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The Prospector, June 14, 2016

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ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

..... THE
PROSPECTOR

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VOL. 101, NO. 31

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

JUNE 14, 2016



PHOTO BY MICHAELA ROMÁN / DESIGN BY JACOBO DE LA ROSA / THE PROSPECTOR

BY MICHAELA ROMÁN

The Prospector

As the arches spanning over Interstate 10 in downtown El Paso were lit up in rainbow-colored lights, hundreds of El Pasoans gathered on Sunday, June 12, around the newly restored San Jacinto Plaza. They were there for a candlelight vigil for victims of the nightclub shooting that took place earlier that morning in Orlando, Florida.

At least 49 were killed and 53 others injured by one single gunman in an act of terrorism. It was the deadliest mass shooting in United States history and the nation's worst terror attack since Sept. 11, 2001.

Although the attack took place 1,700 miles away from the borderland, the LGBTQI community, El Paso Sun City Pride and the Mary E. Gonzalez Transitional Living Center

still felt it was important to organize a memorial for the lives taken.

"No matter how far apart we are, we're still part of the same country, and even if this were to happen in some other part of the world I would hope that we would come together and show our support," said Rev. Deborah Clugy-Soto from the Revolution United Church of Christ, who spoke briefly at the vigil. "In the world that we live in today, this could even happen to us here. God forbid that it ever would, I would hope we would feel that kind of support from all around too."

Clugy-Soto said the event came together quickly because Sun City Pride, another six organizations and four churches were all already organizing an event for the one-year anniversary of the Supreme Court's same-sex marriage ruling on June 26.

The crowd consisted of a wide range of age groups all holding candles as LGBTQI community members spoke. Rev. George Gabriel Giorgetti from Casa Vida de Salud recovery center conducted a prayer in Spanish, followed by an English translation.

"If God is love, He can't contradict himself," Giorgetti said. "God is love, God is not discrimination, God has no race because God is love."

After a moment of silence, the candles were blown out.

Juan Corona, junior mechanical engineering major, said he felt the event brought light to the fact that everyone should be treated equally.

"I think that it's something you should support even though it was just in Orlando," Corona said. "It still has effects here in El Paso."

Edward Gallardo, president of El Paso Sun City Pride and general manager of EPIC Bar and Night-

club and The Edge Nightclub, said he got word of the shooting when he was closing the bars last night.

"My first reaction was thinking of safety in our clubs," Gallardo said.

Gallardo also said El Paso Sun City Pride is all about inclusivity not exclusivity. He asked the crowd to take a moment and look around at one another.

"What I'm going to ask is all of you be the face of pride—whether straight or gay—our allies are out there," Gallardo said. "Please love one another."

Mayor Oscar Leeser was also on hand for the vigil. He addressed the crowd as well.

"The one thing that I learned many years ago is that we are all equal and we were all created equal," Leeser said.

Michaela Roman may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

“What I’m going to ask is all of you be the face of pride—whether straight or gay—our allies are out there,”

— Edward Gallardo,
president of
El Paso Sun City Pride

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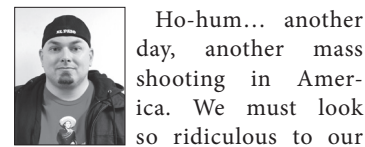
PERSPECTIVES

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
MICHAELA ROMÁN, 747-7477

Keep sending prayers though...

BY JASON GREEN

The Prospector



Ho-hum... another day, another mass shooting in America. We must look so ridiculous to our brethren across the Western world. Not just because we have a Day-Glo orange, pompous pile of crap as a presidential candidate, but mainly because we continue to send out “thoughts and prayers” to all of those involved in these weekly mass murders while doing absolutely nothing to stop them in any way.

I cannot help but think that maybe the man upstairs has turned down his hearing aid by now due to the fact that he alone cannot personally write laws—men sometimes actually have to do things for themselves. Perhaps he listened after the first five shootings—maybe the first 10: maybe even the first 15—but He had to have given up on us after a while. When He saw that the politicians would much rather line their pockets than actually protect the American public in any way.

For me personally, His giving up on us could have potentially really sucked. I tend to believe in God and Jesus and it has served me well in my life as a soldier. A soldier who has been overseas in some of the worst conditions a human could ever face. However, one of the times I probably talked to Him most was November 5, 2009, and ironically enough, He probably already had tuned all of us out.

I had just stepped out of my car at the Soldier Readiness Center at Fort Hood, Texas—having only been back from Iraq for about a week—when Nidal Hasan opened fire inside. The first group of my friends was already in the building and luckily my soldier and I were running late. We survived.

Thirteen other soldiers, who were on time, did not. The next week, President Obama came to talk to us and spoke about the need for better gun control and sent up prayers for the victims. Who knows if the prayers were heard. The calls for gun control were definitely not – and still have not been.

Hasan used only a semi-automatic pistol. I say only because it could have been much worse. Just like the recent attack at Orlando’s Pulse Nightclub, more and more mass murders are being carried out with assault rifles – namely the surprisingly easy to acquire AR-15. An AR-15 was used in Newtown to slaughter first graders, in Aurora to

murder movie goers, in Roseburg to kill nine at Umpqua Community College and just recently in December in San Bernardino to kill 14 at a holiday party.

The rifle is modeled off of the military’s M-16 assault rifle and it is a favorite of the National Rifle Association, who has lobbied mightily against the assault weapons ban in order to keep it on the market.

I carried an M-16 into war in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is made only to kill people—I should know. That is what I went there to do. I never once switched the weapon to burst, or anything close to the rate of fire that these killers are shooting at innocent people. In fact, I never once fired my M-16 into a crowd of people or in an uncontrolled, automatic firing type of way.

The rifle that the NRA thinks every American should be allowed to own was carried by yours truly into combat in Baghdad, Kabul, Fallujah and many other places that you may have only seen on television. It was probably fired a total of five or six single shots with precision, the same that any rifle — not automatic — could do. The way you would need to fire if you were, say, hunting or maybe even protecting your family from an intruder.

So what would persuade politicians to continue to “pray” for victims yet sit back and watch this happen time and time again?

Well, \$922,000 to Senator Mitch McConnell, \$35,000 to House Speaker Paul Ryan and \$65,300 to Senator Ted Cruz from the NRA, just to start with.

I wonder if they can explain to anyone why a rifle that you cannot hunt with — the meat would be inedible when filled with bullets from an automatic weapon — and that is rarely used as it should be in a warzone is needed in America? Probably not.

They are too busy sending up “thoughts and prayers” to the victims of yet another mass murder — and probably being ignored by the God who is sick of their inaction.

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



In memory of student Richard Madrigal

BY MICHAELA ROMÁN

The Prospector

The El Paso community is mourning the loss of UTEP student Richard “Rick” Madrigal.

On Sunday, June 12, police officers responded to a possible homicide and found Madrigal in his apartment complex in West El Paso. The suspect is now detained and his bond is set at \$1 million on murder charges.

He was a senior organizational and corporate communication major expected to graduate in December. Madrigal was formally a radio DJ at KLAQ radio station and a sales manager for Destination El Paso.

Friends and family members remember him fondly. One childhood friend said on Facebook, “Love is what you felt when you were in Ricky’s presence, plain and simple.” He leaves behind his 7-year-old daughter, who was the light of his life, according to those close to Madrigal.

Michaela Roman may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

THE PROSPECTOR

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THE PROSPECTOR

JUNE 14, 2016

TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
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Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny
0% Chance for Rain	0% Chance for Rain	0% Chance for Rain	0% Chance for Rain	0% Chance for Rain	0% Chance for Rain	0% Chance for Rain

Streetcar project takes Oregon Street



PHOTO COURTESY EL PASO STREETCAR PROJECT

The El Paso Streetcar Project will bring streetcars from downtown up to the Don Haskins Center.

BY GRECIA SANCHEZ

The Prospector

For over 30 years, El Paso’s streetcars have been stored at El Paso International Airport. Now they are in the process of being restored as a \$97-million dollar grant will bring the streetcar system back to El Paso. The three streetcars will travel on rails, which will require construction at different points of the city, one of them being Oregon Street.

“It is a project intended to place streetcar tracks in service again such as the ones El Paso had back in 1979,” said Ramon L. Telles, the

executive director of The Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority, organization which is in charge of El Paso Streetcar Project. “It goes from downtown all the way up to the Don Haskins Center at UTEP. It passes streets such as Franklin all the way to Stanton, Santa Fe, Glory Road, Mesa, among others. We are covering almost all the area of downtown this summer.”

The main purpose of the construction is to place the tracks that were removed when the streetcars were taken out of circulation in the ‘70s. Although the tracks are the one real visual change on the streets, the city must take care of other details

“The only real change is just placing the tracks, but of course, in order to do that we have to take care of their electrical power,” Telles said. “Because of this, you have to go underground, take care of the utilities, the networks and all the cables and stuff that are underground have to be moved.”

Students, faculty, staff, and visitors at UTEP have been affected by the 4.8-mile project. With graduations going on at the Don Haskins Center and summer school now in session, construction on Oregon Street has had a significant impact on everybody involved.

Martin Avila, a computer science major, lives at Miner Village, located on Oregon Street, and has had

to alter his route to work, which has increased his commute time by more than 10 minutes.

“This project is definitely affecting everyone, not just the university.”

-Ramon L. Telles, executive director
The Camino Real Mobility Authority

“The construction is making my trip to work a lot worse,” Avila said. “The construction makes my trip longer, so if I get a call from all other ways to Sun Bowl Drive, which is maybe 10 to 15 minutes due to traffic, instead of going just through Oregon, which is five minutes long.”

Understanding the inconvenience construction can cause, CRRMA looked to coordinate

with all parties involved. CRRMA worked with UTEP, city representatives and the Texas Department of Transportation to schedule construction.

“Since we are talking about a huge project done this summer 2016, we had to be very careful at finding the times in which we would do it,” Telles said. “This project is definitely affecting everyone, not just the university. We know UTEP is having graduations right now, but it is also affecting hospitals’ schedules, public libraries, convention centers, theaters. Pretty much every building at downtown is having a major change during the placement of the tracks this summer.”

Communicating with the public is also important for CRRMA. Informing the community about closures and construction schedules might help ease the burden of construction.

“We try to update our social media frequently and let the people know where we are going to be, how long we are going to be at their neighborhoods, etc.” Telles said.

The streetcar project is expected to be completed by late 2018. For more information, visit the CRRMA Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/elpasostreetcar/>.

Grecia Sanchez may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@utep.edu

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OURVIEW

Zapatos Rojos exhibit brings powerful message to downtown



MICHAELA ROMÁN / THE PROSPECTOR

UTEP graduate student Adriande Willis and Wise Latina International put together the exhibit 'Zapatos Rojos.' The shoes were placed outside the El Paso Museum of art on Sat. June 11. The temporary installation is meant to bring awareness to femicide around the world and more specifically, in Ciudad Juárez. There are over 200 pairs of shoes in the traveling exhibit, each pair represents a victim of gender violence. The red color color is used to depict the blood of the missing women. Observers were able to write and leave a message on the pairs of shoes for the victims.

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JUNE 14, 2016

ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR
JULIA HETTIGER, 747-7477

‘Viva! El Paso’ returns for annual summer performances



ANGEL ULLOA / THE PROSPECTOR

“Viva! El Paso” will run from June 17 to Aug. 7 at the McKelligon Canyon Amphitheater. The show is written to bring the culture and history of El Paso to life.

BY ALLISON LIVERMORE
The Prospector

“Viva! El Paso,” the annual show that captures the culture and history of El Paso, takes the stage at the McKelligon Canyon Amphitheater this summer from June 17 to Aug. 7. The show combines singing and dancing to tell El Paso’s story.

Keith Townsend, director of “Viva! El Paso,” brings El Pasoan culture to life with this year’s production as Native American, Spanish Conquistadors, Mexican and Western American characters intermingle in locally written dances and songs.

“My expectations for this particular show is to produce a great show that really celebrates multiculturalism and where multiculturalism came to in El Paso,” Townsend said. “That’s one

of the things we wanted to celebrate with this show, and I think that’s what our offering to the cultural landscape actually is.”

The show features local music and EPCC students, who have worked the past months on cast choreography and set building. Aside from providing entertainment to the El Paso community, it also serves as a learning experience for the students involved.

Shaun Patrick Diaz, a cast and crew member with “Viva! El Paso,” said he’s never seen the show, but expects it to be a good show and is excited about what he’s learned while working there.

“I’ve learned so much in the past three to four weeks we’ve been working, tech-wise especially,” Diaz said. “Like learning how to build the amaz-

ing sets we have out there. I think it’s going to be great.”

Eduardo Montoa, a sophomore multimedia journalism major, said celebrating El Paso culture and participating in the community are both important.

“I think El Paso culture is very different from Texas culture. I feel that El Paso culture is kind of its own thing,” Montoa said. “In some senses, it’s maybe a little bland – if you’re an outsider looking in, but I feel like if you were born and raised here, your opinion on El Paso culture is very rich and diverse.”

Marina Oaxaca, sophomore art history major, grew up with “Viva! El Paso” and has always considered it a fun event to attend.

“I always enjoyed ‘Viva! El Paso when I was little,” Oaxaca said. “I

thought it was unlike anything else I’ve seen. It was about where we live.”

Maria Schneider, director of marketing with El Paso Live, said shows such as “Viva! El Paso” are important for the community.

“In this world where we are so busy with following certain things like the internet, sometimes it’s so good to get out there and experience a live performance,” Schneider said. “And experiencing it in person, it takes you to another place—more in depth to our culture.”

Townsend echoed Schneider’s thoughts, and said one of the major goals of the show is to bring the community together and provide a form of entertainment that everybody can and will enjoy.

“We believe that the arts are for everyone, not just for the elite, and

so, we try to make the arts very accessible to everyone,” Townsend said. “We love the fact that we’re able to do a show that is so family oriented that really talks about the history of this entire region that we’re in and how it brings all of the cultures together.”

“Viva! El Paso” will take place each Friday and Saturday night until the end of August.

“I think you are going to enjoy Viva! El Paso,” Schneider said. “So come on out and see what we’ve got to offer and celebrate El Paso. El Paso is ‘Viva! El Paso.’”

For more information, visit vivael-paso.org or elpasolive.com.

Allison Livermore may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.

Rubin Center hosts STEAM summer camps

ANDRIA GRANADO
The Prospector

The Stanlee and Gerald R. Rubin Center for the Visual Arts is offering free student-led workshops and summer camps for middle and high school students. The program will include visual art camps, starting June 24, and STEAM—science, technology, engineering, art and math—workshops every Wednesday beginning June 29.

The Rubin Center has hosted these camps for the past seven years. This year’s theme is “Be the Change: Understanding Social Justice Through the Arts.”

“I think people are excited to connect with an opportunity for their

kids that’s unique and helps them connect with the world at large in a different way,” said Melissa Barba, assistant director at the Rubin Center.

The workshops, called STEAM Wonder Wednesdays, will integrate art with one of the STEM area subjects, while also keeping in mind contemporary issues of social justice.

“I think part of it is part of being a contemporary art space; we’re always looking for ways to connect to the community and activate the spaces that we work and live in,” Barba said.

All activities are taught by UTEP students from different majors, whose original lessons include explosive art, Chihuahuan desert eco-boxes, all about math and art, cyanotypes and catapult art.

“I think people are excited to connect with an opportunity for their kids that’s unique and helps them connect with the world at large in different ways.”

- Melissa Barba,
assistant director at the
Rubin Center

Ruby Franco, junior art education major, is teaching the “All About Math” workshop. She will teach students about the Fibonacci sequence by cutting out shapes. She said that her workshop will make a difficult concept accessible to children.

“I broke it down so kids could learn what the sequence is, who Fibonacci was and create art with the shapes that they cut,” Franco said. “It’s not a subject that is taught in regular schools.”

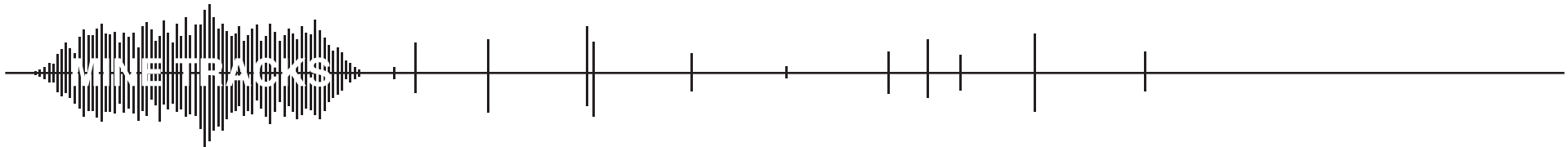
Pablo Alcala, a junior print making and drawing major who is teaching the workshop on cyanotypes—a type of photo printing process—said that a main objective of the workshops is to have children realize how the STEAM disciplines are all interrelated and

that subjects like science and chemistry can be fun.

“In making a building, you have to use engineering, but you’re also making it a beautiful building,” Alcala said. “By the end of the class they’re all going to be looking at the world differently.”

All workshops are free and open to the public. The summer camps for middle and high school students run from June 20-24, and workshops for ages 4-12 run every Wednesday for five weeks starting June 29. For more information or to RSVP, call 747-6151.

Andria Granado may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.



Band of Horses explores humor and loss in new album



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

BY JULIA HETTIGER
The Prospector

American rock band Band of Horses released their fifth studio album, “Why are you OK?” on June 10. Al-

though the album explores different themes and adventures than their previous albums, Band of Horses loses none of its charm through their 12 new songs.

The first song, a seven-minute song combo “Dull Times/The Moon,” starts off with a slow, chilling build-up to the rest of the song. By the time lead singer, Ben Bridwell, lets his voice loose, the hairs on the back of my neck were standing on end. The song itself was a tumultuous joyride and perfect for the beginning of the album.

“Solemn Oath,” the next song on the album, is one of those upbeat sad songs you listen to when you’re thinking about doing something stupid; doing something you know you shouldn’t. Strangely enough, many of the songs on this album are accompanied by scenes from cheap remakes of older movies, including “Star Trek” and “The Exorcist.” While the purpose of this is mostly unclear with this song, “Solemn Oath” really sets the vibe for the rest of the album, and flawlessly leads into the next song, “Hag.”

The satirical fourth song, “Casual Party,” takes place at a party where everyone is trying to act casual, have a good time, but there are other things in their lives that are clearly bothering them. Instead of confronting them, they spend the casual party talking about other things, like their jobs or

kids, and even their recreational activities until things get awkward or lame. The video follows the same pattern by showing clips from movies in the background as the lyrics are displayed on the screen.

“In a Drawer” begins with a VHS tape being pushed into a VCR as the singer reminisces, speaking with his grandfather while sitting on his bear-skin rug.

The imagery in this song is conflict-ing, but ultimately exciting. While the lyrics form one picture, the music video flashes back and forth between cowboys and a giant robot lost in a city, along with other images that coincide with the song.

What worked with this song was the simplicity of the story, which talks about someone finding something in a drawer that makes them question whether their significant other really loves them. It doesn’t go much further than that, but the whole idea is enough to set fire to your emotions.

Band of Horses’ talent really shines in “Throw My Mess,” the eighth song on the album. The song sounds like something that’s sung around a campfire, and uses Band of Horses’ unique acoustics to lure you in.

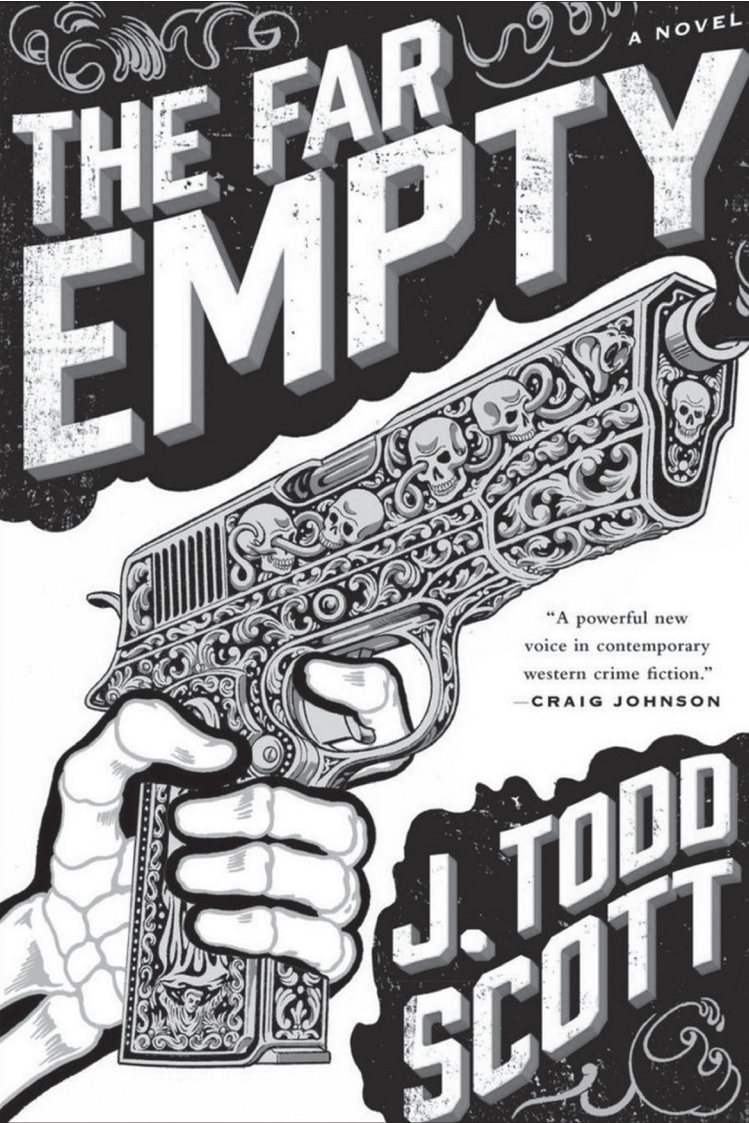
The opening shot of “Whatever, Wherever,” shows Bridwell sitting on the couch with his family as the heartwarming beginning melody of the song plays. Throughout the sweet song, scenes of friendship and familial ties dance on the screen, flashing back and forth from kids playing with their parents and a beagle running in a large yard to the band playing peacefully in their home together. Bridwell sings “Whatever you want, wherever you are,” and it’s obvious he’s singing about his family, including his fellow band mates.

“Country Teen” is a sweet, sing-along-song that exhibits a sort of youth that Band of Horses has, and luckily has failed to lose over the years. The album is finished off with “Barrel” and “Even Still,” which are both satisfying, yet leave you craving for more.

To say “Why Are You OK?” is a success would be an understatement. With the right mix of humor and emotion, Band of Horses has yet again found a way to use their musical talents to charm the pants off their listeners.

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

‘The Far Empty’ engages, but doesn’t deliver



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

BY JULIA HETTIGER
The Prospector

Fans of “The Far Empty” gathered on foldout chairs at Barnes and Noble on June 8 to meet the author, J. Todd Scott, for a Q&A session. The newly published author spent the session answering questions honestly and

bashfully. It was as if he was still in a state of shock knowing his novel now populates Barnes and Noble’s shelves.

His debut novel, “The Far Empty,” can be described as a western crime novel set in modern times that captures the heart and landscape of southwest Texas. The novel follows a 17-year-old boy named Caleb who is

dealing with the absence of his mother, who he suspects was killed by his father

Scott got the inspiration to write the novel while working for the Drug Enforcement Administration for 20 years. He had the first sentence—“My father has killed three men”—written on a piece of paper for years before finally sitting down and writing the novel.

“The character of Caleb Ross was natural to come out of that, and the rest of them just kind of formed as I was writing the book,” Scott said. “The bulk of the plot I put together while driving between Alpine and Midland.”

The novel follows a plethora of characters who reside in the small, fictional town of Murfee, Texas and are all connected by one simple thing: a dead body.

The first chapter of the novel is fairly intriguing, confirming early on that Caleb believes his father, the beloved sheriff of the town, killed his mother. However, the novel’s pace slows down significantly after that, and getting through the first 100 or so pages, which makes up the first part of the book, “Bone,” was an uphill battle.

Once past the slow lump of the first part of “The Far Empty,” the story really takes off. What was neat about the storyline itself is you already knew the who, what and when of the murder mystery, but not the why or how. While carrying on with the novel was tough to do, that small facet of not knowing why or how, or the clear connection that could exist between the other characters encouraged you to keep reading.

“The book is big and challenging,” Scott said. “There are some complicated characters in it, but one of the things I wanted people to get a feel of was the area.”

“Bones” ends with a mysterious death and Deputy Cherry, one of the main characters, discovering that the body that had been found in the second chapter was not Caleb’s mother like expected. As slow-paced as it was, by the time you reach the second part of the novel, “Blood,” you’re itching to find out just exactly what is going on. “Blood,” was definitely more exciting than “Bones”. Scott’s description of Sheriff Ross, Caleb Ross’ father and main antagonist in the novel, is chilling and compels you to fear him regardless of the fact that he’s fictional. His power over the town of Murfee and the people who live there is mindboggling and scary.

“The book is big and challenging.”
- J. Todd Scott,
author of the “The Far Empty”

Scott is talented with his description of places and characters - the way the stars in Murfee look at night and the effects of drugs on Deputy Dupree’s almost rotting body. His description of Murfee and the surrounding Big Bend area really captures the look and feel of the region, like you’re looking up a picture of it on Google.

“I spent a lot of time down in Alpine and the Big Bend area, and I wanted to highlight these areas, which I found fascinating and beautiful,” Scott said. “If nothing else, peo-

ple’s eyes are opened to a part of the country that not many people know about.”

While long, Scott’s writing makes it feel like a never-ending rollercoaster.

The third part of the book, “Ashes,” was sort of a letdown.

The buildup was fantastic. The writing gives you enough to be satisfied, but takes away just enough for you to keep reading, but once the ending was revealed, the only reaction was “Huh?”

After all the buildup, the big revelation and showdown both fell flat.

Although it is never confirmed Sheriff Ross killed Caleb’s mother, the rest of the characters act out on their suspicions anyway, convincing his right hand man, Deputy Dupree, to kill him, and then subsequently killing Dupree. The body found in the second chapter is also revealed to be the main character’s brother, although this is revealed shortly into “Blood,” who was killed by Dupree. The majority of the characters leave Murfee behind afterward in search of a better life.

The novel in the end turned out to be a hodgepodge of characters whose lives somehow intertwine, but none of it feels natural. Scott is wonderful at writing descriptions and dialogue, creating characters that are almost too well written to be fictional, but fails at delivering with his storyline. While a suspenseful and engaging read, a more convincing ending could have made this novel, which had immense potential, far better.

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

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SPORTS EDITOR ADRIAN BROADDUS, 747-7477

Amusan steals silver at NCAA Championships



Freshman hurdler Tobi Amusan was the runner-up at the NCAA Championships in Eugene, OR.

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS

The Prospector

Freshman hurdler Tobi Amusan raced her best on the grandest stage: the NCAA Championships this past weekend.

It began on Thursday, June 9, when Amusan saved her season by capturing the final qualifying spot during the preliminary round of the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 12.98. She crossed the finish line in fourth place and almost miraculously made the finals round.

Going into Saturday’s race, on paper Amusan did not seem to threaten the other opponents. However, she proved the odds wrong and ran the best race of her life.

She clocked in a time of 12.79 in the 100-m hurdles to capture second place in the championship round. She broke her own record, set earlier this year, and the program’s record with her noteworthy time.

Amusan currently ranks inside the top 20 in the world for 2016 in hurdles. Her time at the championships was also fast enough to tie for the fastest 100 hurdle time ever ran by a woman under 20 years old. Amusan is UTEP’s first 100-m hurdler since Janice Jackson in 2014 to be named a First Team All-American.

“For her to peak at the National Championships with this spectacular time is very impressive,” head coach Mika Laaksonen said.

“I can’t wait to see what she accomplishes the next couple of years.”
Mokrasova captures 13th

With a total of 5,569 points, sophomore Lucia Mokrasova placed 13th in the NCAA Championships.

The soon-to-be Second Team All-American electrified in her first day of the championships, tallying 3,480 points through her first four events, good enough for ninth place. Most notably, she threw a personal best 14.15-meters in the shot put, the second farthest of all the competitors.

On her final day, Saturday, June 11, Mokrasova leaped 5.69 meters in the long jump to rack up 756 points. Her javelin throw and 800-meter run scored her 630 and 703 points, respectively.

“Lucia has a lot of upside and I don’t believe this is close to the best she can do,” Laaksonen said. “She didn’t get off to a tremendous start yesterday, but turned it around in the shot put and 200-meter dash.”

Laaksonen was also very optimistic about Mokrasova’s future with the Miners.

“I’m a little disappointed for her because she wanted to do better, but she will in the future,” Laaksonen said. “She is a great athlete and a great student, so she has better things ahead of her.”

Koech and Uwakwe fall in preliminary round.

Freshman Jonah Koech ran the last race of his first year as a Miner on Wednesday, June 8. He clocked in at his best time of 1:46:53 in the

PHOTO COURTESY UTEP ATHLETICS

800-m run, but it was one spot away from qualifying for the finals.

Koech, who has been a storied newcomer for the Miners in cross country, indoor track and now outdoor track, reached new heights for the Miners. His time at the NCAA Championship was not only fast enough for his personal best, but also ranks third fastest in program history.

Despite not qualifying for the finals, Koech’s season was filled with plenty of victories. He was named Freshman of the Meet at the Conference USA Championships and won five events during the outdoor season.

“He ran a personal record at the national championships and you can’t ask for any more than that,” Laaksonen said. “He was an All-American in cross country and indoors, and he competed at the championships in outdoors. I don’t know what more you can ask of from a freshman.”

Junior Florence Uwakwe finished the 400-meter dash with a time of 56.28 to place 24th overall. Her time was not fast enough to advance either.

Adrian Broaddus may be reached at theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com.

Ehhh PUTO! it should be stopped

BY RENE DELGADILLO

The Prospector



The word “puto” has become a major issue for the International Federation of Association Football, or FIFA, and the Mexican national soccer team. The word has become the central part of a ritual present in almost any soccer game in Mexico.

Every time the rival goalkeeper kicks the ball out of the box, Mexican fans shout this word in unison.

For those unfamiliar with the word, there are many different meanings to “puto,” all of them quite unflattering. But, as it happens with most bad words in Spanish, it is hard to give it one simple meaning. The derogatory word can mean coward, traitor, male prostitute or a homosexual man, depending to who you are talking to, what you are talking about, in what situation and with what tone the word is used.

For many soccer fans in Mexico, this word, as well as many other bad words, is used with regularity in soccer matches as a way of creating a fun environment among all the attendees.

The word has been in my vocabulary for such a long time, ever since I went to my first soccer match, and it has been hard to stop the word from coming out of my mouth each time I get frustrated and angry while I watch a soccer match.

This ritual of screaming “puto” is an attempt by the fans to create pressure on the keeper with the hope that he fails on the next play. People on social media use the term when the match is boring. By screaming “puto,” they claim it makes the match a little less boring.

FIFA says the word is homophobic and disrespectful, while Mexican fans excuse themselves by saying it is part of their culture and an essential part of a soccer match.

Both of the parties are right.

But, I believe that if humans with different sexual orientations feel discriminated against, then soccer fans should stop the screaming of this word.

Taking “puto” out of soccer games will be very difficult, maybe even impossible. There is even a song titled “Puto” by the Mexican band Molotov, a song that is fairly popular among young people. Mexican soccer fans are creating so many memes and videos laughing at FIFA for their intention of shutting down the word; but they are not taking the time to consider if the word is offensive to others.

Paying a ticket to a match does not give you the right to speak any way you want, especially not at the expense of others. How many of the users of the word “puto” have asked people with different sexual orientations if this word bothers them? Probably very few, if any at all.

The Mexican Football Federation received a financial penalty for the chant. They had to pay \$20,000 as a fine to FIFA after the Mexican federation was told to stop their fans from screaming “puto,” which they did not do.

I think it was fair. We live in a time period in which the LGBTQ community is trying to obtain equal human rights and sports must give them the respect they deserve.

FIFA is now analyzing the possibility of implementing a veto on Mexico’s stadium—meaning that the Mexican soccer team would have to play their next match without a single fan. There is even the theory that if Mexican fans continue with use of this word, then the Mexican team would be disqualified from the World Cup in Russia, which will be played in 2018.

As a result, the Mexican team has created videos where their players ask their fans to stop screaming that word. The players said that they do not feel discriminated against and that they do not want to play a match without the support of their people.

FIFA is being serious about the use of this word and Mexico does not want to risk the profit they earn during each match. People want to see Mexico play, so why risk it all for a simple tradition that is homophobic for many?

Mexicans got upset when Donald Trump came out with his famous speech saying that Mexicans were rapists and that they brought drugs and problems to this nation, but why is that when the rival goalkeeper kicks the ball, it is okay to call him a name that many find offensive? Do we, the fans of the national soccer team of Mexico, have a double standard when it comes to offensive words and comments? I think we do.

To really understand the issue, we need to hear from a person from the LGTBQ community. Their voice and opinion needs to be heard so that fans and soccer officials understand the effects of screaming “puto.” Homophobic and racist insults should have no place for the sporting world.

Rene Delgadillo may be reached at theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com.

Basketball newcomer spotlight: Tim Cameron



Freshman guard Tim Cameron was introduced to the media prior to his inaugural season.

ANGEL ULLOA / THE PROSPECTOR

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS
The Prospector

With off-season antics underway, the Miners’ basketball squad introduced one of their newcomers for the 2016-17 season in freshman guard Tim Cameron.

After losing seven players, who either transferred or graduated last

season, head coach Tim Floyd is left to fill some holes in his team.

“I’m excited about the future,” Cameron said. “I’m excited about being at UTEP and helping the program win. I visited the school last fall and really enjoyed it here.”

Out of high school, Cameron spent a year at Hargrave Military Academy in Chatham, Virginia. Through the 2015-16 season, Cam-

eron claims he grew as a player and now is ready for the competition at the Conference USA level.

At Hargrave, Cameron aided his squad to a 47-1 overall record.

“I was able to grow in so many ways,” Cameron said. “I got stronger and I got to play with the college 3-point line. My bench press went from 195 to 225. Plus I got

to play against and with some very talented players.”

The 6-foot-4, 190-pound guard can both dunk the ball and, more importantly, drop back and hit the jumper.

“I’m excited about being at UTEP and helping the program win. I visited the school last fall and really enjoyed it here

- Tim Cameron, freshman guard

“I like to play fast-paced basketball and attack the basket,” Cameron said. “On defense I like to play hard and I like the challenge of going up against the opponent’s best offensive player.”

His jump shot is very important to him and something that he wants to continue developing during his training.

“I want to develop my jump shot—be more consistent at the college line,” Cameron said. “Being a more consistent shooter, de-

fender and seeing stuff more at the college pace.”

Prior to signing with UTEP, he had different options and offers, some from other C-USA teams.

“I did have a lot of Conference USA teams interested, so it’ll be interesting to compete against those teams in the conference,” he said. “UTEP has lots of tradition and great support.”

Cameron officially inked his name with the Miners in the fall and what attracted Cameron to the team was the environment surrounding the team.

“I like coach Floyd and the family atmosphere around it,” Cameron said. “It felt like this is where I needed to be. Other schools looked at me, but this is where I felt they wanted me the most and they would develop me to do my best.”

Amongst a bigger recruiting class than most, Cameron believes the newcomers can bring something special to the program and help the team grow.

“We got a lot of great players (in this class),” Cameron said. “It’s going to be great, growing with them. I think we can do championships every year. The last thing is just being a leader to those guys and keep developing. I think we should do really well.”

Adrian Broaddus may be reached at theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com.

ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

THE PROSPECTOR

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