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The Prospector, July 12, 2016

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ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

THE

PROSPECTOR

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VOL. 101, NO. 34

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

JULY 12, 2016



A CALL FOR CHANGE

UTEP's Black Student Union holds vigil for police brutality victims

BY CHRISTIAN VASQUEZ
AND MICHAELA ROMAN

The Prospector

As the sun sets in downtown El Paso, a row of people on a small stage hold up photos of the black men and women police have killed. In front, candles burn brightly behind a large sheet of paper that holds dozens of names of people whose light is no longer shining.

A candlelight vigil was held to commemorate the recent killings of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile. More than 200 people gathered on Sunday, July 10, at San Jacinto Plaza. The crowd consisted of a wide range of ethnicities, ages and religions. The event was coordinated by UTEP's Black Student Union and Parents and Families of Lesbian and Gays (PFLAG). They also teamed up with New Mexico University's Black Student Union and representatives from nine different organizations.

"I'm here because I'm a black male in a community that needs to have a little more light shined on recent tragedies and the tragedies that have gone on for many years," said Darian

Broadnax, a junior transfer student majoring in kinesiology who will be attending UTEP in the fall.

Shyla Cooks, president of BSU and junior biological sciences major, said another member suggested the vigil and she felt it was necessary to organize it in response to the continued killings of the black population by police.

"There was something about it that made me want to move forward with it in a passionate manner," Cooks said. "Solidarity is important because without unity we can't really have true freedom."

The vigil featured prayers, songs, slam poetry and passionate speeches by those who have lost loved ones at the hands of the police. A receptive crowd sang along to "We Shall Overcome," and cried when they heard the words of a mother who outlived her son because of the El Paso police force.

June Straight, a teacher at San Elizario High School, preformed a poem called "Orlando" that she wrote less than a month ago. The poem was named after the shootings at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, where

49 people were killed and 53 injured. Straight's poem reflected the solidarity between marginalized groups that were present throughout the vigil.

"Solidarity is important because we're human and humans work together and when they work together great things happen," Straight said. "It's about people listening to other people who are hurting and saying, 'You know what, I may not understand your pain, but I acknowledge that you feel it and you feel it for a reason, and whatever I can do, I'm here.'"

Lorena Soto, vice president of the board of directors for PFLAG, said they helped organize the event because of the loss of two innocent black men.

"One day right after the next we lost two innocent black men," Soto said. "I was heartbroken about it, I was angry about it. It was right after my community, the gay community, experienced the huge loss in Orlando, and we were still mourning that loss. We need to come together as minorities and support each other."

Selfa Chew, interim chair of the African American Studies Program at

UTEP, said the event was created to show unity and help the community get a better understanding of the issue at hand despite remarks from the city's police chief.

Greg Allen, the first-ever elected black police chief in El Paso, drew national attention with his controversial statement calling Black Lives Matter a radical hate group responsible for the recent shooting in Dallas that led to the death of five police officers. Allen's comment was quickly condemned by El Paso Representative Beto O'Rourke, County Judge Veronica Escobar, Senator Jose Rodriguez as well as other city representatives.

Soto said Allen's remark was a dangerous one, especially when it's from someone in a position of power, and that by saying it people grew afraid about the event continuing.

"He was considering this group of beautiful and peaceful students a threat to the community," Chew said. "We were very worried about it, but we also had faith in the community and that they were well informed."

The chief's remark was not forgotten at the vigil. A poster was held up behind the speakers with the words

MICHAELA ROMÁN / THE PROSPECTOR

"Silence=Murder. How's your radical hate group Chief Allen." Despite Chief Allen's comments, he was still invited to the vigil, but did not attend.

"Luckily, our community stepped forward, and we actually had police start calling the Black Students Union to give their support, to say we don't agree with what our chief said," Soto said. "They were amongst us today, they were out here in plain clothes so as not to draw attention to themselves. They came up to us and said 'We're here to protect you, to make sure your message is heard.'"

Cooks also had a message for UTEP students.

"Facebook will not change anything, you can get on Facebook, you can rant all day long, but you are not doing anything. So get up, spread awareness, learn this system, and figure out what is needed to be done," she said. "Because how you feel, someone else feels that way. Find those people, unite and make change."

For more information on future events, students may use Minetracker or visit pflagelpaso.org.

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

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JULY 12, 2016

Why #BlackLivesMatter

BY RENE DELGADILLO
The Prospector



It's hard to express the way I feel about the death of two black men and five Dallas police officers. I'm sad, scared and confused as to why this happened. Different opinions are being expressed, thousands of social media videos are being shared, but a solution has not been found to end the racial tension hap- pening in this nation.

The killings and protests have brought about many discussions and hashtags. "Black lives matter," "all lives matter" and "blue lives matter" have been visible On the many news outlets of the world. People are call- ing the conflicts between cops and ci- vilians a "civil war," and other people are going extreme by expressing their need for a police purge. Then there is El Paso's Police Chief Greg Allen, the first black police chief in El Paso, who has called the Black Lives Matter movement "a radical hate group."

It's important to know that the protests against police brutality have strived to stay peaceful and that BLM wants to create hope and bring aware- ness to society. I would like to tell Al- len that the BLM movement is com- prised of very different people who agree on one of the many problems of this nation. They are blacks, Mexi- cans, whites, Muslims, men, women and people with different sexual ori- entations, who all want to put an end to police brutality.

The protests in Dallas were against those cops who take advantage of their authority—not against cops who value their jobs and all the peo- ple they are responsible for.

Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick said in an interview with Fox News that the BLM movement protestors were "hypocrites." I find this statement as- tonishing and incorrect.

We can't call them hypocrites for seeking protection when gunfire broke out in Dallas. They were peace- ful and were using language as a tool to end brutality. What do you expect them to do if they are not doing any- thing wrong and then hear and see bullets flying around them?

Leaders of the BLM movement un- derstand the need for security. They understand we need police officers, but Texas officials don't seem to un- derstand that what this movement is trying to do is end police brutal- ity. BLM doesn't want to get rid of officers, they want new generations of police officers to have a different mentality toward minorities—the BLM movement just wants a safe nation.

Let's get something straight, the BLM movement is not telling so- ciety that the life of a cop does not matter. What they are trying to say is that black lives have not mattered throughout the history of this nation. They want to bring awareness about police brutality against the black community because it has not been stopped, despite the many incidents that have occurred.

Wouldn't you say that it's very com- mon to hear about police brutality against blacks in the US? I do, and it has to stop.

We need to teach our younger gen- erations about human right violations and about respect for law enforce- ment. What we need is communica- tion and respect—the march led by the rapper Snoop Dogg in Los An- geles on Friday is an example of that communication and respect needed in this difficult situation.

The black community is tired of not feeling protected, they are tired of re- ceiving longer jail sentences in com- parison to white people—they want equality.

Saying that all lives matter is true, no one should be murdered by anoth- er person, everyone must be respect- ed and race shouldn't be a reason for any kind of violence.

The lives of all police officers also matter. They save and help all kinds of people. Without them many of you would be dead.

I respect the courage that each offi- cer has. They leave their homes with- out knowing if they will ever come back—all to try to save your life. Offi- cers have fears like any civilian in the United States, and that's something that many people are forgetting. We keep thinking that police officers are racists and dangerous humans when it's not true, the majority of cops are just trying to do their jobs, but un- fortunately good people in this world don't make to history. We remember the names of criminals and shooters.

So what do we make out of all this? Well it's hard to make a change from one day to another because white su- premacy ideas and racism won't end today or tomorrow.

Let's respect cops without forget- ting about our rights, and to police officers, I would like to tell them to please forget about race when it comes to doing your job.

My respect and condolences are for every victim of police brutality as well as toward all officers who risk and lose their lives while on duty.

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

YOU MUST CHECK ONE

☐

#BLACK

☐

#ALL

LIVES MATTER

f

JACOBO DE LA ROSA

MICHAELA ROMÁN



MICHAELA ROMAN/ THE PROSPECTOR
Two attendees of a vigil held for the recent deaths of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile hold candles during a moment of silence. See more photos on pg. 4.

THE PROSPECTOR

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Weather forecast graphic for abc 7 kvia.com. Includes names of meteorologists: Dan Martinez, Krystal Klei, Doppler Dave Speelman, Nichole Gomez, and Iris Lopez. Main text: StormTRACK WEATHER.

Table with 7 columns: TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, SUN, MON. Each column contains weather icons, high/low temperatures, conditions (Sunny, Partly Cloudy), and chance of rain (0% or 10%).

UTEP helps high school students take first steps into the world of business



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

UTEP will hold the third-annual Rookie Entrepreneurship Program from July 18-23 for high school students interested in business.

BY CHRISTIAN VASQUEZ
The Prospector

The University of Texas at El Paso will host the third-annual Rookie Entrepreneurship Program from July 18-23. The program will bring together 23 high school students interested in the world of business to learn from local entrepreneurs and UTEP student mentors.

“The point of this exercise is to get them to learn more about what it takes to be an entrepreneur. ... To create a pathway to the college of business as well, so that they get to learn all the business disciplines here at the college.”

- Denise Olivas,
director of the Center for
Hispanic Entrepreneurship

Although anyone is welcome to attend, because the majority of people in El Paso are Hispanic, the program places special emphasis on helping

Hispanic entrepreneurs. According to Olivas, it's estimated that by 2050 that a quarter of the population will be Hispanic and the program aims to prepare Hispanics to take advantage of that estimated growth. Aaron Cervantes, director of operations for the Mike Loya Center for Innovation and Commerce, said targeting Hispanic youth is important for El Paso's long and short-term success. "When you talk about Hispanic entrepreneurship, Hispanics are more likely to be more risky, but they are also the ones who have the highest potential to become stagnant at a point," Cervantes said. "That's because they don't have the right knowledge, they don't get access to capital, at least not the same access to capital as other ethnicities, and they also don't have the strong networks that other people have." The first three days, students from Bowie, Coronado, Del Valle and San Elizario high schools will be split into groups, where they will start learning the basic theories of starting a business. These concepts include finding products or services people want, using the students own passion to fill that need and what being an entrepreneur entails. The students will learn about how to target demographics, how to find proper financing for their businesses and start planning their own businesses they will put into action later that week. The fourth day will consist of purchasing the products they will be selling. On Friday, July 22, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the students will be taken out of the classroom to put their knowledge to the test. They will sell their products to UTEP students, faculty, staff and visitors. The groups will compete with each other to see who is the most innovative and the best salesperson. The grand prize will be to take home 50 percent of the profits made by all groups Last year's groups

managed to sell \$1,300 in two hours and the winners took home \$650. By the end of the experience, students should understand the world of entrepreneurship much better. "They know how to work through every single process and how hard it is, and then get the reward," Olivas said. "(It's) the full experience." The program ends with a round of golf, where the students learn how to

network while playing golf at Ascarate Park. Afterward they have a cookout and present what they learned, along with any mistakes they might have made throughout their campaign. "There are key activities in business that will help you close deals and network, and one that is really important is learning how to golf," Cervantes said. "Some of the business deals are closed on a golf course." There is a larger goal to introducing the aspects of starting a business to high school students. The program is aimed at keeping businesses in El Paso by fostering a business community from an early age. Keeping and supporting what, according to Cervantes, is the most important kind of business for the economy is the true goal of the university and programs such as this. "What supports the economy of the U.S. is small businesses, about 90-93 percent," Cervantes said. "This also goes in line with what the university is trying to do, which is keep the talent local and help El Paso grow." Christian Vasquez may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

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OUR VIEW

PHOTO EDITOR
ANGEL ULLOA, 747-7477

El Pasoans pay tribute to victims of police brutality



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MICHAELA ROMAN, ANDRES MARTINEZ, ANGEL ULLOA / THE PROSPECTOR
1. Chief of the black El Paso Democrats, D. Sissy Byrd, speaks at the vigil on Sunday, July 10.
2. A vigil attendee reacts to Chief of Police Greg Allen's comments on the Black Lives Matter movement.
3. A young girl looks at a picture of Sandra Bland, who died one year ago.
4. Members of UTEP's Black Student Union hold signs with the names of black men and women killed by police brutality.
5. A list of names of police brutality victims is laid out in San Jacinto Plaza.

JULY 12, 2016

ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR
JULIA HETTIGER, 747-7477



ANGEL ULLOA / THE PROSPECTOR

Due to popular demand, the UTEP Dinner Theatre will bring back their hit musical ‘Rock of Ages’ live on stage July 8-24.

BY ANDRIA GRANADO
The Prospector

The UTEP Dinner Theatre presents a return engagement of the Tony Award-nominated Broadway jukebox musical “Rock of Ages” through July 24. The performances will be presented in place of the previously scheduled run of “The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas,” a decision made after 15 showings of the ‘80s glam-inspired show sold out earlier this year. “We’ve redone shows before, but we’ve never brought one back in the same season, so it’s an experiment

for us,” said Greg Taylor, director of the UDT. The show’s musical numbers, which include well-known and loved ‘80s hits such as “Don’t Stop Believin,’” “Hit me With Your Best Shot” and “We’re not Gonna Take It” warranted the addition of four more shows than originally scheduled during its original run in February. Taylor said that many people who came to the show earlier this year did not even know that the 33-year-old dinner theater existed before, but came to hear the 80’s songs they know performed live. “It’s like a new discovery for them,” Taylor said. “It helps us build

our audience; to get those new people in that will come back and try ‘Fiddler on the Roof’ or whatever else we do here.” Unlike other performance groups at UTEP, the dinner theater does not receive much of its funding from fees, so attracting new people is a great help. The costumes, sets and cast (except for two minor characters and a guitarist) are the same as the initial showings. Even people who came to see it before will notice the tighter performances that come from the extra practices and will still enjoy it. “What makes it so fun is the live aspect of it,” Taylor said. “It’s so sponta-

neous and fun that it feels like a rock concert, but it also has a story.” Keeping true to the original Broadway show, the story revolves around two young people who move to LA and takes place primarily in a bar and strip club, complete with smoke, wind machines and an MTV-style video projection. The show does include scantily clad women and a few expletives, but is not obscene or dirty. It was, in fact, a hit with the students who viewed it during the theater’s high school night. “It’s the most raucous response we’ve ever had from the high school audience!” Taylor said. “They sang

along louder than the cast—shocked the hell out of me.” The UDT tries to balance the number of contemporary shows it performs with the classics, and plans to stage performances of “Mamma Mia!” as soon as the rights are made available. The UDT performs on the second floor of UTEP’s Union West Building. Tickets are available at the UTEP Ticket Center, through Ticketmaster and by phone at 800-745-3000. Andria Granado may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com

A Thief Named Time keeps moshing alive



ANGEL ULLOA / THE PROSPECTOR

Local El Paso band A Thief Named Time feels they’ve reached their career high playing at Tricky Falls this past Saturday, July 9.

BY ERIC VASQUEZ
The Prospector

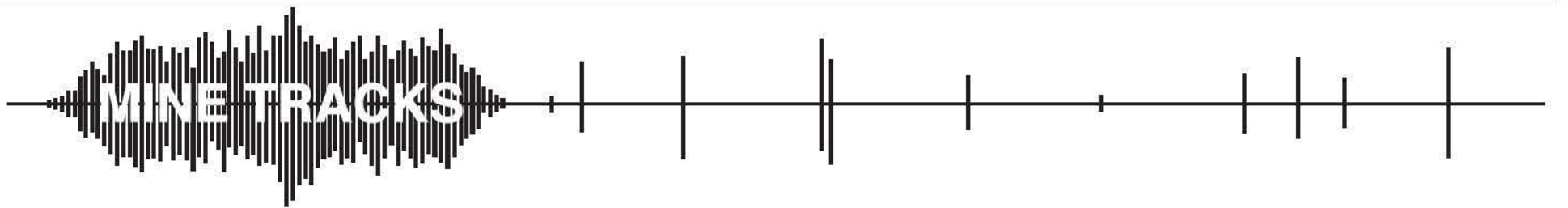
El Paso-based post-hardcore rock band A Thief Named Time took the Tricky Falls stage this past Saturday, July 9, playing for a crowd that, for lead singer and guitarist Rafael Rojas, was a career high.

“My goal in El Paso was to play Tricky Falls,” Rojas said. “All the bands had good shows and there was a good crowd to hear them. It was such a surreal experience seeing so many people coming out to see us. It was a real ‘oh, people actually like us’ moment.”

For Rojas, being able to play for a crowd that does more than stand and stare is all he could ask for at a live show. “I saw Pierce the Veil in high school and saw how pumped up people got, moshing and dancing,” Rojas said. “I decided that that was the reason I would play music.”

Rojas has had his fair share of awkward shows, however. It’s a sight he’d rather not see at A Thief Named Time show. “I’ve played shows where everyone is just staring at you, and I feel like telling them ‘hey you got to move’ you know?” Rojas said. “Make it a memorable night! You can be chill at home.” Fortunately, the music A Thief Named Time has to offer, mainly heavy metal influences and the overwhelming, in-your-face riffs and drum beats of punk, draws an audience that refuses to stand still. “In the middle of our second song I looked up and there was a bunch of people moshing,” Rojas said. “I was worried someone was going to hurt themselves it was so crazy. It gets me pumped up that they were pumped up and made me want to play harder.” That sense of fandom and empowering energy is a relatively new experience for Rojas. He recalls the first time the band took the stage, which was not quite as good as their most recent one. From the beginning, Rojas had bad vibes about the show. Feeling like something was destined to go wrong, he showed up to Papa Joe’s Metal Shop—where the show would take place—with three guitars just in case something went wrong. “The first song went super fluid, but the second one, my guitar just died, no sound at all. So I left the stage to

get the second one from my car, apologized for the awkward disappearance,” Rojas said. “We start playing again and my strap broke. My third guitar didn’t have a strap, so I just said screw it and pulled up a chair and finished the set like that.” A Thief Named Time is one of many local bands here in El Paso looking for opportunities to play for the city’s music lovers. Although the city has a multitude of hungry audiophiles ready to hear about the nation’s newest artists, Rojas wishes El Pasoans would support their local artists just as much. “People here are selective with what they support,” Rojas said. “They can support an artist that charges \$300 just to show up because it’s a big name, that’s fine, but when a local artist trying to make it to that level asks for \$5, they pass. We can’t get famous without our city’s help. Every artist was a local artist before they were famous.” For a free listening of A Thief Named Time’s music head to athief-namedtime.bandcamp.com and reverbnation.com/athiefnamedtime, along with Spotify and iTunes. For more information on the band’s upcoming shows and latest EP releases, visit their Facebook page. Eric Vasquez may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com



The Avalanches make the wait well worth it

BY CHRISTIAN VASQUEZ
The Prospector

It's been 16 years since "Since I Left You" by The Avalanches melted near 3,500 samples with such intricacy that it was hard to tell where one ended and the other began. Since then, The Avalanches left us with relative silence only interrupted by an occasional assurance that the next album is being worked on.

For fans of the debut album it became a running joke reminiscent of

Rage Against the Machine getting back together. It sounded nice, but after a decade it just didn't seem likely anymore, and we were tired of getting our hopes raised and dashed. "Wildflower" sounds as though someone is reminiscing about a summer vacation spent with good friends. It's a genre-defying journey through whimsical nostalgia, mixed with hallucinogenic partying and overshadowed by a tinge of sadness that comes when remembering fonder times.

The fact they were able to accurately establish such an eclectic mix in little over an hour is astounding in itself. Like the previous album, it's sample heavy, but not to the extent of the first album. The introduction of live instrumentations and vocals from MF Doom, Jonathan Donahue, Danny Brown and Ariel Pink and a few others separates this album from its contemporaries. The first song, "The Leaves Were Falling," is a 15-second clip that sounds as though someone is trying to find the right mood for the trip. It transitions to "Because I'm Me," featuring Camp Lo, a hip-hop duo, and quickly sets itself apart from their previous record with a confidence that was unexpected, but works out really well.

"Frank Sinatra," the first single released featuring Danny Brown and MF Doom, encapsulates a drug-filled night that is just slightly out of control. Danny Brown raps: "Please Mr officer I only had some vodka; Little marijuana just a few Vicodin; Only reefer swervin' out here while I'm driving." With horns in the background, screaming, plates breaking and lasers firing, together they somehow manage to make a coherent and fun song. The album changes with "Subways," which is a bit more relaxed, depicting an innocent stroll through the city. "Going Home" is just a continuation of the song that, unless you pay attention, you won't realize it's supposed to be a different track. The style that



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

dominated the previous album is shown only in a handful of songs and this is one of them. The next couple of tracks take listeners back to the '60s with "If I Was A Folkstar," a pleasant nostalgic love song, and "Colours," which brings back the psychedelic sounds, with vocals sounding as though they're played backwards. "Zap!" is a song about dreaming that transitions into waking up the next morning with "The Noisy Eater." This song is the only time I have heard the sounds of someone eating set to a beat—all while Biz Markie raps about Cheerios and Captain Crunch. It's a fun song that stands on its own in the album. "Wildflower" starts with a toke and pleasant vibes flow through the short, minute-long song. "Harmony" is a weaker song that is repetitive, but if you just took a toke after eating Cheerios, one could see how it could be appreciated. The next group of songs begins to have the feel of a journey that never reaches its destination. It makes the album lose the momentum it has built up. "Live A Lifetime Love" mixes the Beach Boys' type of sound with lyrics about being called a thug, smoking blunts and cops showing up at the end. "Park Music" and "Livin' Underwater (Is Something Wild)" are pleasant enough in a '60s psychedelic-journeys-through-clouds-and-waves way, but the album begins to feel stretched here. If these songs were cut it wouldn't be any big loss. "The Wizard of Iz" features Danny Brown and brings back one of the weaker points of the album, where some of the songs have a familiar

dreamy quality, but have rap mushed into them. It just doesn't seem as coherent as it could be. Starting from "Wildflower," this is the weakest stretch of the album. "Sunshine" is a nice enough trip through time and space that regains the nostalgic feel of love and memories with a bittersweet ending. "Light Up" is a carnivalesque song with the lyrics, "it's a world of fantasy" repeated throughout it, as though the feelings and memories are not as real as we think they are. "Kaleidoscopic Lovers" is a '60s record sped up. Soft and sweet, the song makes it feel as though the journey is soon ending. "Stepkids" is very reminiscent of the Beach Boys' album "Smile," and is wonderfully produced and one of the few complete songs that stand on its own. Growing up with that album, I actually had to check to see if they used any samples from it—they didn't. The last song, "Saturday Night Inside Out," brings the journey to an end with a love-loss story through which something great was regained. The album is not one that tries to recapture what made their first one great, instead it seeks to expand on the heavy sampling and journeys through memories and feelings. The vocals range from ethereal pleasant-ries to heavy reminders of the here and now. The samples lift them up to create a great album that exceeded the heavy expectations 16 years of silence grew among fans. Even with the drastic changes in style, The Avalanches created an album that is uniquely them, a medley of American culture that yearns for an imagined past of better times.

Christian Vasquez may be reached at theprospectoraily. ent@gmail.com.

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Chihuahuas riding high after first half of play



CHRIS ZACHERL / THE PROSPECTOR

El Paso Chihuahuas go into the All-Star break holding the best record in the Pacific Coast League.

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS The Prospector

After the first half of play is under wraps, the El Paso Chihuahuas will take a three-day break for the Triple-A All-Star week, which will feature the annual All-Star Game on Wednesday, July 13, in Nashville, Tennessee.

The Chihuahuas (53-37) have the best record in the Pacific Coast League and sit in first place of their division, six-and-a-half games ahead of the Las Vegas 51's.

Prior to the split in action, the Chihuahuas had back-to-back road series against the Albuquerque Isotopes and the Salt Lake Bees. After winning the series in Albuquerque, 2-1, the Chihuahuas fell behind early and were down two games against the Bees.

The Chihuahuas closed the series strong, however, defeating the Bees in the last two games by a combined score of 23-3.

On Sunday, July 10, standout batter Austin Hedges set the team record for single-game RBIs. In the Chihuahuas 11-2 win over the Bees, Hedges went

three-for-five, including two home runs and eight RBIs—all of which came in during the first three innings.

Other notable batters on Sunday were Luis Urias (two-for-two with a home run), Alexi Amarista (two-for-five with a home run) and Jabari Blash (three-for-four). Pitchers Michael Kelly, Frank Garcés, Michael Dimock and Leonel Campos all threw exceptionally well and did not allow a run while they were on the mound.

Chihuahuas making noise in the big league

Midway into the season, ex-Chihuahuas players who have moved up to the MLB affiliate San Diego Padres, have made noise in the big leagues. Gravitating players such as Blash, Hedges and Amarista have been back and forth between clubs; whereas players such as Alex Dickerson, Jose Pirela and Ryan Schimpf have found a home in San Diego.

Dickerson, Pirela and Schimpf, who have all spent significant time in El Paso, have been notable additions to the Padres. Dickerson, who spent the majority of the first half of

play with the Chihuahuas, is now batting fifth for the Padres. He has a .286 batting average and is in the starting rotation.

Dickerson, who plays right field, has 12 hits, two doubles and 44 at bats.

Schimpf, who comes in as a pinch hitter and plays third base for the Padres, is batting .183 and has contributed with 11 hits, nine runs and four home runs. Pirela, who is also used as a pinch hitter, has contributed with six hits and two runs.

This raises the possibility of other Chihuahuas' standout players such as Hedges, Hunter Renfroe, Carlos Asuaje and Manuel Margot, being added to the 40-man roster before the season ends.

After the All-Star break, the Chihuahuas will return to Southwest University Park and take on the Nashville Sounds from July 14-17.

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Kevin Durant remains true

BY SHERICKA LAWRENCE The Prospector



Devotion is a synonym for the word loyalty. In the minds of many, loyalty has different meanings. Some think that being faithful to their partner is loyal, or being truthful is loyal; but why is it considered disloyal when people decides to be truthful and faithful to themselves first?

Kevin Durant has been the main focus in the National Basketball Association, because many Oklahoma City Thunder fans feel that he is betraying the city, state and teammates by choosing to go to the Golden State Warriors.

When I think of loyalty, I think that a person should always be loyal to himself or herself before anyone or anything else. Durant left Oklahoma for himself, the way LeBron left Cleveland for Miami just a few years back and there is nothing wrong with that.

Fans of Durant are not mad that he left Oklahoma. Their problem is really that he went to Golden State of all teams.

He went to the team that beat him and his teammates two years in a row in the Western Conference Championship. The team that came back from three games down in the 2015-16 playoffs to get to a second NBA Finals. That is the reason why Durant is getting so much negative feedback; why go to a team that has beaten you many times before?

Durant is great basketball player and sometimes being loyal to yourself is more important than being loyal to a situation that has come up just short of glory in the last nine years.

Durant had every right to leave and no one has the right to judge his decision. At the end of the day, none of the fans, the friends or the management will pay any of Durant's bills or be able to live the life he wants to live for himself.

The only reason why LeBron went back to Cleveland was to prove a point to the naysayers that he would be able to bring a NBA Championship to Cleveland, then he might opt out of his now contract with the Cavs. LeBron feels he needs to prove things to people; Durant is doing what is best for him no matter what the naysayers say.

Again I go back to the word loyal—is it loyal for a person to go back and forth just for their benefit in proving a point to people as well as benefiting themselves? Or, would you rather a person try to stick it out until they can no longer make things work?

I would take the second option.

I will always respect the person who can go through changes and be adaptable the way Durant was in Oklahoma for nine years—dealing with coaching changes and questionable trades.

Durant has proven that he can go through changes and deal with new teammates and still be loyal to the Oklahoma City Thunder, but sometimes, we as people, hold on to things and situations that we should have let go of much sooner.

For Durant, it was just time to move on. He tried in OKC, didn't succeed and now he wants to make sure he gets a ring before his career is over.

Durant will make a great addition to the Golden State Warriors. He is a wonderful upgrade to Harrison Barnes. He will now be a part of the "fantastic four," being a Warrior instead of being double trouble for the Thunder, and if you do the math we all know that four is more than two any day, any time and any place.

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Sisterhood of bruises



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUDREY RUSSELL

Speeding down the track, two roller derby girls are in a bout

BY ERIC VASQUEZ
The Prospector

While the city's manic roar of packed bars, ballgames and concerts slows to a Sunday hum, the El Paso Coliseum is just beginning to pulse with a crowd ready to see a more radical event altogether. As most citizens trade in their heels and blazers for slippers and Netflix, the girls of Sun City Roller Girls, El Paso's female banked-track roller derby league, are putting on their war paint and lacing up quad skates to face off against one of the four other teams in their monthly bouts.

Midway into its eighth season, the SCRG league is finding a following in the city by combining the intensity of a contact sport and the energy of a rock show. Once hosted in the Coliseum's judging arena—a small warehouse—the bouts were moved to accommodate a larger crowd.

"We were selling out and turning people away when we played in the judging arena," Trixie Polverizer said, who like the majority of the derby

girls on the team, preferred to be called by her derby name. "But this last time, we played in the Coliseum and ended up doubling ticket sales."

The atmosphere is unlike any other in the city or in sports. There is a sense of daring when walking into an SCRG bout; an edge that feels like this might be one of those word-of-mouth, almost-illegal underground sports.

Continuous punk music plays loud as players skate a slanted track with enough speed to break a bone. Menacing nicknames and peculiar numbers such as Princess Slaya #CT327, TE-KIL-YA #1953, and KamiCassi #Zer0 adorn their jerseys and complement their fierce eye makeup.

The audience is full of fans divided into colors ready to cheer on the teams. There are five squads in the league: Las Catrinas, The Sexexecutioners, Las Viudas Negras, Las Diablas and the Chuco Town Chulas.

As spectacular as an SCRG event can become—with gimmicks such as the hilarious emcee's encouragement to boo the referees and the au-

dience's apparent thirst for falls and crashes -- it is, after all, a regulated sporting event. The league follows the most recent banked-track roller derby rules from the Roller Derby Coalition of Leagues, which limits punching, elbowing and tripping usually associated with the assumptions about the sport.

"It might look unladylike because we're pushing and trying to fight each other, but it's a game too, there are rules to it," said Polverizer, the league's trainer and Sexexecutioner member.

The rules are fairly simple. At the beginning of a one-minute scoring session, called a jam, skaters are separated into two groups on the track: the pack and the jammers. The pack consists of eight blockers, four from each team, huddled together. Their job is to let their jammer pass through the pack while simultaneously blocking the opposing team's jammer. When a jammer passes through the pack and comes around the track again, a point is awarded for each opposing blocker they pass. To add to the intensity, the first jammer to get through the pack

becomes the lead jammer and can stop the jam short to keep the opposing jammer from scoring any more points. The lead jammer signals this—sometimes with enough passion to also signal "suck it"—by touching her helmet and her hips with both hands.

A total of 60 minutes of play are divided into four 15-minute quarters. Each quarter contains as many jams as can be played within the 15-minute time period.

Because of the jammers' high velocity and the pack's careful positioning, falls, pile ups and crashes into other players or the outer rail are not only common, but they are expected. It is only part of the game to see a jammer clip a blocker's skate and starfish onto the track and slide down the embankment.

Although a roller-skating sport played on a banked track guarantees a few bruises and sprains, it does not make these skaters quit.

"When you start out, you just want to hold people's hands, but they want you to learn on your own," said Zodiac Kill-Her, jammer for Las Catrinas and psychology major at UTEP. "It's the scariest thing ever."

The consensus, however, seems to be that after the first few bouts, a derby girl will learn not only how to deal with the injury, but also to see them as trophies. Lady Latte Pain, co-captain for the Chuco Town Chulas and senior organizational and corporate communication major, explains the comradery that comes after a hard check into the track.

"At the end of the day, every team wants to see the others excel," Latte Pain said. "You'll be hitting the hell out of each other, but then we're all at the after party showing off our cuts and scrapes. It's a sisterhood of bruises."

The grit of these derby girls doesn't end in their scars and injuries, however. The SCRG is an entirely female-owned and operated league with a choice group of male volunteers willing to help out. These women, most of them also players, cover an entire spectrum of ages and backgrounds. They get women from all sorts of professions—nurses, students and grandmothers—all with a hand in several of the league's operations.

"Everyone does everything," said Gina Blue Jolie, a novice training to join the league and earn a nickname.

"We assemble and disassemble the track for practices and bouts, and even if we're not playing that Sunday, we're helping out with tickets or t-shirt sales."

Polverizer, who agreed with Gina Blue Jolie, looks up to the more experienced roller derby women and draws inspiration as an up-and-coming member.

"Even girls who are just starting out get motivation from the older girls," Polverizer said. "Because we were all there either last week or last year."

This reliance on individual members to keep the organization functioning is a solemn ode to the when sports were not corporations, but rather communities. It is a chance for a group of humans to challenge each other physically and mentally, while still working together to do something entertaining.

"Beyond the derby walls, we go to each other's birthdays, weddings, graduations," said Ambergeddon, member of the Las Diablas. "Some of us end up sharing phone bills or wanting to live closer to each other. You end up getting a family outside of the family."

Although the nicknames, the bizarre jersey numbers and the emcee's teasing are irreverent compared to classic sporting events, they're not exactly sins. An SCRG derby bout, unlike most sporting events today, does not forget that its audience is more than the sports' purists, but the not-so-average Joes and Marias who want to be entertained. The intricacies of roller derby will be there when they are ready, but until then, the passive derby-goer can enjoy just as well the good music, a swift slip of a jammer between the blockers and the well-timed shoulder checks that a roller derby bout is bound to have in store.

The Sun City Roller Girls' next event is on July 24 at the El Paso County Coliseum, and will feature a double-header pitting Las Catrinas against the Chulas, and Las Viudas against the Sexexecutioners. Doors open at 6 p.m. and tickets are \$7 at the door, and there are \$5 preorders available at locations listed on the SCRG website, suncityrollergirls.com.

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