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The Prospector, February 23, 2016

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In Honor Of
Black History Month

ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

THE PROSPECTOR

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VOL. 101

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

FEBRUARY 23, 2016

Afro-Mexicans recognized in Mexico

BY JAVIER CORTEZ

The Prospector

At the tail end of 2015, in mid-December, the Mexican census bureau made history by recognizing their black citizens in their latest national census survey. The inclusion represents the first official recognition of African heritage within Mexico.

In November 2015, a Black-Mexican activist group called Mexico Negro launched a campaign to have Afro-Mexicans listed in the national census. Since the turn of the 20th century, Afro-Mexican identity has been pushed aside.

The all-encompassing term—Mestizaje—was used to cloak any Mexican of interracial ancestry, while African lineage was swept under the rug. Prior to the national survey that went out on Dec. 8, Mexico was one of the last Latin American countries to recognize its black population.

Nearly 1.4 million Mexicans identified themselves as Afro-Mexicans or Afro-descendants in Mexico's 2015 national survey. The

total comes out to 1.2 percent of the population, but Afro-descendants make up a bigger piece of the pie in the Americas.

According to the Department of International Law (DIL), there are approximately 200 million people of African descent in the Americas, with Brazil having the largest black populous of any Latin American country. Mexico finally acknowledging African descendants is a step in the right direction to start retelling Afro-Mexican history.

"Other Mexicans tend to see visible Afro-descendants as foreign because Afro-Mexico history has been erased from the textbooks and our memory," said interim director of the African American Studies Program, Selfa A. Chew Melendez. "We don't know that 'we are them'—that Mexico is African also."

Going back as far as the 16th and 17th century, there were men and women of African descent. Arguably, history's most forgotten Afro-descendant figure is Vincente Guerrero, the second president of Mexico, who was called "El Negro."

Most would consider 2008 a landmark date in North American history, as Barack Obama became the first black president of the United States, but 179 years earlier, Guerrero was the first black president of a North American country.

More notably, Guerrero fought to abolish slavery, while Mexico gained its independence from Spain in the Mexican War of Independence.

"He (Guerrero) made sure the constitution he helped write included the right to freedom," Chew-Melendez said. "Erasing racial categories was considered a path towards democracy; however, the colonial hierarchy had already institutionalized racism and Afro-Mexicans (today) have very limited resources."

According to Chew-Melendez, three of the largest Afro-Mexican populated states, Guerrero, Oaxaca and Veracruz, rank amongst the poorest states in the country, due to limited access to education, productive land, employment opportunities and medical care.

The 2012 statistical annex of poverty in Mexico showed that Guer-

rero, Oaxaca and Veracruz ranked as the second, fourth and ninth poorest states in the country, respectively. Chew-Melendez attributed the correlation of Afro-Mexican populated cities and poverty to structural racism.

"It is the same case with indigenous communities," Chew-Melendez said. "Across this border the Raramuri community is a displaced indigenous group with huge problems. The 43 teacher students from Ayotzinapa, most of them are from Afro-Mexican communities, were denouncing the extreme inequality in the state of Guerrero because of their own experiences with structural racism."

As defined by the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies, structural racism is a system in which public policies, institutional practices, cultural representations and other norms work in various, often reinforcing ways, to perpetuate racial group inequity.

Even Omar Escobedo, a native of Chihuahua City has seen how Afro-Mexicans could be treated

differently because of the color of their skin.

"I think they struggle more," said the sophomore industrial engineering major. "It has to do with the color of their skin, they are discriminated against. It's not that much, but I have seen cases. They can get a hard time, and professionally it can be hard."

Now that Mexico has taken a step in recognizing neglected minority groups, the next and even broader step, according to Chew-Melendez, is providing the essential needs to all Mexicans, no matter their identity.

"Mexico has taken a step towards recognition of the third root," Chew-Melendez said. "Now the Mexican government has to work to make sure that every resident of Mexico gets access to higher education, proper medical care, dignified employment and a safe environment to thrive, regardless of racial, ethnic, gender or sexual identities."

Javier Cortez may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

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FEBRUARY 23, 2016

PERSPECTIVES

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
AMANDA GUILLEN, 747-7477

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

BY JASMINE AGUILERA
The Prospector



A common misconception is that one voter doesn't make a difference. You are one of about 674,000 people in El Paso, only one of about 27 million in Texas and a measly one of 319 million people in the United States. So the "every vote counts" argument can sound patronizing if you think all your vote matters for is electing the next president.

No, you won't be choosing the next president of the U.S., and in a Republican state like Texas, Democrats' votes matter much less in a national election.

But your vote counts in ways that matter even more—especially in this election cycle.

Think for a second about who actually writes the laws that shape our country, state and city. For the most part, it isn't the president. It's the job of our representatives in both the state and national Congresses and the Senates to write the bills that shape our everyday lives.

Representatives can only claim their seats because of the people who voted for them. So, in the greedy, power-hungry game that is politics, why would any representative care about a community that didn't give him the job?

During the 2014 midterm elections—a very crucial year in politics since Texas was electing a new governor, and senatorial and congressional seats were up for grabs—only 82,588 El Pasoans came out to vote. That's only 20.41 percent of the eligible voter population.

Cities such as Austin complain about their low voter turnout, and 41.38 percent of eligible Austinites showed up to vote in 2014. In Dallas, 34 percent voted in the midterms.

Now imagine a room full of state representatives and senators gathered in Austin deciding budgets, writing policy and voting, as they do every two years. They're deciding how much money will go towards infrastructure, security, education, etc. They're also the ones who voted in the campus carry law.

When only 20.41 percent of El Pasoans vote and only 39 percent of Texas Hispanics vote, do you think they'll pass a budget that will allocate funding or pass bills that matter to Hispanics or this city? We aren't their constituents, only their voters are.

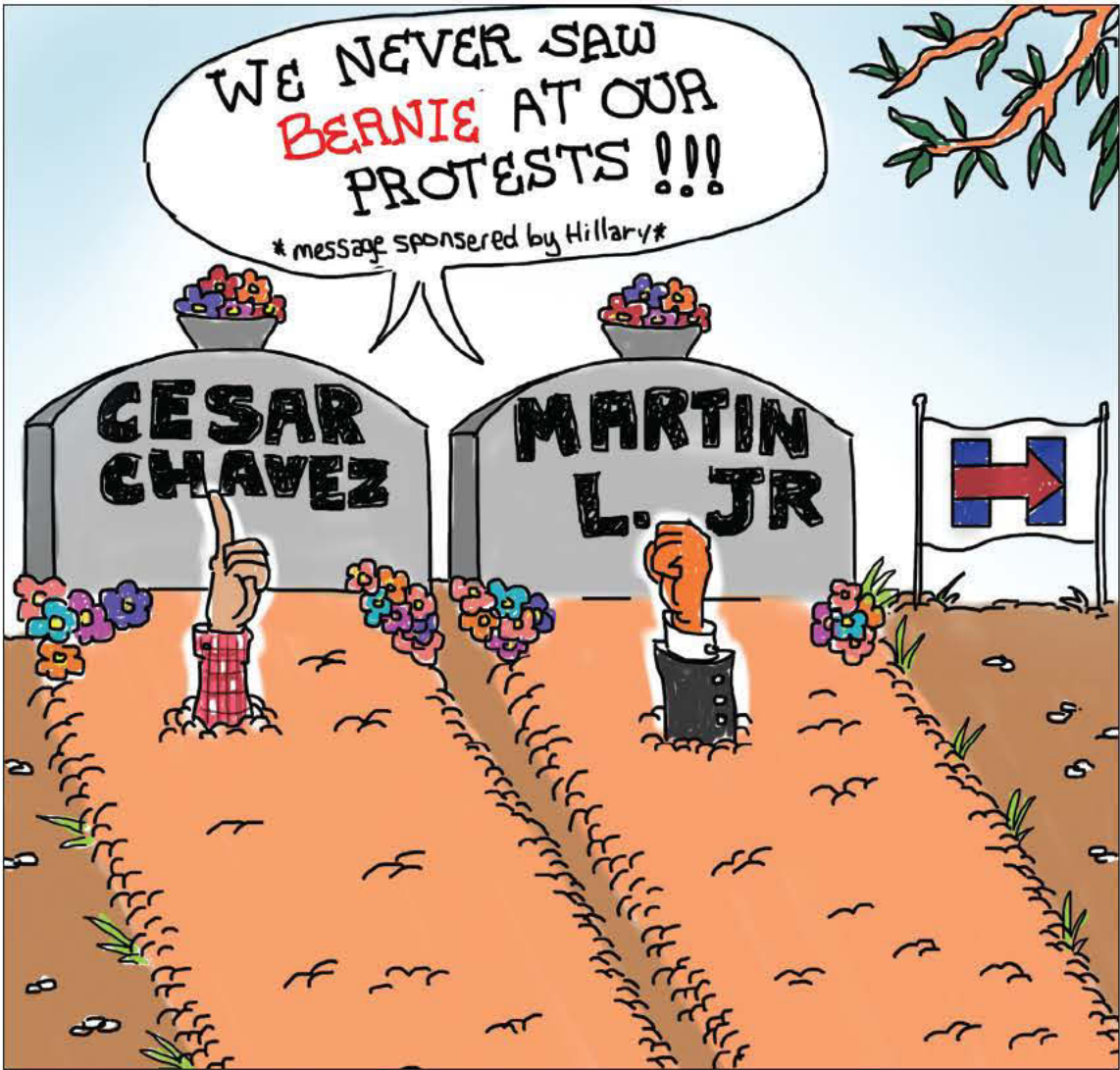
This election season has been dominated by hateful rhetoric (ahem, Donald Trump), and Hispanics are learning now, more than ever, how much power we have in our vote.

Although for the foreseeable future Texas will always vote for a Republican presidential candidate, this year the hope is that Hispanics will turn out in mass numbers throughout the U.S., and that could have a huge effect on the policies passed and the rhetoric politicians use from here on out.

Instead of continuously passing laws that do more damage to our community, or completely neglect our city, representatives will be forced to acknowledge the power in our numbers.

Next week, on March 1, Texas will be holding primary as well as local and statewide elections. If you love your city, here's your chance to prove it.

Jasmine Aguilera may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.



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Natalicio in stable condition, officials say

BY AMANDA GUILLEN
The Prospector

As of Monday, UTEP officials have not released the details of UTEP President Diana Natalicio's health, although they said she is in stable condition.

UTEP Executive Vice President Richard Adauto released a statement Monday saying, "Dr. Natalicio is expected to make a full recovery and is resting comfortably at this time."

On Thursday, Feb. 18, at approximately 1:30 p.m., Natalicio was on her way to the student Union Building East building to vote on the presidential primaries when she collapsed.

At the time, Adauto released a statement saying that Natalicio was in stable condition at a local hospital.

On Saturday, ABC-7 reported that she continues to undergo medical evaluation.

Freshman pre-nursing major Nadia Ornelas and her sister, senior multidisciplinary studies major Leda Roacho, were walking from the Education Building when they saw the medics helping someone who was on the ground.

"I didn't see when the incident happened, but my older sister and I were walking out from the Education Building when there were already medics on the site, it was a peaceful atmosphere, looked well under control, many kids around just watching," Ornelas said.

When asked for further information on Natalicio's health and when she is expected back at the university, UTEP officials responded by saying, "There is no additional information available at this time."

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



President Diana Natalicio is currently recovering from collapsing on Thursday, Feb. 18 on her way to Union East.

FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR

Media experts push for diversity, inclusion in newsrooms



Cristina Lopez says Latinos are portrayed negatively in the media, and Mervyn Marcano says it is important to hire people of color in newsrooms to fix the problem. They spoke at a panel discussion Wednesday.

BY ERICA Y. KING
SHFWire

WASHINGTON – Newsrooms need to be more diverse racially and ethnically to report fairly and reduce bias, a group of media experts said Wednesday.

"Both frontline reporters and editors play a major role in how stories are portrayed in the media," Judith Brown Dianis, co-director of the Advancement Project, a civil rights group, said.

Dianis told a story about a Washington area TV station that covered a fight that took place among several African American boys on a school bus from her daughter's middle school in Prince George's County, Md.

"The fight should've never made the news because it wasn't important. ... How is this considered breaking news?" she said.

Dianis said that the anchor who introduced the story was an African-American woman.

"We sent a letter to the anchor to say it is her duty to help portray us in the media more than what people already think of us," she said.

Media professionals Cristina Lopez, left, Mervyn Marcano, Judith Brown Dianis and moderator Danielle Belton, emphasize the importance of minority inclusion in the newsroom to accurately portray communities. SHFWire photo by Erica Y. KingMedia professionals Cristina Lopez, left, Mervyn Marcano, Judith Brown Dianis and modera-

tor Danielle Belton, emphasize the importance of minority inclusion in the newsroom to accurately portray communities. SHFWire photo by Erica Y. King

The other speakers – Cristina Lopez, a researcher at Media Matters for America, which seeks to correct misinformation in the news media, and Mervyn Marcano, co-founder of Blackbird, a communications firm – agreed the lack of diversity in newsrooms allows the media to inaccurately portray minorities in news coverage.

"Media has this trend of using mugshots when reporting on stories where victims are victims of color," Lopez said referring to Candeleiro Gonzalez, a Florida man who was killed as a result of a road rage incident.

Lopez said a mugshot of Gonzalez used in some reports had no connection to the story. Other stories used a family photo.

"The way the media portrayed him in this story, both English- and Spanish-language media, was by mugshots, despite other alternatives being available," Gonzalez said.

Dianis spoke about Tamir Rice, a 12-year-old Cleveland boy who was shot and killed by a police officer who thought his toy pellet gun was real.

"The media continuously called him a young man, but he was a child," she said. "He was somebody's baby."

Dianis said these two simple words – young man – had so much meaning.

"It may not seem like a big deal, but imagine these stories – including the school fight, being put in our heads over and over again – we begin

to think this is all these people are," she said. "How is a 12-year-old boy suddenly a young man?"

The American Society of News Editors tracks the percentage of minority journalists in daily newspaper newsrooms. The 2015 census found there were about 32,900 full-time journalists at nearly 1,400 daily newspapers, and that 4,200 of those journalists – or 12.76 percent – were minorities. That was a 0.58 percent decrease in the number minority journalists from 2014 to 2015.

A Radio Television Digital News Association 2014 study found that the number of minority journalists in television increased to the highest it's been in 13 years – 22.4 percent. Women were 38.7 percent of newsroom employees in the 50 largest TV markets, and 44 percent in the top 101 markets.

But racial and ethnic diversity in television has remained unchanged. African Americans made up 10.4 percent of broadcast journalists 2014, and Asian Americans made up 2.5 percent.

Although the topic of minorities in the newsroom is nothing new, the speakers pushed the importance of minority inclusion.

"We need to hire more journalists of color," Marcano said. "Editors need to give space to journalists for the stories they want to tell, and journalists have to be brave enough to tell it."

Reach reporter Erica Y. King at erica.king@scripps.com or 202-408-1492. SHFWire stories are free to any news organization that gives the reporter a byline and credits the SHFWire. Like the Scripps Howard Foundation Wire interns on Facebook and follow us on Twitter and Instagram.

QOTW: Do you think voting is important?

ANGEL ULLOA, CHRISTOPHER ZACHERL / THE PROSPECTOR



KIRA TIULA
Freshman biomedical sciences major
"Voting is very important because it gives a voice to the people and everyone's vote counts in the end, but unfortunately I cannot vote in the U.S."



IBRAHIM SALAMA
Sophomore biology major
"Voting is not important because I hate this whole politics thing anyways."



JASMINE GARCIA
Senior, journalism major
"Voting is important for the obvious reason that you don't want to have an unqualified president, and because it's our civil duty."



ABRAHAM ROOHI
Freshman cellular and molecular biochemistry major
"Voting is not really that important only because I believe that one vote doesn't necessarily count or make a difference."



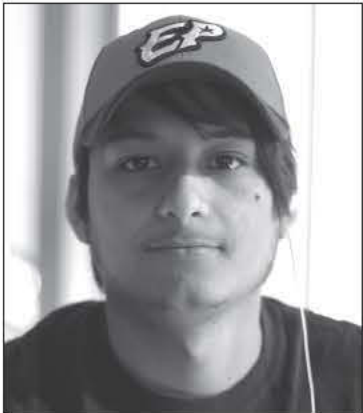
LAURA HERNANDEZ
Junior biology major
"It's extremely important to vote so you can make your opinions heard and make a difference in the government for the people."



ARTURO SIFUENTES
Junior kinesiology major
"Voting is very important because it's how you express yourself through who you choose to represent your country."



ALEXIS CARRILLO
Sophomore nursing major
"I think it's important to vote so that Donald Trump doesn't win and we can better our lives."



DERICK MORENO
Senior mechanical engineering major
"It's important because it's our duty as citizens."



KATIE GALLEGOS
Junior marketing major
"Voting is important because you get to share your voice and really stand up for what you believe in."



JOVANA NIETO
Senior public health major
"Voting is important because it means you care, it means you're trying, and it means you're not joining the group of cynics who just don't care."

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Q&A with musician Tony Melendez



MICHAELA ROMÁN / THE PROSPECTOR
Tony Melendez is interviewed before his performance at the Sun Bowl during “Two Nations, One Faith.”

BY AMANDA GUILLEN
The Prospector

Born with the gift of musical talent, guitarist, signer, composer and songwriter Tony Melendez has made an impact in the music world.

Melendez is unlike most guitarists—he plays with his feet.

He was born without arms and has made sure that his disability doesn't stop him from making music.

His unique style has allowed him to play all over the world and also for Pope John Paul II in 1987.

Melendez performed in front of nearly 28,000 people at the Sun Bowl, where he was one of the entertainers at the “Two Nations One Faith” papal celebration mass on Wednesday, Feb. 19.

He spoke with The Prospector and shared his excitement about the

pope's visit to the border and his role in the papal celebration at the Sun Bowl.

Q: How did you get the invitation to play at this event?

A: I got a personal invitation by (El Paso) Bishop (Mark) Seitz and first we get a call from head of office and his people and then he (Pope Francis) actually called me personally, which I felt very honored. So it is a gift to be a part of this event.

Q: What is your relationship with El Paso?

A: I love El Paso, I've been through here many times. Every time during Christmas and New Years, I would drive from Missouri to LA or from

LA to Missouri and this was kind of the halfway point.

Q: What do you hope people who have never seen you get from your performance today?

A: You'll see a guy playing the guitar with no arms, and you know at first it's kind of like “that can't be real,” but you know I really believe that after a song, a song and a half, it turns into real music and people start getting involved and start singing and clapping along and it inspires them. That's where I know our good Lord is taking over and touching hearts beyond what Tony Melendez can keep doing. I play the guitar, yes, but I know it goes way beyond that.

Q: Considering that you are not from here, what is your outsiders' perspective on Pope Francis' visit to the border?

A: The pope is going to prisons, he is meeting with some of the immigrants that are stuck, you know on their way somewhere—you know I really believe, as an immigrant myself, you dream big and never let your dream die especially, if it is for good, especially if it is for your family, if it's to help you, and I'm not talking just financially. But I hope that it takes you to a better level for your heart, for your family, for you, and that's what my main prayer for anyone would be.

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



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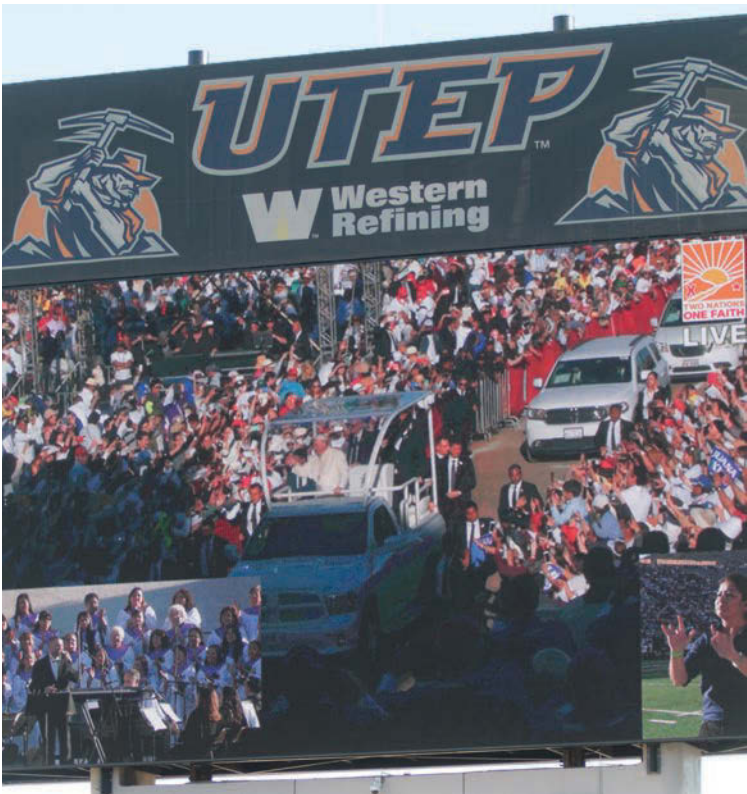
PHOTO EDITOR
MICHAELA ROMÁN, 747-7477

El Pasoans attend ‘Two Nations One Faith’ for Pope Francis telecast



MICHAELA ROMAN / THE PROSPECTOR
More than 30,000 people gathered at the Sun Bowl Stadium at the University of Texas at El Paso on Wednesday afternoon, Feb. 17, to take part in the Two Nations One Faith papal visit to Ciudad Juarez celebration.

Throughout the celebration, the crowd sang, held signs, flags and participated in the mass via live telecast. Cheers were heard throughout the stadium when Pope Francis addressed the crowds at the Sun Bowl and the El Paso community.



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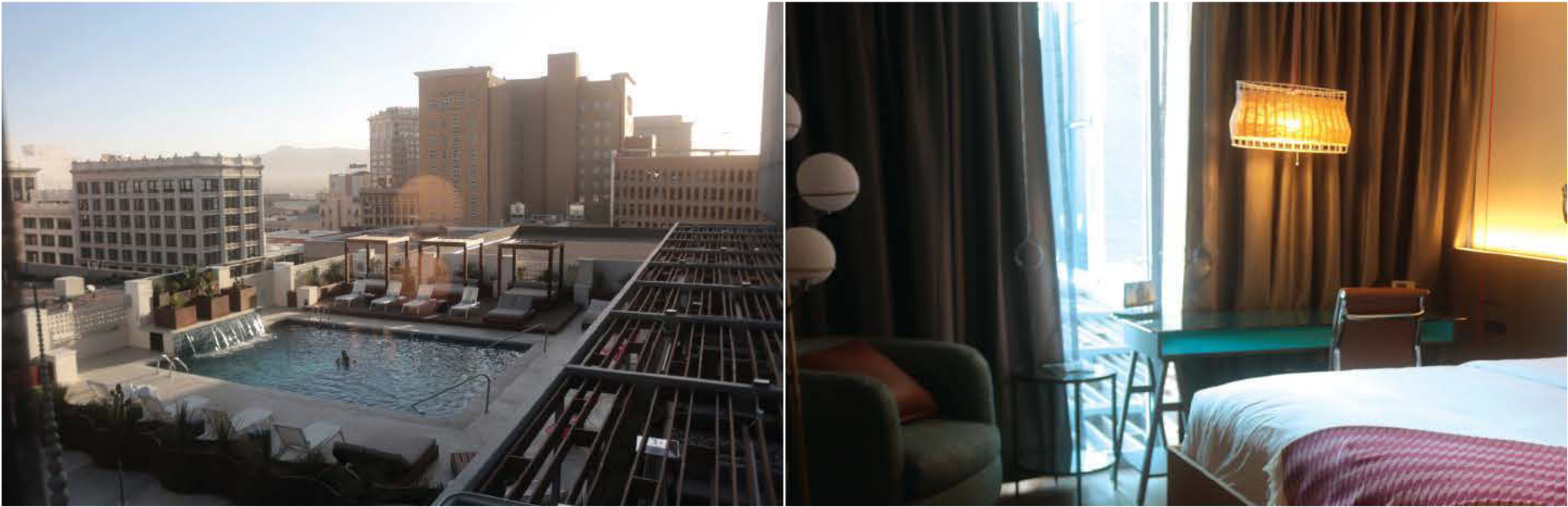


FEBRUARY 23, 2016

ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR
JOSE SOTO, 747-7477

Hotel Indigo offers a modern take on lodging



MICHAELA ROMÁN / THE PROSPECTOR

Hotel Indigo is located at 325 N. Kansas St. in downtown El Paso. The hotel includes a modish pool, contemporary rooms and the Circa 1963 bar.

BY JOSE SOTO
The Prospector

In the heart of downtown, in the middle of some of the city’s federal and bar districts, a new hotel has recently opened its doors for business. But it isn’t just any hotel and it isn’t opening just any doors. The lavish and highly praised hotel is a different take on the lodging that El Paso is used to by using modern design and aesthetics with both new and vintage architecture to appeal to the public. Hotel Indigo recently had its one month anniversary since its inauguration. Located at 325 N. Kansas St., the hotel has impressed the community, already selling out its rooms three times, according to Denise Acuña, director of sales. “The community has been amazingly embracing,” Acuña said. “The hotel has been to capacity a few times already and that is expected to continue. The rooftop bar has also been to capacity a few times.” The hotel took over a vacant 53-year-old building that was previously known as the Artisan Hotel,

which was closed a few years ago. The yearlong, \$12-million renovation has now opened up as the most modern and only boutique hotel in El Paso, with 119 rooms, a modish pool that features surrounding pergolas and a three-level parking garage. Arguably, its most distinctive and appealing feature is the bar Circa 1963, which is perhaps the classiest bar around. It is dimly lit ambience is perfect for having cocktails in a lounge environment. Its walls are adorned with different pieces of contemporary art by mostly local artists. The bar overlooks downtown El Paso, which will be great for summer nights. The entire hotel has an extremely modern take on architectural design. Urban and industrial styles fuse together to make up the aesthetic nature of the hotel and rooms, with modern furniture and fixtures scattered around its premise. It includes exposed infrastructure and wooden panels across its halls and inside its rooms, which also include huge windows that overlook the streets of downtown. The restrooms are spa-inspired with vibrant light fixtures and

“The community has been amazingly embracing.”
- Denise Acuña,
Director of Sales of Hotel Indigo,

clear, sliding doors that lead to a walk-in bathroom with porcelain mosaics. “Not only has the location been a factor in why people have been greatly receptive, but also the fact that the community has been asking for something new and refreshing here,” Acuña said. “The hotel is the only boutique hotel in town.” Indeed, it is refreshing. A boutique hotel is allowed to incorporate dif-

ferent designs and decorations that incorporate the history and appeal of its town of operation. Hotel Indigo has a mural, furniture designs, sculptures and paintings all crafted by local artists. It even offers locally roasted coffee. On one of the walls of their rooms is a wallpaper depicting a visual fusion of places from El Paso and Ciudad Juárez. “We’re able to promote the town through design, which even includes our menus that were designed by local artists. The wooden, school-like mini bars inside the rooms were artisan productions from an artist in San Elizario,” Acuña said. “It’s made the hotel stylish, vibrant and unique.” Adjacent hotels Holiday Inn Express, DoubleTree and the historic Camino Real Hotel have long been the only resort hotels for visitors, business travelers and El Pasoans who have wanted to stay downtown, but they follow the “cookie-cutter” design, as Acuña calls it, which means they all follow the same layout. Hotel Indigo is a fresh and innovative experience the city desperately needed when it comes to hotel stays. Indigo

will be perfect to stay at when events such as Neon Desert Music Festival and El Paso Pride Fest roll up. “Already, there’s been many visitors who have been here on business purposes expressing interest in hosting their conferences and meetings here at Hotel Indigo,” Acuña said. “There’s been interest in holding events at our bar as well. There are obviously many people who want a new and exciting experience when coming to a hotel. That is why we’ve been successful.” Hotel Indigo plans to open its first-floor restaurant, The Downtowner, in two to three weeks. It is named after the location’s first tenant, which was a motor inn. It is planning to feature food that highlights the local culture. Rates for rooms usually run from \$120-\$150 a night, depending on which room is preferred. For more information on rates and availability, visit hotelindigo.com/ElPaso or call 532-5200. Jose Soto may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.



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‘King Michael’ to honor Michael Jackson at the Plaza Theatre



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

“King Michael,” a musical tribute to Michael Jackson, will be presented at The Plaza Theatre on Feb. 27.

BY JULIA HETTIGER
The Prospector

It’s been seven years since the King of Pop Michael Jackson passed away. Since then, many have vowed to honor his music in some way. “King Michael,”

a musical tribute to Jackson, will be presented at The Plaza Theatre on Feb. 27 in collaboration with the El Paso Symphony Orchestra. The show will cover pivotal moments from Jackson’s life, starting from his early career as a child

prodigy, to becoming the reigning pop artist of the music charts and one of the best entertainers ever. “This show is more of a celebration of Michael’s life,” said Rosemary Flores, operations manager with the El Paso Symphony Orchestra.

“King Michael” is comprised of many dancers, singers and musicians who work together to demonstrate Jackson’s illustrious career on stage. “His career was filled with many ground breaking moments, and this show, performed by different tribute artists, transports the audience to different times in Michael’s life,” Flores said. Flores said the magic of the show is attributed to the talented cast. “From the band, a group of incredible musicians with Grammys to their credit, to the award-winning dancers, and world renowned specialty acts, and, of course, the four principal Michaels, this is a special event that represents the spirit of Michael,” Flores said. To prepare for the show, Jeffrey Perez, who plays the ‘90s era Jackson in the show, relives some of Michael’s greatest moments. “I typically go on a Michael overload before the show,” Perez said. “I watch all of his concerts and really mentally get in the zone before the show.” The “King Michael” show means a lot to Perez because of all the hard work put into it. “The most rewarding for me is meeting other Michael fans from around the world,” Perez said. “I’m a huge Michael fan and it’s al-

ways a blessing to be able to meet those who share the same passion.” Cynthia Alvarez, senior biological sciences major, said she is a fan of the King of Pop. “I like Michael Jackson because of his music and his innovative dance moves, such as his moonwalk,” Alvarez said. Although his music crosses many eras, Alvarez believes it can still be effectively listened to today. “His music is incredibly relevant today, such as ‘Man in the Mirror’ can apply to anyone that wants to make a difference in this world,” Alvarez said. She said she would like to attend “King Michael” to have a good time. “From the opening number to the finale when all four Michael’s are on stage, the audience will be treated to a fabulous show with iconic musical numbers like ‘Billie Jean,’ ‘Beat It,’ ‘Smooth Criminal,’ to ‘Dirty Diana,’” Flores said. “The show also will include back up dancers and a fabulous band.” For more information about the “King Michael” performance, visit the El Paso Symphony Orchestra’s website at epso.org or call (915) 532-3776. Julia Hettiger may be reached at theprospector@dailyent@gmail.com.

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The burlesque and cabaret style show will stop in the borderland at 9:00 p.m. on Feb. 23 at Bowie Feathers. Cast includes The Indestructible Woman, sword-swallower Brianna Belladonna and Frankie Sin. Tickets are \$10 to \$12. Call 351-9909 for more information.

ADAL RAMONES

The famous Mexican comedian known mostly at the host of “Otro Rollo” will perform at 8:00 p.m. on Feb. 25 at The Plaza Theatre as part of his “Tour Monologos 2016.” Ticket prices range from \$39.50-\$69.50. For more information, call 534-0600.

THE GOOD DINOSAUR

As part of the Get Reel Film Series, the Disney film will be showed at 7:00 p.m. on Feb. 25 and Feb. 26 at the UTEP Union Cinema located in the first floor of the Union Building East. Ticket prices are \$2 for all UTEP students, faculty, staff and alumni with valid Miner Gold Card. Call 747-528 for more information.

CITY FLASHDANCE

The UTEP Goldiggers will host their annual dance event will showcases local dance groups at 2:00 p.m. on Feb. 28 at the UTEP Magoffin Auditorium. Ticket price is \$8.50. For more information, call 747-5481.

JULIETA VENEGAS

The famous Mexican singer-songwriter will perform at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 29 at the Speaking Rock Entertainment Center. Admission is free. For more information, call 860-7777.

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Animal Collective loses momentum in ‘Painting With’

WINNER: FRANKS

BY JOSE SOTO
The Prospector

Animal Collective is no stranger to avant-garde renditions of pop tunes, always finding uncharted territory to take its whimsical and adventurous sound. It's ecstatic, and sometimes esoteric, songs have never followed the same structure and never found permanence under one particular genre or formulaic way of songwriting. They continue this exploration of sonic land in their tenth studio album, "Painting With," which was released on Feb. 19.

"Painting With" is the band's messy, yet cohesive poppy album. The harmonies on "FloriDada" warn the listeners of the crazy ride ahead of them. The track isn't a highlight from the album whatsoever, but is a good forewarning to the bumpy and meandering road ahead.

By "Vertical," the album's third track, Animal Collective has made it clear that the scope of the album is everywhere. Most of Animal Collective's past releases have been structured pieces of art, but "Painting With" isn't one of those albums. It's expressive, yes, but also distracting from the main point. Perhaps there isn't one, and that is the point.

"Lying in the Grass" is one of the musical gems of the album. It's the fourth track on the album and a lot more comprehensive than its predecessors. Early 2000s electronica reminiscently dominates the track, but it is useful. "Lying in the Grass" gravitates the album back to the center where listeners can adjust and actually listen, which is good be-



cause it would have easily lost the attention of listeners at this point.

"The Burglars" follows a similar format to "Lying," utilizing a bass and drums-like loop over harmonized vocals and intertwining lines. It's on these two tracks that the band's spastic vocals serve as focal points, similar to the usual Animal Collective sound.

On "Natural Selection," Animal Collective yet again loses the listener's attention. It is a pop disappointment, sounding a bit childish and entirely irrelevant. It's obviously an album filler.

By the seventh track, "Bagels in Kiev," the album has already lost itself in a sonic oblivion. The track is one of the album's highlights, beauti-

fully layering the group's harmonized vocals, a sweet and tender bass line and uplifting electronic upbeats, but by the time it rolls around, it's highly possible audiences have already have quit the brush on "Painting With."

"On Delay" is the album's first bumper with a heavy bass and sporadic ad-libs. The album could have

easily ended on this track.

From here on out, the album becomes highly diverse, which is a good thing in musical terms, but not in thematic ones. It loses easily to concept and design, which perhaps is one of Animal Collective's appeal, but it's also the band's flaw, and in "Painting With," that flaw is painfully exposed.

It doesn't hurt any artist or band to sometimes paint within the lines for the sake of the listener. That's not to say that all artistic venture and exploration should be sacrificed for the safety of comprehension, but it also runs the risk of having people call their art junk, which is slightly what the album is.

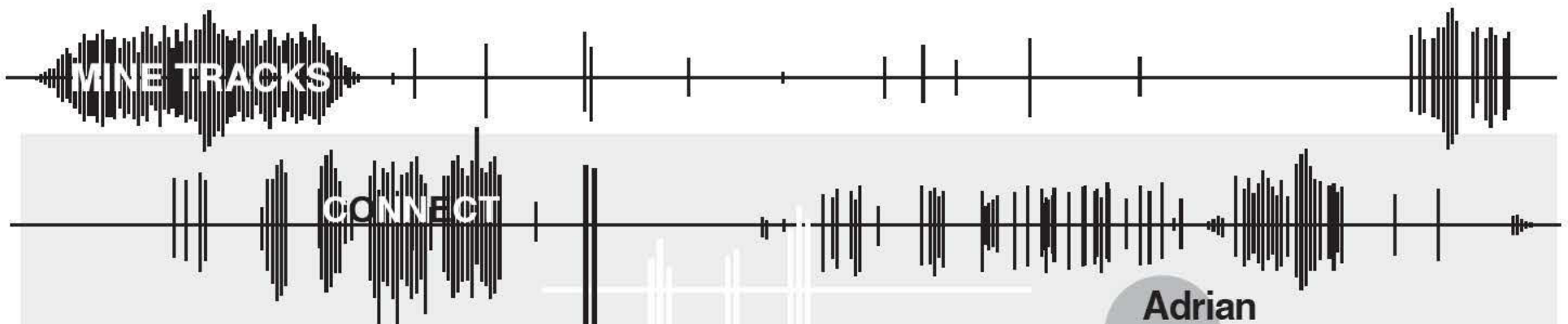
I applaud Animal Collective for exploring musical scopes bravely, but I also would have liked the band to mature in sound and in formula with this album. The band's alt-rock, dance and pop conglomeration has been useful before. Having that sound in this album would have done it good. The album isn't an entire waste, but most of the tracks on here are. If you're looking for a quick—because most of the tracks on this album quickly come to an end—and distorted trip, the album will suffice. If you're looking for a much more enjoyable and lengthy musical road trip, look somewhere else.

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

SPECIAL THE PROSPECTOR





SPECIAL THE PROSPECTOR



MINE TRACKS

CONNECT

We introduce you to Mine Tracks Connect, a way to continue our coverage of all the things happening in the world of music. This is the section where the editors and reporters of The Prospector, give you our suggestions for artists you might like based on artists you already like. Here you will find our first suggestions for some artists and bands that three of our editors are currently listening to.

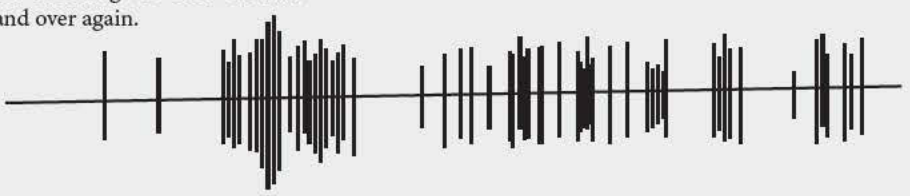


Jose Soto
Entertainment Editor

EDM and EDM entertainers are all the rage nowadays. It's easy to fall into the trend with the genre-saturated radio and the many headliners at festivals, but there are still some unknown DJs/producers that might be more worthy of your time. If you like Calvin Harris or Diplo, you should consider listening to RUFUS. The Australian indie dance group make some of the most polished and well-produced house tracks that go unnoticed. They also are remixed by many of today's best DJs/producers, yet you wouldn't know if you don't pay attention to the credit lines. Check out "This Summer," "Summer Nights," and "Innerbloom" as tracks to ease you in.

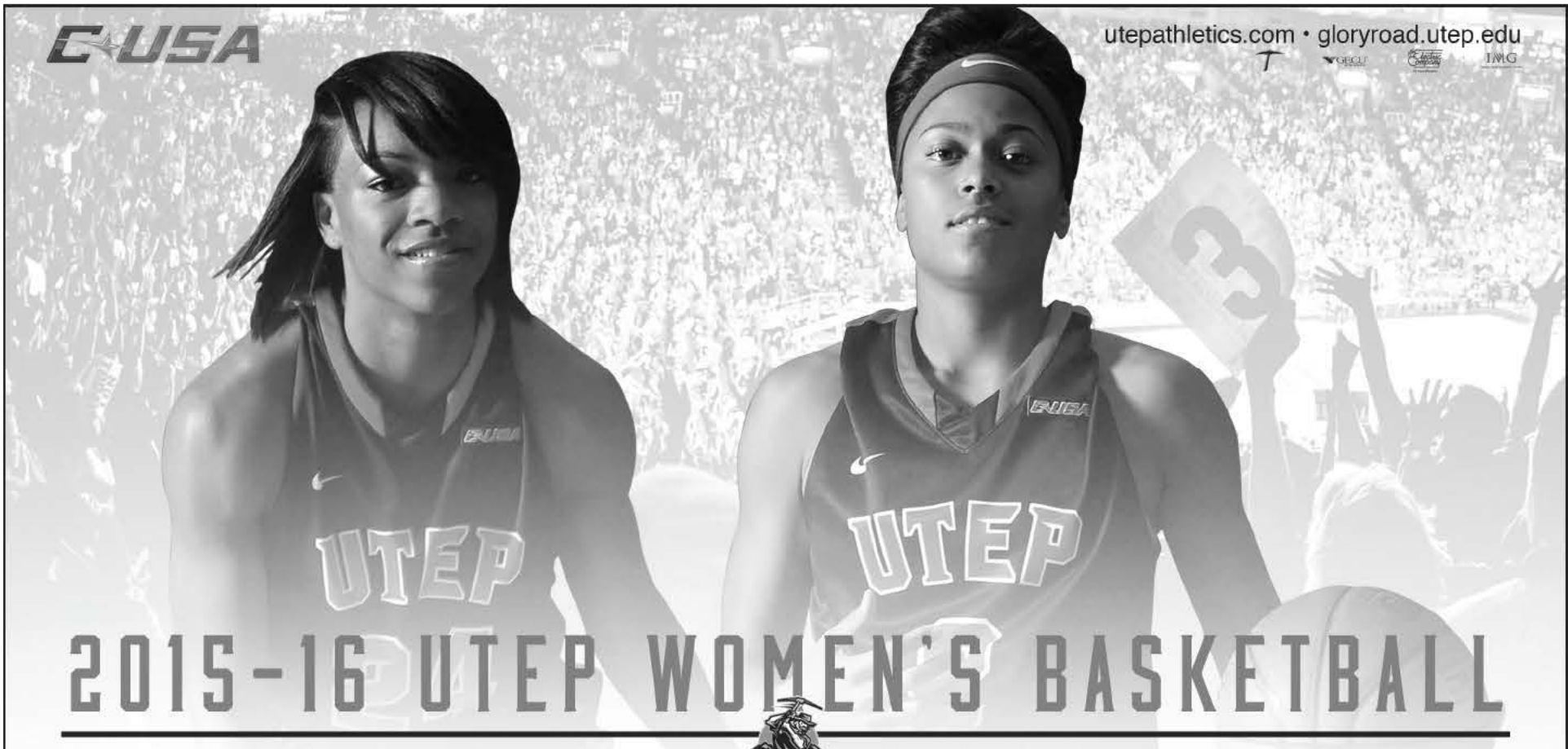
Jasmine Aguilera
Copy Editor


If Frankenstein's monster were a musician, his band would be called Timber Timbre. If you're a fan of Q Lazzarus' "Goodbye Horses," and the symphony sounds you find in Arcade Fire, you'll love Timber Timbre. Lead singer Taylor Kirk's deep voice and dark lyrics can only be described as Halloween music that can be heard year round. Start off your Timber Timbre experience with "Black Water" and "Bad Ritual." These songs will have you hooked, and you'll find yourself listening to their albums over and over again.






Adrian Broadus
Sports Editor

Barely missing the 2015 XXL Freshman Class, there is no doubt that Bizzy Crook will take the world with his fifth project, "While You Were Away." If you like Big Sean, Mac Miller and Kid Ink, then you'll love Bizzy. This artist is so admirable because he has been making music for so long, and even though he is not relatively famous, he continues to put out inspiring work. "1984," the intro to the album, shows the passion that Crook brings to the hip-hop game.






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FEBRUARY 23, 2016

Wilson on the hunt for gold in Birmingham



Senior triple jumper Nickevea Wilson prepares for her final indoor C-USA championships.

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS
The Prospector

As the indoor season dwindles to a close, so does the collegiate career of senior triple jump standout Nickevea Wilson. Coming off her jump that ranked ninth in the nation at the Don Kirby Invitational, Wilson was awarded the Conference USA Female

Field Athlete of the Week for the third time this season. Wilson and her team will travel to Birmingham, Ala. for the C-USA Indoor Championships on Feb. 24-25. In 2015, the women's track team won their first conference title in program history.

This year, Wilson has her mind set on repeating the title, as well as striving for a higher goal she has set for herself. "She has an attitude of always trying to reach the highest goals," assistant coach Lacena Golding Clark said. "She wants to be conference champion, she wants to be NCAA champion, and one of her goals is making it to a world championship or the Olympics. I'm trying to guide her through those steps." Grew up humbly in Kingston, Jamaica, Wilson began her career in track and field events at a young age. "In Jamaica we start at a very young age—from kindergarten I started running," Wilson said. "In the ninth grade, on our sports day, I did the long jump and they said I was good. The next day they recruited me for their team and from then on I did the triple jump and long jump." After spending a year at the University of Turabo in Puerto Rico, she began to search for a new school to call her home. When she initially visited UTEP, her mother pushed for her to take her talents to El Paso. "I liked Turabo a lot because it was like home, but I decided I needed a change," Wilson said. "When I came here on a visit, my mother said 'you have to go to UTEP because coach Lacena is going to take care of you—she's Jamaican, she will take care of you.'"

Competing at the Division I level was quite the adjustment for Wilson. She had to get used to the competition and came to realize she might not be among the best instantly. "It was a struggle coming at such a high level in high school to not being able to capitalize out there," Wilson said. "I had to trust the journey and keep pushing on. I'm going to keep working hard." Golding Clark remembers Wilson's first trip to the school and also reflects on her growth as an athlete since then. "She has grown over the years and understanding everything," Golding Clark said. "She set long term and short-term goals. Hopefully she does not settle on her goals." At the Don Kirby Invitational, Wilson placed second overall for her 13.22m (43-4.50) jump. This was her personal best and ranked fourth best in school history. "The week before, I was very disappointed," Wilson said. "My coach told me, 'you have it, you have it.' So I trusted her and went out and did everything we talked about and got good results. I was happy about that." Her first step at achieving one of her goals is to win at the conference tournament. "It would mean a lot to me (to be first place at the conference tournament)," Wilson said. "I want to go out there and give my share of the 10 points. Last year, I only gave nine and I was a bit disappointed. I

know I'm better than second place. This year I'm going out there and giving everything." In 2014, Wilson was named an All-American after finishing eighth in the NCAA Championships in triple jump (12.87m). Last year, she placed second in conference and missed nationals. However, this year, her 13.22-meter jump is among the top in the nation to possibly qualify her for the NCAA Championships. "I know I'm better than eighth place," Wilson said. "I'm looking to capitalize on getting up there with some of the better competitors. It would mean everything." When it is all said and done, fellow teammate and jumper Israel Ramsay, who is also Jamaican, has faith that Wilson will achieve her goals at the end of this season. "This is her last year, so it would be so nice for her to go out with a bang," Ramsay said. "She brings so much confidence and is always willing to help anyone out." Adrian Broaddus may be reached at theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com.

Men's rugby club team hosts its first game

BY CHARLES DESOUZA
The Prospector

The Miner men's rugby team hosted their first home game in club history at the Sun Bowl on Saturday, Feb. 27. Although they could not capture the victory against New Mexico Tech (49-42), the Miners rejoiced in their inaugural home game. The team, who is not officially affiliated with the school's athletic program, plays in the Rio Grande Rugby Union (RGRU) league. This league contains collegiate teams from New Mexico, Arizona, Texas and Oklahoma. Now two games into the season the Miners' record is 0-2 in regular season play. "I was extremely excited and I couldn't sleep last night," junior captain, flanker/inside center Norm Leyba said. "We have been playing together for over two years and this is the first time having a home game." During the first half of play against New Mexico Tech, the Miners got off



CHARLES DESOUZA / THE PROSPECTOR The UTEP volleyball team lost their last match of the season to New Mexico State last Wednesday on Nov. 25. The visitors scored the first two touches, back-to-back. After the half, New Mexico Tech started to slow down, which allowed the ambitious Miner's to chase them from behind and take the lead.

It wasn't until the last few minutes of the game when New Mexico Tech scored to take back the lead, while also not leaving the Miners enough time to come back. This resulted in a seven-point loss. "I played my heart out today and I can't believe we actually got to play here at the Sun Bowl," Leyba Said. Head coach Delbert Arnold, who played the sport and is a UTEP graduate, leads the rugby team. Arnold has more than 20-years experience as an athlete and coach in the sport of rugby. Arnold knew how important this game was to the club and prepared them for this game by making sure they were mentally and physically ready. "We have a system that's two weeks old," Arnold said. "In rugby we don't want to play the other teams' game. We want to play our own." Leyba showed exactly why his teammates named him team captain by scoring 3 touches in their near come from behind victory.

"He can play every position on the field and he is a team player," Delbert said. "He is the perfect example of how you spell team, it's all Norm." Missed opportunities could have been one of the down falls in the Miner's, however this young team still has room for growth. "One of our biggest strengths is that our team is young," Arnold said. "At times, that could also be our weakness." The Miners have four remaining games in their regular season, including three more games at home. After their regular season schedule, the team will compete in the RGRU Collegiate Championships in Albuquerque, N.M. on April 16. They will take on FT. Bliss on Saturday, Feb. 27 in the Sun Bowl at 2 p.m. Admission to the game is free. Charles Desouza may be reached at theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com.

BASIC RULES OF RUGBY

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS

RULES OF THE SPORT

While passing the ball back and forth, the players from one team attempt to carry the ball into the end zone and ground it. After scoring, the team is given the opportunity for an extra point. This kick attempt is from any point that runs parallel to the sidelines through where the ball was touched down. A team can also earn points by kicking the ball over the goal crossbar either from a penalty kick or in open play, also known as a drop kick.

GAME TIME

Their are two halves of 40 minutes each. Like soccer, the time runs continuously and the game continues until the ball is dead, leaves the field or there is a stoppage.

SCORING

Try — 5 points
Conversion — 2 points
Penalty goal — 3 points
Drop goal — 3 points

THE BALL

The balls are made of rubber, leather and similar materials. It is 280-300 mm wide and 150 mm in height. The surface of the ball is rough and weighs around 460 grams.

Passing

During the game, the ball can only be lateralled backwards or parallel to the goal line. Forward passing is not allowed.

Miners seek seven straight



MICHAELA ROMAN/ THE PROSPECTOR
The men's basketball squad has won seven of their last ten games.

BY JUAN CARLOS NAVARETTE
The Prospector

The Miners are in the driver seat after winning their sixth straight game this past weekend, and with the season winding down, they now travel to take on Old Dominion on Thursday, Feb. 25, in Norfolk, Va.

UTEP (17-11, 9-6 Conference USA) will take on Old Dominion (12-14, 8-6 C-USA) in a high-pressure game that has a fourth place spot on the line.

The Miners have the opportunity to either secure fourth place or fall to sixth place. Old Dominion is the team directly behind the Miners in sixth place, while UTEP is in fifth and looking to move up to fourth after defeating Louisiana Tech.

After the Miners took care of Louisiana Tech (91-80), they now have the opportunity to keep gaining on the Conference USA leaders. They are currently the hottest team in the league.

The 91-80 win over Louisiana Tech was a confidence boost for the Miners. Their win at home not only helped them in the leader board, it gives them hope to excel in the conference tournament.

"We are playing very unselfishly on the offensive end, which we love," head coach Tim Floyd said. "I think that there was an issue with that,—in terms of understanding when to and when not to—early for our team."

The Miners were able to beat Louisiana Tech on their home court, which is a good sign for a team that is only three games away from the conference tournament.

The Miners win against Louisiana Tech does not guarantee anything against a very difficult Old Dominion team. In order to leave that game with a win, the Miners will first have to travel and do something they have struggled with during this season—win on the road.

Out of the six losses that UTEP has had in conference play, five of them were on the road. UTEP has improved with two back-to-back road victories, but Old Dominion will be a team that is also playing for a position in the tournament.

On the defensive end, ODU is tough. The Miners often compare notes from Old Dominion when they are making preparations to face the team that ODU has played.

The Miners will really have to keep an eye on guard Trey Freeman. The senior guard is putting up numbers this season, and is the high scorer for his team. Freeman averages over 20 points per game. It does not get much better after Freeman, the top three scorers for the team all average at least 10 points a game.

However, the Miners do a good job at shutting down hot shooters. Saturday against the Bulldogs, the Miners were able to shut down Alex Hamilton, LA Tech's best scorer, to only two points in the first half of the game.

"I think the relationship with us and coach—I think we are really buying into what he is trying to teach us, and on offense it's time to go," freshman forward Terry Winn said.

The Miners are well aware of what is on the line when they take on the Monarchs. A win on the road against Old Dominion not only extends their wins to seven in a row, but also puts them in fourth place in C-USA.

Although the team may have won six games in the final part of the season, the players are not letting that go to their heads.

"I don't know much about Old Dominion," Winn said. "I just know we are going to go over there and play ball."

Tip off against the Monarchs begins at 5 p.m. Mountain Time.

Juan Carlos Navarette may be reached at theprospector@daily.sports@gmail.com.

Women chase C-USA title



MICHAELA ROMAN/ THE PROSPECTOR
Head coach Keitha Adams and her team have received votes in the AP Top-25 poll.

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS
The Prospector

The women's basketball team returns to the Don Haskins Center to finish off their final conference home games, taking on Old Dominion on Feb. 25 and Charlotte on Feb. 27.

With two wins, the Miners (23-2, 14-1 C-USA) can clinch the top seed in the league. Under head coach Keitha Adams, the squad has not lost a game since Feb. 4. Since then, they have won five straight games, making their streak the second hottest in C-USA (Middle Tennessee-nine straight).

With their 23 wins, the Miners hold the best start in program history through 25 games. The 2011-12 Miners (29-4) hold the best finish in program history, followed by the 2007-08 squad (28-4).

After squeezing past Southern Miss (57-54) and stomping Louisiana Tech (72-65), the two-loss Miners are ranked 24th in the NCAA Division I RPI rankings and received 13 votes in the USA Today Coaches Poll and eight votes in the Associated Press Top 25.

They are one of six teams in the country with two or fewer losses. Four of those teams are ranked in the top six of the nation.

Weekend Recap
Cameasha Turner and Starr Breedlove combined for 32 points in their 57-54 win over Southern Mississippi. The Miners handed the Golden Eagles their first home loss (11-1) of the season.

Although they struggled against Southern Miss., the Miners rolled over Louisiana Tech 72-65 in Ruston, La. From 7:17 of the second quarter until 6:01, the Miners went on a 25-3 run against the Bulldogs.

"I thought it was a very hard-fought and spirited game," Adams said. "Both teams really competed. I thought we played well for the majority of the game and I'm very proud of our team."

A Starr amongst the nation
Guard Starr Breedlove is currently ranked fifth in the nation for steals per game (3.32), and sixth for steals overall (83). She recorded six combined steals this past weekend against Southern Miss. and Louisiana Tech.

The Miners as a team are ranked sixth for steals per game (12.0) and eighth in steals (300). They are also in the top 15 in the nation for forced turnovers per game.

Nothing new with Old Dominion
Old Dominion (12-14, 8-6 C-USA) is fighting for a fourth place seed in the conference tournament. They are coming off a dominant victory over Marshall (77-55), the only team to hand UTEP a loss this season. Old Dominion has won four of their last six games.

Junior Jennie Simms of Old Dominion leads C-USA in scoring, averaging 19.8 points per game. The Miners will have to key on her excellent jumps and ability to get to the hoop. She also leads her team with 93 assists for the season. In the win against Marshall, Simms shot 7-13 from the floor, 3-5 from 3-point range and totaled with 22 points.

Scouting the 49ers
Rolling on a four-game win streak, Charlotte (16-9, 9-5 C-USA) will bring their high-scoring offense to the Sun City. They rest atop the league in scoring, averaging 75.9 points per game. They are also first in field goal percentage, shooting 45.6 percent from the floor. This matchup, their first of the 2015-16 season, will be the best offense in the conference (Charlotte) versus the best defense (UTEP).

Their two best scorers, Alexis Alexander and Lefty Webster, are among the conference leaders in their respective fields. Alexander, of the 49ers, is third in the conference for field goal percentage (54.9), while Webster ranks third in both free throw percentage (87.4) and 3-point percentage (40.4).

Adams for C-USA C.O.Y?
In her 15th year of being the Miners' head coach, Adams is a two-time C-USA Coach of the Year (2008 and 2012), and has made a case to be at the top of the contenders this season. She has turned around a team that was 12-16 last year to a 20-plus win team. Her overall collegiate head coach record is 396-220.

She has produced 20 players who have gone on to play professionally, and players who were coached by Adams hold 20 of the 23 major individual school career records. This is her seventh season receiving votes in the top-25 poll, and in the 2007-08 season, they were nationally ranked in the last six weeks.

Tip off against Old Dominion will be at 7:05 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 25, at the Don Haskins Center.

Adrian Broaddus may be reached at theprospector@daily.sports@gmail.com.

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