineup.

"This month we are honoring women with an all-female lineup, so all of the visiting artists and musician will be women," Flores said.

Flores said although there has been much improvement and progression in La Parada events, they still represent their grassroots beginnings.

"Everyone involved do it because they love the arts and bringing it together," Flores said.

When the first La Parada took place, all of the artists and musician brought in were local and not many people showed up to the event. Now, La Parada has secured attendees and performers coming in from around the country.

"This time around, we have two people coming in from out of town, but we've had people come down from LA, Austin and Detroit," Flores said. "Since the first one, we put it together so we can have something different for El Paso, and the very first one was unique in the way it was presented."

Although La Parada has been taking place the first Friday of every month for the past five years, Flores said they did not realize it would as successful as it is.

"It's so neat and special because we didn't think it would turn into five years," Flores said. "Sometimes, we look at old posters and think about memories, and we've all become so close with one another. Some people have met their future wives and have had babies, and we've turned into a unique gathering over the years."

Flores said La Parada attributes their success to the artists and musicians who dedicate their time to the event.

"The people, the artists, the ones who sing, we wouldn't be doing it without them and the event wouldn't have continued," Flores said. "We're highlighting the artists here, and we want them to embrace and feel the love."

La Parada plans to continue as a monthly event for years to come.

"We're growing into it," Flores said. "We are continuing to do it, and we need support to justify it and give us motivation, and we are trying to learn from it as much as we can. It's a fun environment. There are no overbearing egos and it's a good place to come and enjoy life."

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SPORTS EDITOR JAVIER CORTEZ, 747-7477

Miners ready for Arkansas in Fayetteville



FILE PHOTO The UTEP football team went 7-6 in head coach Sean Kugler's second season at the helm. The Miners made their first bowl game apperance in the Gildan New Mexico Bowl against Utah State, losing 21-6.

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS The Prospector

Entering his third season as head coach, Sean Kugler and his squad launch their 2015 season on the road against the nationally ranked Arkansas Razorbacks this Saturday in Fayetteville, Arkansas. The Miners finished the 2014 season 7-6, their best finish since the 2010 season (6-7). Despite graduating key players such as quarterback Jameill Showers, running back Nathan Jeffries and safety Wesley Miller, the Miners return key starters with

receiver Autrey Golden, running back Aaron Jones and linebacker Trey Brown. "Our team is very excited for many reasons – the entire season as a whole, but also our opening game against Arkansas," said head coach Sean Kugler. "To have the opportunity to go into an SEC stadium against what we feel is one of the hottest teams of last season. From a witness standpoint, this will be the most physical team we face because I feel they are the most physical team in the country." Like the Miners, the Razorbacks reached a bowl game with a 6-6 re-

cord last season. However, they won their bowl game 31-7 against the University of Texas and would finish the season 7-6. On the other hand, the Miners lost their bowl game last season 21-6 against Utah State. Having won three out of their last four games, the Razorbacks enter the 2015 season with plenty of momentum. Head coach Bret Bielema and his 18th-ranked Razorbacks have 16 starters returning this season, giving much promise for them to climb up in the rankings. Also coming back for the Razorbacks are two offensive threats, quar-

terback Brandon Allen, who passed for 2,285 yards and threw 20 touchdowns, and running back Alex Collins, who rushed for 1,100 yards at 5.4 yards per run. The duo brings a balanced offensive threat to the table. However, according to coach Kugler, the greatest asset that the Razorback offense has is their seasoned, strong offensive line. "The strength of (Arkansas) is their offensive line," Kugler said. "They return five starters. They have the biggest offensive line; not only in college football, but you can include the National Football League. They average 6-6, 228 pounds per lineman. This is an extremely veteran, extremely talented and extremely large offensive line. It's where they hang their hat." After being named to preseason 2015 Doak Walker Award's watch list and first-team Conference USA running back, Jones is back and better then ever. Jones led the Miners last season with 1,321 rushings yards and 14 total touchdowns.

“What I want our team to do is go out there and compete. From the opening whistle to the final whistle.”

- Sean Kugler, UTEP football head coach

"Anybody who was at camp and saw Aaron Jones, I think he's a step faster," Kugler said. "He is certainly stronger. He has been in that 15-20 carry range his first couple of years. He's quicker

and more explosive. He has built himself up to the position where he could carry it 20 to 25 times per game and not feel bad about that workload. We are going to ride Aaron Jones." Although the process of naming a starting quarterback has been going on for nearly six months, head coach Sean Kugler finally declared the starting quarterback for the Miners – red-shirt sophomore Mack Leftwich. Leftwich beat out junior Garrett Simpson. Kugler added that redshirt freshman quarterback Ryan Metz would also be an offensive asset, whether at quarterback or even at receiver. True freshman Kavika Johnson took some snaps during training camp and even participated in a wildcat-like formation for the offense. "We have two solid quarterbacks going into the season," Kugler said. "Then when you throw in the athleticism of Ryan Metz and Kavika Johnson, this is the best I've felt about our quarterbacks' group as a whole since I've been here." The Miners open against the Razorbacks, with what will be a three-game road series. The Miners will then travel to Lubbock to face Texas Tech on Sept. 12, and after that the squad will take on their rivals New Mexico State in Las Cruces on Sept. 19. Whether they win or lose, all Kugler wants from his team is for them to compete. "What I want our team to do is go out there and compete," Kugler said. "From the opening whistle to the final whistle, and I think if they go out there and fight, they will walk off that field knowing where they stand and what we need to do to get better. I'm viewing our four non-conference games to help us to prepare for our conference games, which, in my mind, are the most important things. That's our goal: to be competitive in our conference and make a bowl game."

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Leftwich secures starting spot at quaterback

BY JAVIER CORTEZ The Prospector

After a long and drawn out battle, UTEP football head coach Sean Kugler named sophomore Mack Leftwich the starting quarterback for the Miners. Throughout the spring and summer the quarterback battle was wide open. Four different players competed for the starting job; Leftwich, junior Garrett Simpson, redshirt freshman Ryan Metz and true freshman Kavika Johnson. In the Miners' last scrimmage before leaving their camp in Ruidoso, the battle seemed to have comedown to Leftwich and Simpson. Kavika Johnson turned heads with his stellar play out of the Miners' wildcat package, while Metz was used at wide receiver briefly. Leftwich briefly played his freshman year in 2013, replacing Jameill Showers as the starting quarterback after Showers went down with a season-ending shoulder injury. Leftwich started the last four games of the sea-

son, completing 58 percent of his 75 passes [44-of-75] for 458 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions. The Miners were 1-3 with Leftwich under center. Simpson played briefly in the 2013 and 2014 seasons, but never started. Nevertheless, Leftwich was named the starting quarterback "fair and square," according to Kugler. "Mack Leftwich will be the starting quarterback," Kugler said at weekly UTEP football media luncheon this past Monday. "He won that quarterback competition fair and square. This was monitored all the way since the end of last season, from the offseason conditioning workouts through spring football, through the summer conditioning workouts and through the fall camp." Steadfast in his conviction, Kugler did add that this past quarterback battle was as close as it gets. "I will say this, I have never been a part of a quarterback competition that statistically was as close," Kugler

see LEFTWICH on page 12



MICHAELA ROMAN / THE PROSPECTOR Sophomore Mack Leftwich beat out three others quarterbacks to win the starting spot. Leftwich started four games for the Miners in his freshman year in 2013.



# OUR VIEW

PHOTO EDITOR  
MICHAELA ROMAN, 747-7477

## Chihuahuas conclude final home stand of regular season



**The El Paso** Chihuahuas have eight regular season games remaining, all of them on the road. The Chihuahuas finished their regular season home games this past Sunday, with a home record of 35-37. MICHAELA ROMAN/THE PROSPECTOR



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# Miners and Lobos renew rivalry starting in 2016

BY JAVIER CORTEZ  
The Prospector

The rivalry is back on. Starting in the 2016-17 season, the UTEP and New Mexico men's basketball teams will play each other in regular season play for the first time since 2009. The Miners will square off with the Lobos at "The Pit" in Albuquerque on Dec. 3, 2016, followed by a Dec. 2, 2017 game at the Don Haskins Center.

With the rivalry at its peak during the late '80s to early '90s, the UTEP-UNM game was one of the biggest rivalries in the old Western Athletic Conference. The Miners had a long list of foes in the old WAC, which included Wyoming, Brigham Young and Utah.

However, the UTEP-UNM was only outdone by the Battle of I-10, UTEP vs. New Mexico State.

Dating back to 1929, the Miners and Lobos have played each other 141 times, with UNM leading the all-time series 76-65.

The last game between both teams was on March 15, 2011 in Albuquerque. The Miners were coming off a

heartbreaking loss against the University of Memphis in the Conference USA tournament final, which denied them a spot in the 2011 NCAA tournament after a stellar regular season.

The Miners had to settle for the National Invitation Tournament, along with the Lobos. The Miners were handily beaten 69-57. Unknown to the public at the time, this would be the last time both teams would play each other. A riff at the pregame shoot around between then-UNM head coach Steve Alford, now UCLA's head coach and current UTEP head coach Tim Floyd brought the series to a halt.

Despite some disparaging comments from Alford made to the Albuquerque Journal in 2011, Floyd stayed firm in his belief that both teams should keep playing.

"With the economics the way they are, with the short distance of travel, with the great interest of this series through the years, the game means something to the people in the stands," Floyd told the Albuquerque Journal in 2011. "I think we should play every year until they take the air out of the basketball."

Alford eventually left UNM for UCLA in 2013, but the rivalry was still in a drought. Now out of nowhere, the rivalry has resumed, but for how long is uncertain. In a brief press release, UTEP athletics stated,

“It would be hard to argue that the most memorable games in our school's history have been against The University of New Mexico.”

- Tim Floyd,  
UTEP men's basketball  
head coach

“additional games are possible in subsequent seasons”.

What is certain is how the relationship is mutually beneficial for both teams.

To go along with the relatively short distance, heralded history and noteworthy basketball, is what the game does for both teams in terms of national rankings.

Both teams playing each other will boost their respective Basketball Power Index (BPI) and Rating Percentage Index (RPI). BPI and RPI are college basketball's two most coveted team ratings systems that determine how good a team is beyond the simplistic win-loss record.

In a brief statement from UTEP athletics, UNM head coach Craig Neal, who is entering his third year as head coach, expressed excitement for the renewed rivalry. Neal's Lobos are coming off an uneventful 15-16 record last season.

"I am excited to add UTEP to our schedule," Neal said. "They are a historic and regional rival, and I know our fans are excited for this series as well."

Tim Floyd, who was an assistant coach under the legendary Don Haskins, experienced the rivalry as far back as 1978 and he knows the rivalry will bring an added excitement to the upcoming seasons.

"It would be hard to argue that the most memorable games in our school's history have been against The University of New Mexico," Floyd said through UTEP athletics. "Our fans, and I trust theirs, will welcome this series resuming."

Whereas the renewed rivalry brings excitement for fans of past generations, the rivalry is lost on most UTEP basketball fans today and the players. The Lobos have not played in El Paso since Jan. 2, 2008. No player on the 2015-16 UTEP men's basketball team has ever played against the University of New Mexico.

As long as the interest is there for the fans and coach Floyd's tenure with UTEP continues, then expect years of UTEP-UNM games to come.

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LEFTWICH from page 9

said. "As far as the completion percentage, Mack was only one percentage better than Garrett (Simpson). Their touchdowns were equal. Their dropped passes were equal. The thing that stood out to me were interceptions, which tilted heavily in favor of Mack."

Mack Leftwich will be the starting quarterback. He won that quarterback competition fair and square

- Sean Kugler,  
UTEP football head coach

Not turning the ball over was crucial for the Miners last season. Playing a slow-paced/run-oriented offense; the Miners do not throw the ball frequently, opting to run the ball heavily. The Miners have been slow and methodical since the departure of former head coach Mike Price's spread offense and the arrival of Kugler's ground and pound game.

According to Kugler, Leftwich fits the template of his offense to a tee.

"I think he's got a great quarterback demeanor," Kugler said. "Handling

formations, handling the clock. In the style of offense that we run those are very important things. Jameill did a great job with those things last year. Not turning the ball over, those are all great qualities that Jameill did outstanding for us last year, (Mack) has those."

Leftwich is the starter for now, but the backup spot is still up in the air. Although Simpson will likely play behind Leftwich in the near future, the junior is still suffering a high ankle sprain injury that occurred in the Miners' last scrimmage.

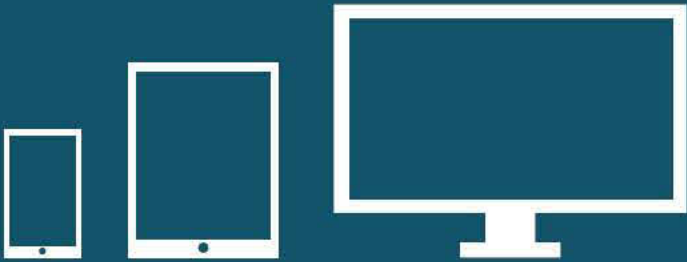
Kugler said Simpson's status for the Arkansas game this Saturday (Sept. 5) is still unknown, while Ryan Metz might be the Miners' number two come this weekend.

"Ryan Metz is an outstanding athlete," Kugler said. "We would package certain things if he was in there. He might be the number two quarterback this week based on Garrett's injury."

Whether it's Leftwich this weekend, Simpson the next or Metz by the end of the season, Kugler is happy about his situation at quarterback.

"I feel confident about our entire quarterback group," Kugler said. "At some point throughout the year, you'll see all four of those quarterbacks out on the field representing UTEP."

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