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ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

THE PROSPECTOR

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VOL. 102, NO. 18

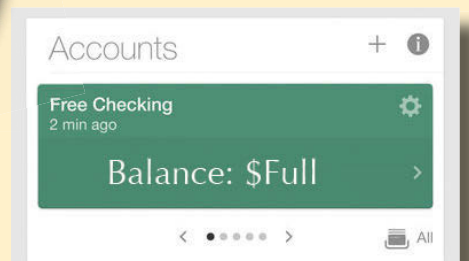
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DESIGN BY ANA RAMOS / THE PROSPECTOR



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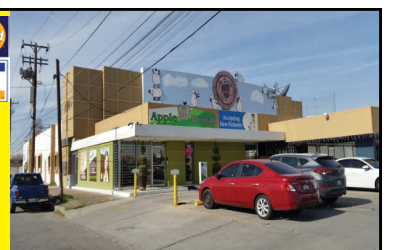
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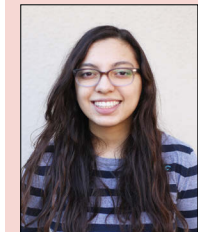


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Chicks before dicks: Celebrating Galentine’s Day

BY LESLIE SARIÑANA
The Prospector



Even if you don’t celebrate Valentine’s Day and claim to be too cool for it, the stress of the holiday still manages to get to you. If you’re like me, you overthink everything that happens that day and end up disappointed every year.

February 13, a day that once was full of anxiety about what your plans were going to be for the next day, just became every girl’s favorite day of the year, Galentine’s Day!

A holiday created by the television show “Parks and Rec,” girls take back the romance-filled holiday and turn it into a day that celebrates female friendships. When it is first introduced on the 16th episode of the show’s second season, Leslie Knope says, “Oh it’s only the best day of the year. Every February 13th, my lady friends and I leave our husbands and our boyfriends at home, and we just come and kick it, breakfast-style. Ladies celebrating ladies.”

Breakfast foods and female empowerment? Sign me up! Why worry about having to have a date or getting noticed

by the right person, when you can gather all the women in your life and celebrate? It’s love in the purest form: friendship.

Romantic relationships are fleeting and complicated, and only make Valentine’s Day a downer. So this year my single friends and I are using Galentine’s Day as a pick me up.

If you’ve never celebrated, you’re definitely missing out. It’s basically Valentine’s Day without the expectations and you’re surrounded by the women in your life.

Not only is this day meant to solidify our female friendships, but it’s an enormous ego boost as well; girls love complimenting each other. Last year I celebrated with eight of my closest friends and we spent the day going places and doing things our SOs wouldn’t want to do. It was great to finally be able to do all of our favorite things with the people who enjoyed it just as much. The whole day felt like a huge hug.

Fellow females, I encourage you to say “chicks before dicks” this year and celebrate Galentine’s.

✉ Leslie Sariñana may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.

It’s my Valentine’s day and I’ll be happy if I want to

BY GRECIA SANCHEZ
The Prospector



Valentine’s Day can either be your best or worst celebration of the year. Most people would think it all comes down to whether you have a relationship.

You can either be an optimistic person and spend money on gifts for your significant other or your friends simply because you want to. Or you can be the pessimistic person that just complains about money to the ones who actually enjoy the day (or that have a partner to share it with).

If you are the optimist, good for you. If you happen to be the pessimist, good for you! Either way, my point is this is not

about having a relationship or not, this is about respecting each other’s beliefs toward a celebration, just like everyone else respects every other not-so-controversial celebration throughout the year.

From a woman who has always enjoyed this day with either friends or a boyfriend, I’m always excited to give little gifts to others throughout this love celebration. Most importantly, I believe the idea of expressing love doesn’t seem too bad in a world where wars, genocides and school shootings are taking place.

This year, I am especially happy and excited to celebrate love in a world where hate seems to be the daily meal. I plan on spending it with my boyfriend for the second time in our relationship, and I plan on spending quality time with him on such a great day for people who love to express love.

✉ Follow Grecia Sanchez on Twitter @grecias068

ACCURACY WATCH

The Prospector is committed to the accuracy. If you think we have made an error of fact, e-mail the editor at michaelairoman@gmail.com

Valentine’s Day: Time for a mutual love

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS
The Prospector



Contrary to the modern-day pessimists, I don’t hate Valentine’s Day.

Valentine’s Day is a time for two people in a relationship to take a step back from their hectic, busy lifestyles and spend a day together to celebrate a mutual love.

Again, I’m all for Valentine’s Day—the flowers, the candy, the unnecessary presents, the dinner, the date and everything leading up to it. But the reason so many people, especially college students, aren’t fans of Valentine’s Day is the lack of equal presents in the day of love.

Person A ends up getting Person B a thoughtful gift, yet Person B doesn’t

find the gift being what they wanted. Or, Person A doesn’t want a big Valentine’s Day, but when Person B doesn’t do much for Person A on Valentine’s Day, they are deemed as the bad, thoughtless individual.

Then on the single side, individuals simply give up way too quickly to appreciate Valentine’s Day when it comes around with no hopes or expectations, thus feeling miserable or resentful toward the day.

It sounds like a holiday full of high expectations, but a low turnout. Or, it can be deemed as a holiday that is easily dismissed by single and salty people.

Stop adding the unnecessary pressure on yourself. Rather, focus on an equal presence on Valentine’s Day. The anxieties brought up by self-insecurity of how your significant other may or may not take their gift is completely pointless. A true relationship tosses out all the useless gifts and focuses on each other.

How can someone hate Valentine’s Day when the collegiate part of their lives is so small and being single or in a lousy relationship in your 20s isn’t the worst thing on the planet? I can answer that: no one should. In the future, when two people are in their 40s and hopefully married, they aren’t going to remember the bad Valentine’s Days that they once had.

At the end of the day, I’m satisfied. Back home I have an entire family who loves me unconditionally. And, to top it off, I have friends who will do anything for me. That’s what I take into account on Valentine’s Day.

Even if you’re at home on Valentine’s Day eating a tub of ice cream and watching Jim and Pam from “The Office” while crying your eyes out, please know that not all these Valentine’s Days will be alone.

✉ Follow Adrian Broaddus on Twitter @adrian_broaddus

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JASON GREEN / THE PROSPECTOR

Mmm...

Today, we'll do anything you want!

Piggyback
And now to get icecream!

Really?

ALONZO MARTINEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

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Weather forecast graphic for abc 7 kvia.com. Hosts: Dan Martinez, Nichole Gomez, Doppler Dave Speelman, Iris Lopez. Title: StormTRACK WEATHER.

Table with 7 columns: TUES, WED, THUR, FRI, SAT, SUN, MON. Rows include weather icons, High/Low temperatures, and general conditions (e.g., Windy/Partly Cloudy, Breezy, Sunny).

Signs you might be in a mentally or emotionally abusive relationship

BY THE PROSPECTOR STAFF
The Prospector

Editor's note: According to UTEP Campus Police, these are some of the signs you may be in an unhealthy relationship. The advice listed under each topic is an opinion on why these topics can be signs of abuse.

Overly jealous

The foundation of every successful relationship is trust. If your significant other is constantly questioning your faithfulness it could be a sign of jealousy.

Insulting comments

In a relationship, your goal should be to build each other up, not tear each other down. Whether it is profanity or passive aggressive comments, they can, over time, deteriorate your desires and motivation.

Threatening behavior

If your that partner intimidates you by saying if you don't do something they're going to hurt you or themselves, this is a sign of abuse.

Sexual pressure

In a relationship, good communication is always important, especially when it comes to being physical. Everyone has his or her boundaries. If your partner is being sexually forward with you and pressuring you beyond your comfort zone even after you request it to stop or they're aware your uncomfortable, this is a form of abuse.

If you want to talk to someone about your relationship, you can make an appointment with the University Counseling Center at 202 Union West, Monday through Thursday. You can also contact the After Hours Crisis Line at 747-5302.

The Prospector staff may be reached at theprospector1@gmail.com.

After Hours Crisis Line 747-5302

Isolating you from family and friends

This sign of abuse also stems from jealousy. If your partner is constantly keeping you apart from your loved ones and makes you feel guilty enough to not visit them. A big part of a successful relationship is being a part of the person's life, which includes their family and friends getting to know you.

Controlling behavior

Every relationship is a two-way street. Your boyfriend or girlfriend should consider what you want to do when making plans or a decision that involves both of you and make sure your voice is heard. When you allow your other half to make all the calls in the relationship they're more likely to become abusive.

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Dear Olga, We love you very much. - Vladik, Misha & Thuy

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

‘IN PLAIN SIGHT: ENSLAVEMENT OF WOMEN AND THE ORIGINS OF AFRICAN GYNECOLOGY’

A special lecture will take place on Friday, Feb. 10, in the Blumberg Auditorium at the library. Deidre Cooper Owens, an assistant professor for history from Queen College in New York, will be presenting “In Plain Sight: Enslavement of Women and the Origins of African Gynecology” at 2 p.m.

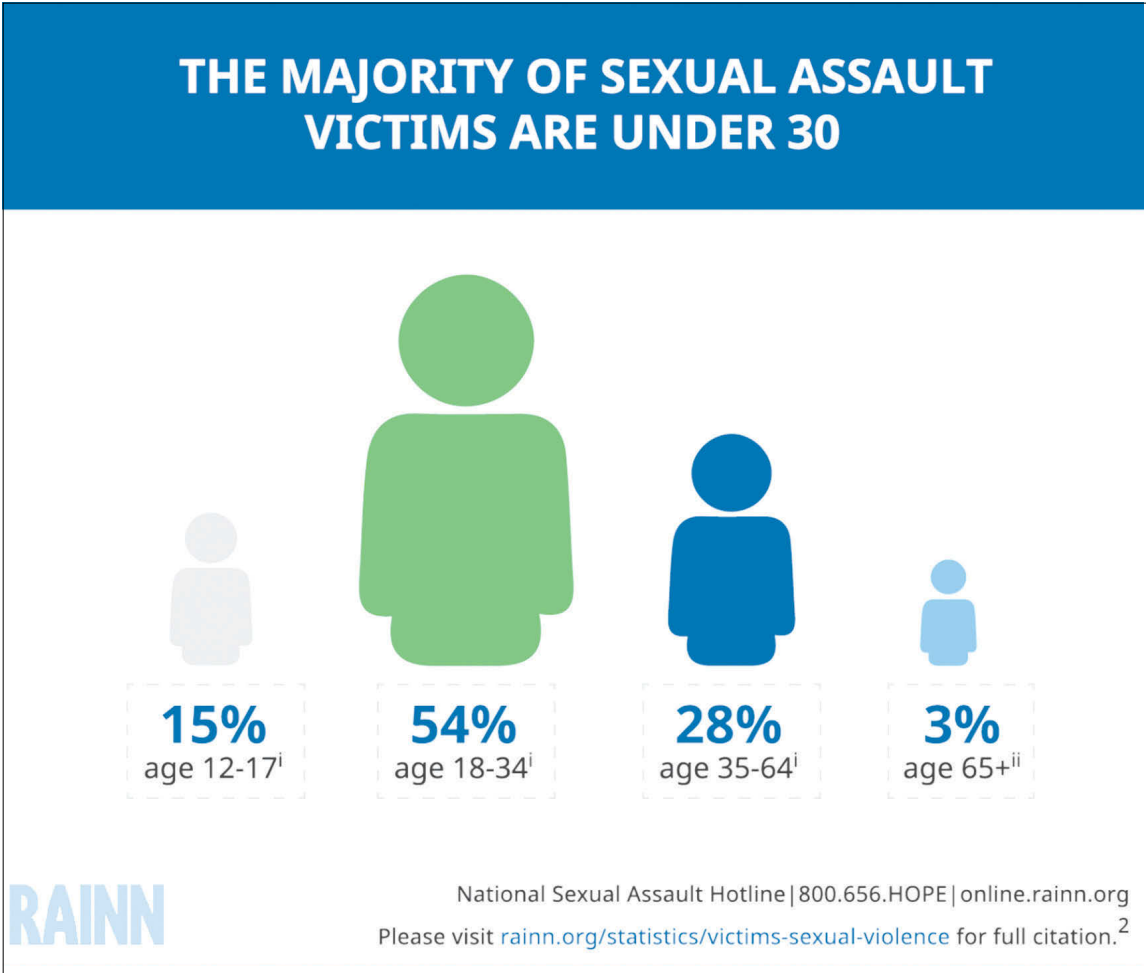
GOSPEL EXPLOSION

The African American Studies department and the Religious Studies department will be hosting the annual Gospel Explosion on Saturday, Feb. 11, at the Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the event begins at 6 p.m. Spoken word, dance and music will be present during this event.

‘ON RELIGION AND VIOLENCE: LANGUAGE, ANARCHY AND WALTER BENJAMIN’

The Religious Studies program is having a lecture titled “On Religion and Violence: Language, Anarchy and Walter Benjamin,” hosted by Jules Simons, director of Graduate Studies. The lecture will be held in the Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts on Feb. 16, at 6 p.m.

Sexual assault on campus rarely reported



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

BY RENE DELGADILLO
The Prospector

During the fiscal year 2015, UTEP had one incident of rape and one incident of fondling (touching the private parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification without the consent of the victim), according to the campus’ 2016 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report.

The gender of both victims or any details of the incidents can’t be released to the public due to respect for the privacy of the parties involved, said UTEP Police Chief Cliff Walsh.

Deputy Title IX coordinator and assistant vice president for student support, Ryan Holmes, said victims of any kind of sexual violence should act quickly after the incident, and to follow simple steps that could accelerate the investigation.

“In any incident of sexual assault, it is important for the person to get to a safe place and call the police,” Holmes said. “It is also important to wait for the police to arrive before making any changes, (like) changing clothes and taking a shower.”

Holmes also said if victims were unable to report the incident right after it occurred, they should still do it to stop the aggressor from causing more harm to other victims.

“Even if time has passed, reporting is key. The reporter is taking a crucial step

in ensuring that other members of the community are better protected from being impacted by the accused party or parties in similar ways,” Holmes said.

RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network), an anti-sexual violence organization, estimates college women are twice as likely to be sexually assaulted than being robbed, while 23.1 percent of female and 5.4 percent of male undergraduate students experience sexual assault or rape.

STARS (Sexual Trauma and Assault Response Services) estimates that one out of every 33 American men has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in his lifetime, making them to be about 10 percent of all victims.

“Men are less likely to report due to fear of not being believed, shame for various reasons, but possibly connected to perceived harm of what it means to be masculine, and or thinking that the situation does not happen to other men,” Holmes said.

The National Crime Victimization Survey, a national survey on the frequency of crime victimization, as well as characteristics and consequences of victimization, says men are less likely to report sexual assault especially if the abuser is a woman, making the data between the two genders inconsistent.

However, according to the U.S Equal Employment Opportunity Commission,

the number of men who are filing sexual assault reports has more than doubled since 1990.

The Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs says sexual violence against the LGBTQ community has gone unnoticed because people tend to believe sexual and domestic violence involves a male abuser and a female victim.

The LGBTQ community experiences sexual violence at the same or higher rate than heterosexuals, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The CDC’s National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey estimates 22 percent of bisexual women have been raped by an intimate partner, compared to 9 percent of heterosexual women. The survey shows that 40 percent of gay men and 47 percent of bisexual men have experienced sexual violence other than rape at higher rates compared to 21 percent of heterosexual men.

Holmes said that a victim of sexual assault should report the incident even if they feel judged by the people around them.

“For anyone who feels embarrassed and or ashamed, it is important to her/him to understand that these feelings are normal and that no one will judge,” Holmes said. “All entities connected to the situation are trained to provide assistance and be supportive in the assistance process.”

Walsh said student orientation presentations served as prevention efforts to stop sexual assault incidents and encourage victims to report the incidents.

“Students should know that they can approach campus police or the numerous other resources on campus. There are measures in place to safely and confidentially address any issues that they may face,” Walsh said.

Walsh also said UTEP students and faculty should take advantage of the resources offered by the university regardless of gender, race, ethnicity or sexual orientation.

If you or anyone one you know has been sexually assaulted, contact the UTEP Police Department at 915-747-5611 or the University Counseling Center at 915-747-5302.

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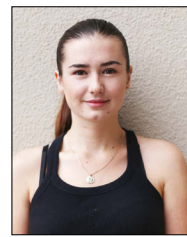
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COLUMNS

The less the merrier

BY NINA TITOVETS
The Prospector



February 14—a day celebrated by thousands of couples to show their unwavering love for one another. It's a day filled with overpriced red roses, fancy dinners, uncomfortable clothes and sweaty palms. As men and women's expectations soar high for this material love fest, we are left with one question—"is it all worth it?"

From a young age, I was introduced to Valentine's Day as a day filled with candy grams and heart-shaped cards, but as I grew older I felt more pressure to try and fulfill the Hallmark/Hollywood version of Valentine's Day.

When I was in a relationship, I'd spend hours trying to figure out the perfect gift. Somehow the idea of something flashy always seemed to present itself: a watch, an expensive shirt, shoes, etc. Now don't get me wrong, I had no problem paying the extra cash for something nice, but in a way my mindset had been altered with the idea that the more expensive the gift, the more I cared.

Beyond the gifts there was also the outfit. I needed to wear something just right and, as the case usually was, everything in my closet was absolutely wrong and I had to go buy something in particular for this splendid occasion. That usually meant something in the shades of either pink or red and of course it was something totally un-

comfortable and something I would most likely never wear again. My way of consoling my pain was, it's Valentine's Day and I need to look nice.

From personal experience the classic Valentine's date consists of having dinner at some overpriced restaurant with white table cloths and entrees with food items I've never even heard of. My date and I sit there trying our best to present our very best etiquette. (Which fork is it again?)

I'm trying hard not to eat too much because the dress I have on is way more uncomfortable sitting down. I scroll through my Instagram feed while waiting for the check, seeing tons of different couple pictures and suddenly feeling the need to show the world that I too took part in the festivities, and I too got the overpriced bouquet of roses.

Valentine's Day, especially in early relationships, feels almost like a test, you have to bring out all the stops or you feel like you run the risk of disappointing your partner. But what I have learned from my Valentine's Day experiences is that it is really not what you buy or what you wear or where you go, but the little things.

It is the king of clichés, but so undeniably true. There is no need to stress yourself to fulfill someone else's idea of Valentine's Day. Simply taking the time to be together and doing something that you both love without all the bells and whistles may bring you more joy than stressing yourself out, pretending to be something you are not.

✉ Nina Titovets may be reached at fantasticnina101@gmail.com.

The pressure guys feel on Valentine's day

BY MIKE FLORES
The Prospector



Valentine's Day is right around the corner and that means two different perspectives from the men and women in the world. February 14th is a day the majority of women circle on their calendars, while men have it marked for different reasons.

Love is in the air, but for men love is followed by a lot of money

being spent, planning where to go weeks before, having the guts to ask the girl and making sure that the night goes smoothly. If Valentine's Day does not go as planned in the girl's mind, every mistake and little issue tracks back to the one who bent over backward for her—the guy.

One random Tuesday night should not be designated for a male to show how much he cherishes the girl he cares about. In this day and age, social media is part of daily life that provides people with false hopes and expectations. It should not diminish what the girl's date has in store. And to

make matters more difficult, the internet makes it seem that the asking proposal has to be just as big/special as their actual evening out.

But the biggest difference is that the girls know they can snatch a date whenever and wherever, compared to guys sweating bullets due to not knowing if she will approve of the date or not.

Not all men and women fit the descriptions, but in reality, it's how Valentine's Day is set up to be around the nation. If all goes well for a couple, more power to them.

Follow Mike Flores on Twitter @MikeyTheReal

I don't have to stress on Valentine's Day this year

BY RENE DELGADILLO
The Prospector



I was trying to write a column in which I'd say how happy I am to not have to spend money for this holiday and it turned out to be more difficult than I thought. After a couple of words written down and some jokes from my friends, I realized I'm actually confused about Valentine's Day this year.

Coming out of a relationship that lasted four years and five months, it is hard to understand my feelings toward Valentine's Day. It is difficult since the girl I loved dumped me.

The excitement I felt when I saw her walking toward me on our first Valen-

tine's Day was one of the best feelings I've ever experienced in my life. Without a doubt, it was the most cliché Valentine's Day I will ever have. I was nervous, happy and scared, but it was the best one because I made sure everything was perfect, but that changed.

Every Valentine's Day following that one became more challenging to not repeat what I did the previous year. It was a pain, especially when she said to not worry about getting her something fancy.

I'm relieved I don't have to buy those expensive things with money I don't have. I'm happy I won't have to wait on her for two hours after the time we both had set to leave by. I'm relieved I don't have to go through that awkward silence her parents created when I asked them for their permission to go out with their daughter.

I'm broke and not having to buy all the things I used to buy each Valentine's Day will definitely help my credit card. I won't have to worry about finding the perfect gift, the overpriced roses or the unnecessary heart-shaped balloons and all the other cliché gifts I would buy. Not having to think about where to go and what to do is a relief, especially since I always aimed to get a better gift every year. I would always get stressed about what to give her each year. But not this year. I'm glad I won't see her throwing away the dead flowers I gave her or how the unnecessary gifts end up in the back of her closet.

Valentine's Day is fun, stressful, and for some it can be a very sad day reflecting on past relationships, but this year it will be just like any other day for me.

Follow Rene Delgadillo on twitter @rdelgadillonews

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QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

What is your ideal Valentines day?

CLAUDIA HERNANDEZ, ANDREW RIOS / THE PROSPECTOR



DANTE GUTIERREZ
Freshman mechanical engineering major
“Getting along with your friends and saying how much you love and appreciate them.”



ARIANA PEREZ
Junior political science major
“Probably going out to dinner and going back home to watch a movie—basic Valentine’s Day date.”



LUIS VALLES
Junior history major
“On Valentines Day I like to be spontaneous and always give the flowers that my wife likes, not just the typical flowers.”



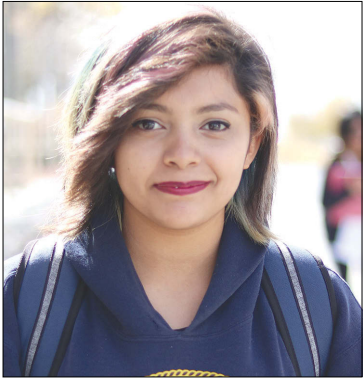
LUISA CASTREJON
Sophomore civil engineering major
“My ideal Valentine’s date would be going to the movies.”



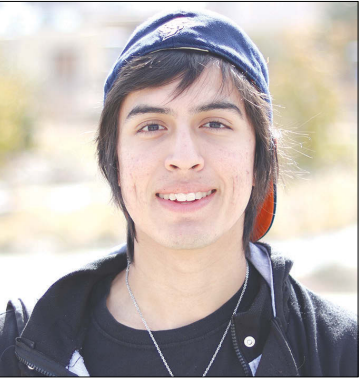
MICHAEL SEPULVEDA
Junior psychology major
“My ideal Valentine’s date would be to spend it with my loved ones. Also, show them how I truly appreciate what they do for me.”



DEREK QUINTANA
Freshman accounting major
“I think Netflix is the perfect date, because you watch it alone.”



MARLEEN GARCIA
Freshman studio arts major
“I would like to go to CiCi’s Pizza because it’s a buffet. I like to walk so it would be great if he would take me to a park.”



IVIN MARTINEZ
Junior history major
“Eating some nice steak and afterwards go to the movies or going to Carlsbad Caverns and give myself a little hike.”



KARLA PUENTENS
Junior education major
“A home-cooked meal with my family. After that I would like to go to the movies and to the mall with my loved ones.”

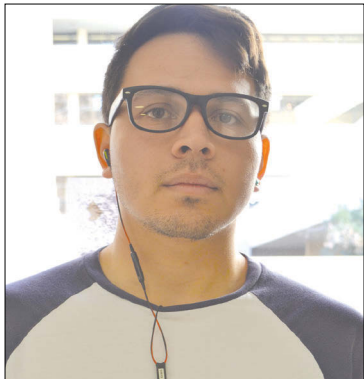


EZEQUIEL HERNANDEZ
Sophomore psychology major
“To get the best gift for a girl.”

Does size matter?



ALONZO MARTINEZ, NINA TITOVETS / THE PROSPECTOR



ALEJANDRO ARRIOJA
Senior graphic design major
“It doesn’t matter. I believe what matters is your sexual drive and your imagination when it comes to sex.”



ARIANNA RODRIGUEZ
Junior graphic design major
“I don’t think it’s size that matters. I think it’s how you use it.”



ISAIAH OZONE
Junior undeclared major
“I am honestly not sure, but from what I have heard I don’t think size truly matters to women.”



KAREN HERNANDEZ
Senior education major
“It matters, depending on the sensation you want to feel.”



RAPHAEL BENERO
Senior sculpture major
“Size does matter due to the fact that we are in Texas, everything is bigger here. Go bigger or go home.”



SARAH MARTINEZ
Sophomore nursing major
“Regardless of what people tell you, I think yes, size does matter.”



RICARDO CARMONA
Senior graphic design major
“It depends on your partner, in my personal experience some partners care and others don’t.”



PAOLA DOMINGUEZ
Freshman English major
“If it is for love, no. If it is for sex, yes.”



GENESIS RIVERA
Senior music education major
“No, I think most women aren’t as concerned with the size as they are the performance.”



MOLLY ZAMORA
Junior drawing/metals major
“No, I don’t think size matters, it’s how you work with it.”



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Keeping up with the Texas Legislative Session



BY CHRISTIAN VASQUEZ
The Prospector

The Texas legislature meets every two years, and the current 85th Texas Legislative session began on Jan. 10 and continues until May 29. During the first 60 days, the legislators cannot pass a bill, so at the moment the bills will be deliberated over until the period has passed.

Governor Greg Abbott said in his State of the State speech that there were four emergency items to focus on: sanctuary cities (SB 4), a bathroom bill (SB 6), Texas Child Protective Services (SB 11) and ethics reform (SB 14). Emergency items bypass that 60-day waiting period and allow the passage of the bill if it gets through the Senate and House.

SB 4

SB 4 is a bill that targets so-called sanctuary cities, or cities that have an immigration policy, where local enforcement agencies do not regularly inquire an individual's immigration status or fulfill detainer requests from Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The bill would allow the state to withhold state grant funds if those cities do not comply.

Critics of the bill have said that the definition of the term "sanctuary cities" is not defined well enough to make for a coherent bill, as well as the potential racial profiling that will occur due to the focus on Mexican immigrants. Police departments have testified against the bill saying that SB 4 will erode trust in immigrant communities with law enforcement, which might lead to those communities not calling on law enforcement when they are victims of a crime.

The city of El Paso has said that the financial loss of the passage of the bill will be \$130,000 each fiscal year for additional arrests and processing.

SB 4 is in the second stage of passage as it has passed the Senate Committee of State Affairs and will be voted for on the Senate floor.

SB 6

Known as the "bathroom bill," SB 6 would force transgender people to use bathrooms that corresponded with their biological sex in public schools, universities and government buildings statewide. The controversial bill was introduced by State Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham, and has received widespread condemnation from advocacy groups and support from conservatives across Texas.

The rhetoric used by the author and coauthors of the bill suggest that their priority is keeping transgender women out of the restrooms they identify with.

A study by the Texas Association of Business suggest that, if passed, the bill could "result in significant economic losses in Texas' GDP, with estimates ranging from \$964 million to \$8.5 billion." The study also suggests that job loss would be around 185,000, and the tourist and entertainment industry will suffer heavily as well. The TAB has come out strongly against the bill, and since it is a heavy political figure, the study could be the end of the bill.

SB 6 is in the first stage of passage as it has not yet passed the Senate Committee of State Affairs.

SB 14

The SB 14 bill aims to gain public trust in state institutions and elected officials by introducing a series of changes to the ethics laws. One change is that an elected official who has been convicted of abuse of office cannot receive a publicly funded pension check while serving time for that crime, and will be removed from office once convicted of a felony.

The second change, according to the analysis submitted by the Senate Committee of State Affairs, is that elected officials should "disclose contracts for goods or services that they or their spouse or dependent child have with governmental entities."

The third change addresses the amount that lobbyists must report for "transportation, lodging, food and drink, or entertainment for a member of the legislative or executive branch" that exceeds \$114. The new bill changes that amount to \$57. It also stipulates that lobbyists must disclose any amounts given to immediate family members of persons in the legislative or executive branch.

The bill passed the Senate Committee of State Affairs with nine ayes and zero nays and awaits a vote on the Senate floor.

SB 11

This bill is one of the few bipartisan projects that address a recognized statewide crisis in the Department of Family and Protective Services and aims to improve accountability as well as increase support and services.

One of the implementations is a non-profit lead pilot program to help "comprehensive case management services" for children with mental and behavior health needs.

The bill plans to renovate the foster care design model to increase the quality of services and support while giving a greater authority and accountability to local communities. It also proposes that the standards of child abuse and neglect investigations be raised and have financial penalties toward residential child-care providers if they fail to meet performance outcomes.

The bill has been filed, but is has not yet been seen by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. If passed the bill would take effect Sept. 1, 2017.

Follow Christian Vasquez @chrismvasq

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FEBRUARY 7, 2017

ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR
LESLIE SARIÑANA, 747-7477

REVIEW

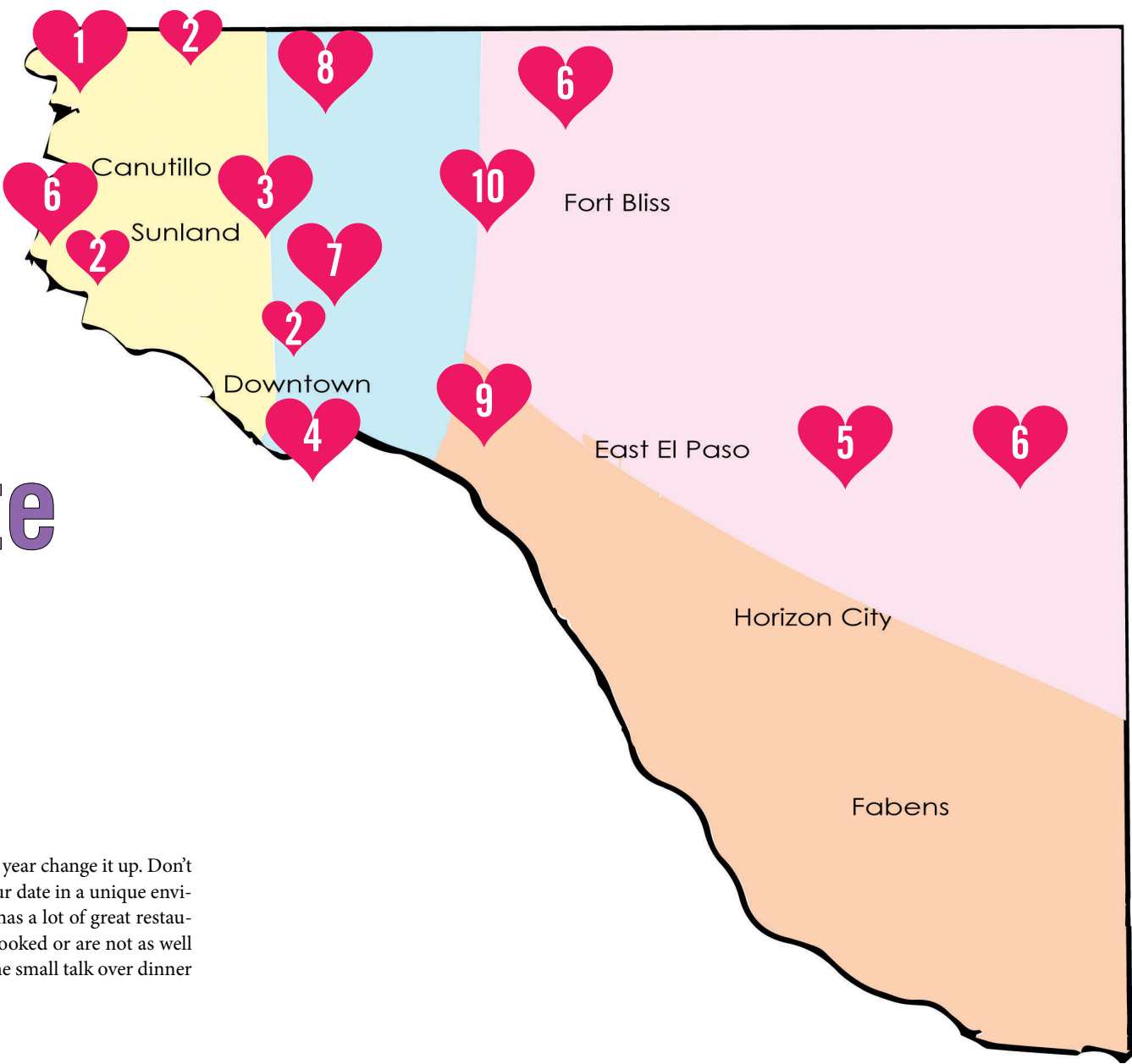
Not your
typical
dinner date

Alternative dates to take
your significant other on

BY LESLIE SARIÑANA
The Prospector

If you're planning on going out for Valentine's Day this year change it up. Don't go on the cliché and typical dinner date. Get to know your date in a unique environment by going on a more adventurous date. El Paso has a lot of great restaurants, but the entries on this list are places that get overlooked or are not as well known. Any one of these places is a great alternative to the small talk over dinner and forces you to get to know your date better.

✉ Leslie Sarinana may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.



1 Old Mesilla

This charming town North of El Paso is the perfect place for an all-day date. Old Mesilla is rich in history and full of interesting shops. This is almost like walking through the streets of Mexico. Spend the day exploring all that Old Mesilla has to offer and end it with dinner at any one of their unique restaurants.

2 Vineyards

If you're over the age of 21, driving out to a vineyard for Valentine's Day is the ultimate romantic date. Take a tour of the vineyard and learn how wine is made, and the best part is all of the wine samples you get to drink. The El Paso/Las Cruces area has over four vineyards to chose from. Sunland Winery, Zin Valle, La Vina and Sombra Antigua.

3 Shundo Dance Studio

This dance studio offers dinner and classes every Friday, and they're constantly changing up the dance lessons they offer. Take your date here if you're comfortable enough to dance a with them. Even if you're not that comfortable it's a great way to loosen up and get closer. The lessons are usually \$10 and its always BYOB.

4 Disaster Room

This date is like none other on this list. At Disaster Room you work in a team to solve riddles and make it out of a room in an hour. It's a great way to connect with your date because it involves a lot of communication and working together. The themes for each room are different. This month the mystery room themes are "Prison Break Blackout" and "Wild West Meth."

5 X-Motoball Paintball

Do something adventurous and different this Valentine's Day. Take your date paintball shooting. X-Motoball offers the biggest park in town and the cheapest paintball prices. This might not be for everyone, but it's definitely not your typical date.

6 I Painted That

The sip and paint social art studio provides step-by-step art lessons by local artists. You're welcome to take your own drinks and snacks for the lesson. There is no way you could go wrong with packing your favorite snacks and getting to paint. This is a more intimate place to take a date or even your friends. Most classes are two hours for \$35 and all of the painting materials are included. There are two locations, one on Mesa and one on Trawood.

7 Alamo Drafthouse

This theater is unlike other movie theaters because you can eat while watching a movie. For a date night, and to avoid the hectic stress of watching a new movie that could be shitty, take a date to a Movie Party that the Drafthouse hosts. The tickets are usually discounted, the movie's awesomeness is guaranteed and the party aspect makes it a treat. The interactive setting makes for a totally unique date night.

8 Transmountain Elephant Hike

If you wake up at the crack of dawn and can power through a near three-hour hike, it can be fun. Doing it with a person you like is even better. Pack a lunch for two on the way up and camp out in the cave that looks over the Westside of El Paso. Perfect spot for nature views and a cost effective date. Best time to go is around 3 to 4 a.m. so you can watch the sunrise over the horizon. Makes for a cliché, yet romantic trip.

9 Ice Skating

Winter is not over at the El Paso Event Center. Go ice skating in the Sun City. They rent out ice skates, and all you need to bring is your date and a jacket. If you're inexperienced, they also offer skating lessons that you could take together. After much exhaustion you can just head over to Chico's Tacos across the street.

10 Wyler Ariel Tramway

For those who are wimps and can't take hikes, the Wyler Ariel Tramway takes people from the base of the mountain all the way up to the peak of the Franklin Mountains. The experience is fun and it allows anybody to experience heights they've never dreamed of seeing before. A perfect couples' spot that has room for dinner afterwards.



\$1 TENDER ROLLS



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(Next to Wendy's)

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Love playlist: Editor's picks

When you step into the office of Union East 105, most journalists expect to find an office of work, experience and training for the real-world journalism atmosphere. But, if we at the Prospector had a dollar for every love bird couple that has left the office, the reader would definitely be surprised. Here, the Prospector editors weigh in on some of their favorite love songs:



ZOE
"PAULA"

**Rene Delgadillo -
Minero Editor**
Never been a fan of Zoe, but "Paula" is a sad love song which makes you realize how much you miss someone after messing up.



THE BEATLES
"SOMETHING"

**Leslie Sariñana -
Entertainment Editor**
This is my favorite Beatles song. They describe a person who they're infatuated with. They don't know what the future holds for them, but it's okay.



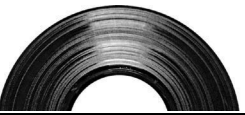
MERLE HAGGARD
"NATURAL HIGH"

**Jason Green -
Sports Editor**
People spend a lot of time looking for highs, when in reality love is always the best high of all.



FRANK OCEAN
"WHITE FERRARI"

**Adrian Broaddus -
Web Editor**
Love is all the small moments, like car rides. White Ferrari places two lovers in an endless setting on a ride and uses the Ferrari to symbolize much deeper into their relationships.



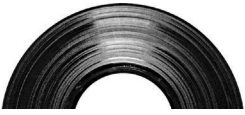
A DAY TO REMEMBER
"YOU HAD ME AT HELLO"

**Gaby Velasquez -
Photo Editor**
Although I've always been a fan of ADTR, I just recently discovered the album this track comes out on and really connected with it.



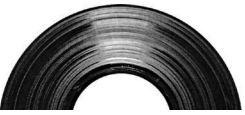
HINDI ZAHRA
"BEAUTIFUL TANGO"

**Christian Vasquez -
Copy Editor**
It sets a relaxing mood with gorgeous yet sensual lyrics. What's not to love?



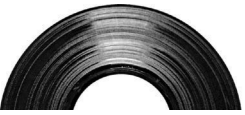
THE TURTLES
"HAPPY TOGETHER"

**Ana Ramos -
Multimedia Editor**
This is my favorite love song by far. It's a timeless song that never gets old.



PINK FLOYD
"PILLOW OF WINDS"

**Andres Martinez -
Multimedia Editor**
This is my favorite because it's soothing. I like to play it on guitar and it reminds me of the love of my life, Michaela Román.



ATMOSPHERE
"SHE'S ENOUGH"

**Michaela Roman -
Editor in Chief**
It's genuine. He loves his wife so much that he would do anything for her. It's what I would want from a marriage, wanting to do anything for that person. It's a nice thought.

✉ The Prospector staff may be reached at theprospector1@gmail.com.

Wedded bliss: Nyquil and couch sex

BY JASON GREEN
The Prospector



"Love" and hearts hanging from the ceiling.

My wife has been shopping at least four times, that I know of, for Valentine's Day decorations. When I asked her what she wanted for Valentine's Day this year, that was it—more decorations for the house.

Yes...I asked her what she wanted for Valentine's Day. Don't give me that look. This year will be 10 years of "wedded bliss" for us and there comes a point when you realize that both of our paychecks are going into the same checking account and it may be kind of silly for us to continue to buy things with our shared income for each other that the other person may or may not even want; especially when it comes to things like cards. Married people REALLY should not waste their time with cards. Neither should people who are dating or engaged or anything in between. What does it say to someone that you are with when you give them a card for Valentine's Day? Well, to me it says, "we have been married 10 years and I can't think of anything to say to you anymore, so here are some words that someone else wrote."

I'm not claiming to be the "Love Guru" or anything, but I can say that since the beginning of my 10-year marriage, I've known better than to let other people confess my love for me. Though the drone of married life can often make you fall back into a pattern of complacency and forget the love that should be there year-round, not just on Valentine's Day.

I was recently reminded of that early—what I thought was—unforgettable love when I rediscovered a mix-CD that was hidden on a book shelf in our bedroom. As I searched around the house for some means of playing a compact disc, I eventually found the computer that my son uses to watch "Pokemon" episodes on Youtube.

I brushed off the Doritos crumbs and loaded the CD. I was getting lost in the Alison Krauss, Jack Johnson and Craig David jamz (yes, with a 'Z'), when my son came downstairs, groggy-eyed, in his underwear and looking for cereal, and there went my flashback to the early days of the romantic years of my marriage.

For a married couple, it's not always the drone of work and school that can get in the way of romance on Valentine's Day, sometimes it's these tiny little succubis—I mean bundles of joy—that we call children. They don't mean to get in the way, but MY GOD DO THEY GET IN THE WAY.

They don't mean to, but there are no longer romantic dinners at the table without the occasional spilled drink or dropped plate. There is no longer spontaneous sex on the couch when you think they're asleep, because there is always the need for another five glasses of water and eight bathroom breaks.

All of this being said, perhaps the best gift this Valentine's Day—for a married couple—is to just do what you can. You can still write homemade Valentine's Day cards, not somebody else's words. You can still make mixtapes with sweet jamz—with a 'Z'.

Even though you have kids, you can still have a nice romantic dinner, even if they are around. Valentine's Day is a great opportunity to take your little boy with you and your wife to a fancy restaurant and show him how he will be treating women on dates in the future—pulling out chairs, taking her coat, etc. If it's a daughter, it will be a chance for her to see her father treating her mother the way she will be treated by future dates.

When you get home, there can still be couch sex—despite the kids who like to get out of bed. Just go for it! It's Valentine's Day. That's what they make Nyquil for.

Follow Jason Green on Twitter @greenevansj

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30
MPH

AVOID DISTRACTIONS

TXT

GET SUFFICIENT REST

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BE EXTRA CAREFUL,
ESPECIALLY IN BAD WEATHER

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PRACTICE DEFENSIVE DRIVING

KEEP YOUR VEHICLE SAFE AND MAINTAINED

PLAN YOUR DAILY COMMUTE

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Security	Concession Stand Manager
Game Day Entertainment Staff	Concession Supervisor
Mascot Helpers	Distribution Supervisor
Kids Playground Attendants	Distribution Worker
Bark Brigade	Kitchen Cook
	Kitchen Supervisor
	Kitchen Worker
	Restaurant Runner
	Restaurant Server
	Vault Cashier
	Vault Supervisor

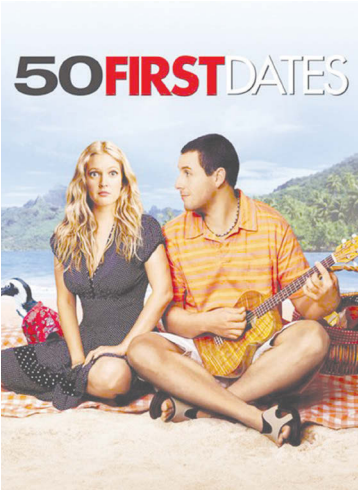
The Chihuahuas are looking for qualified, hardworking candidates with great guest service skills. Candidates must be 16 years of age to apply, must be able to pass a background check and must be able to work all home games and additional events as needed. Candidates must be 16 years of age to apply, must be able to pass a background check and must be able to work all home games and additional events as needed.

THE EL PASO CHIHUAHUAS ARE PROUD TO BE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

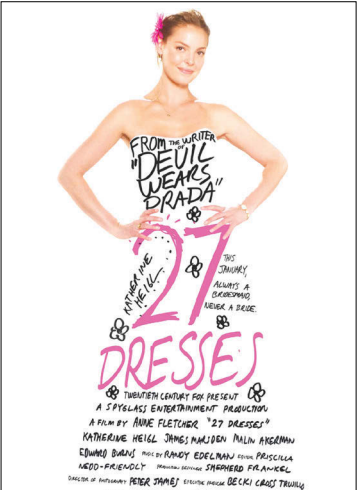
FEBRUARY 7, 2017

A look back at some of the most memorable romantic films

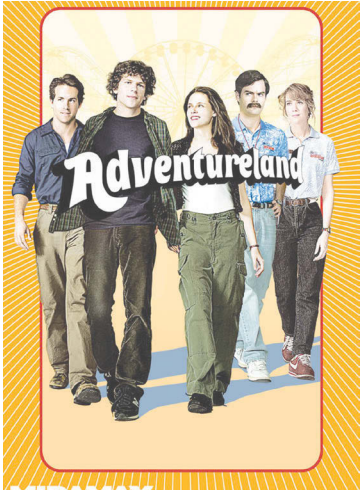
THE PROSPECTOR ENTERTAINMENT STAFF
The Prospector



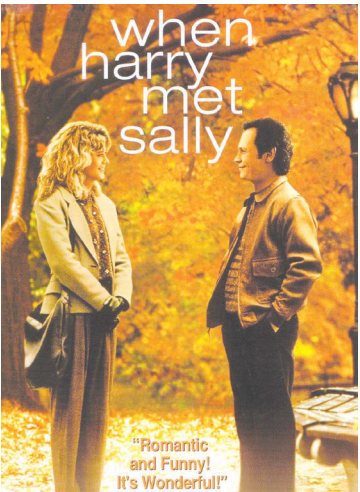
Great movie to watch with your significant other while still making you laugh. It makes the audience appreciate the little things in a relationship and still finds a way to make you emotional. Each day Henry Roth, played by Adam Sandler, tries to impress Lucy Whitmore, played by Drew Barrymore, who suffers from short-term memory loss. Each day is a reoccurring day for Lucy because of her condition and Henry attempts to entice her to fall for him.



Following the story of a bridesmaid who lusts for love, “27 Dresses” is a perfect movie to watch with your girlfriends on a single-gal-date night. It’s a funny and cute movie that gives hope that one day you will find the right person, even if you’ve been waiting as long as the lead character in this film. “She’s always a bridesmaid but never a bride”—this is one of the more memorable quotes in the topsy-turvy romantic comedy.



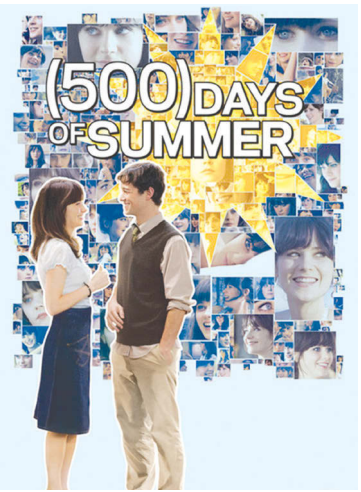
James Brennan, played by the most awkward Jesse Eisenberg, spends the summer falling in love at a theme park in his hometown. He falls for a stoner girl, Em, who is played by Kristen Stewart, and has a troubled personal life. James and Em fall in love in what is a nostalgic, quirky film with many different turns. This movie is good to watch in almost any setting with or without someone.



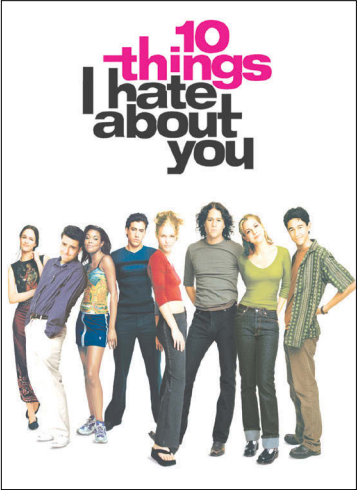
One of the most classic and timeless rom-coms in existence. This movie explores the subject of a girl and a guy being friends without becoming romantic. This movie is filled with memorable dialogue and always worth a watch.



Watch this without tearing up—I dare you. Being labeled as one of the most popular “chick flicks,” “The Notebook” is based on the novel by Nicholas Sparks that makes you “aww.” Ryan Gosling has scenes in the rain which makes it easy to watch too.



Not a fan of Valentine’s Day? This is not your typical love story. If you are looking for a not-so-lovey-movie, then this is the perfect one to watch. The movie, which follows the love story of a hopeless romantic, offers a more realistic view of love and expectations.



Trying to relive your middle school and high school awkward crushes? “10 Things I Hate About You” is the ideal movie to do so. It follows two sisters on their quest to find love in the high school hallways. Also, you might want to watch it by yourself because it might bring the water works out. The soundtrack to this movie is just as great as the movie itself.

Valentine’s gift ideas for the college student

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS
The Prospector

Let’s face it, Valentine’s Day is full of added pressure to buy the perfect gift, and thinking of what to get your significant other is challenging and often frustrating. Here are a few presents that can be universally given without completely emptying your wallet:

Record Player

Going a unique, vintage route for gift giving might prove to be a solid gift for a significant other. A decent record player is not only aesthetically appealing to the modern college student, but also it can be a really thoughtful present for music lovers. Prices for decent record players can range from \$30 to \$70 depending on the type of system you chose. Throwing in their favorite album or getting creative with the record player is an added bonus. Also, to make it even more creative and an added gift, adding a subscription of “Vinyl Me Please” could be the icing on the cake as far as presents go. “Vinyl Me Please” is a monthly subscription that sends the subscriber a random record each month and allows them

to even swap out the record for another one if they are not satisfied. It’s a perfect subscription to build a vinyl collection on and starts at \$23.99.

Subscription boxes

Although sometimes overdone in presents, getting monthly subscription boxes for him or her is a firm present that keeps on giving. Birchbox, for women, is a subscription that sends the lady a box full of makeup samples and body care products for only \$10 a month. Often Birchbox offers specials for first-time customers and even allows the woman to personalize her preferences in a box.

On the man’s side, SprezzaBox is probably one of the highest-rated male monthly subscription boxes. SprezzaBox is a box that follows men’s tastes and includes items such as ties, socks, hair and skin products and other grooming additions each month. The good news for the box is that first-time buyers get their first box for \$8 however the bad part is that the subscription increases to \$28 per month afterward.

see GIFTS on page 12

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TAKE CARE OF YOUR WATER

KEEP IT CLEAN

Do not dump waste, chemicals, paint, custodial waste, and general rubbish items (tires, old car parts, shopping carts, etc.) into storm drains, channels, or ditches.

Keep material out of the stormwater conveyance system (curbs, gutters, sidewalks, streets, drains, culverts, and arroyos). Dispose of grass, leaves, yard waste, and construction debris properly.

Leave natural vegetation in place where possible to prevent erosion.

Recycle oil, antifreeze, and other vehicle fluids, or dispose of them properly to prevent the pollution of stormwater, groundwater and the Rio Grande.

Properly dispose of hazardous wastes, pesticides, and fertilizers. Call UTEP EH&S to schedule waste pickups.

Storm drains are easily identified with “NO DUMPING” decals at stormwater inlets.

No tirar basura, aparatos electrodomésticos, muebles, llantas, y chatarra a canales y acequias del sistema de drenaje pluvial.

No tapar el flujo pluvial a canales, alcantarillas y arroyos con basura. Disponga correctamente de basura vegetal (césped, ramas, y hojas) así como basura de construcción.

Si es posible, deje crecer la vegetación en forma natural para evitar la erosión.

Recicle aceite, anti-congelate y lubricantes o disponga propiamente de ellos para prevenir contaminación de sistema de drenaje pluvial, mantos acuíferos y el Rio Bravo.

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GIFTS from page 11

Concert Tickets

A thoughtful present to a Valentine could be concert tickets. Realistically, both of you will go to the concert together anyways, so Valentine’s Day is a perfect excuse to snatch tickets to a highly anticipated show. Local concert series, such as Neon Desert and the Texas Country Music Festival, are both anticipated events that will storm through the city. Any other concerts, such as The 1975, Isaiah Rashad, Elton John, Guns N’ Roses or Band of Horses are all upcoming shows that each have reasonable ticket prices.

Book Subscription

If your partner isn’t a fan of basic makeup or grooming subscription

boxes, one of the most thoughtful gifts could be a monthly subscription book box. Bookcase Club is a website that allows the buyer to gift a two-book subscription according to the preference of genre. The different genres they include in their subscription boxes include mystery/thriller, sci-fi/fantasy, young adult, children, romance, cookbooks and military history books. Also, on Amazon, there are different comic book subscriptions that send different comic books to your doorstep each month.

Water bottle

This one can be creative based on your date’s preference. For a sporty, athletic couple, a personalized gym water bottle or protein shaker is a thoughtful present that is both cost efficient and can be used daily. A stu-

dious partner could use a travel water bottle they can carry throughout the day in backpacks, such as a Camelback, S’well or Hydro Flask water bottles. All of these are noteworthy gifts, but the best and possibly most useful water bottle purchase is definitely a Yeti canteen. Whether it be the 10 oz. Lowball or the 30 oz. Rambler, Yeti cups are the highest trending water and coffee carrier. These cups are not only widely used, but also keep drinks cold or coffee warm throughout the day.

Portable Speakers

This present is for possibly anybody who likes music. A portable speaker can be used while taking a shower, hanging out with friends or cleaning your room. They usually run relatively cheap. Amazon always has sales on

brand new portable speakers starting at \$19.99 and with Prime shipping the speaker would make it before Valentine’s Day. Whether it be a small speaker that can fit in a backpack or a big speaker to keep in the house, a portable speaker would be a solid gift for anyone.

Coupon Books

After dropping stacks of money around Christmas time it could be hard scrapping up funds for Valentine’s Day. Never fear because a DIY coupon book for your significant other is a sweet gift that doesn’t hurt your wallet. Creative coupons giving someone a dinner date, the chance to pick a movie or a pass to get out of a fight is a gift that can be enjoyable and entertaining for both members of a couple.

Kitchen Items

An inexpensive, yet interesting waffle maker would add flavor to someone’s kitchen. Waffles are totally underrated, and with a waffle maker anything is possible for a delightful breakfast. Also, Sprouts, Albertsons and Whole Foods all have different waffle mixes and syrups to add to the gift.

Another exciting kitchen item could be a French press for coffee lovers. A French press can change how your significant other drinks coffee every day with its different and special way of preparing coffee. Add some coffee beans or creamer for an extra bonus.

Follow Adrian Broaddus on Twitter @adrian_broaddus

‘Valentine’s Super Love Jam’ brings the funk back to El Paso

BY EDDIE VELASQUEZ

The Prospector

Pacific Concert Group is bringing the funk and soul multi-act concert “Valentine’s Super Love Jam” back to El Paso. This year, the Valentine’s Day-themed event will take place at UTEP’s Don Haskins Center on Friday, Feb. 10, at 7:30 p.m.

The concert will feature 10 artists: The Delfonics, Zapp, One Way, The Temprees, Thee Midnitters with Little Willie G, Evelyn “Champagne” King, The Persuaders, Rene Rene, Sunny Ozuna and Tierra.

The lineup represents different eras of funk, soul, disco, R&B and Chicano music, not to mention the diverse ethnic backgrounds behind these genres.

The Delfonics found their biggest successes in the 1960s and 1970s during the booming R&B scene of Philadelphia, with the Grammy-winning hit, “Didn’t I (Blow Your Mind This Time).”

Zapp’s “More Bounce To The Ounce” was a huge success during the late ‘70s, landing the band from Hamilton, Ohio, a record deal with Warner Bros. Records.

Formerly known as Al Hudson and the Soul Partners, One Way is seen as a centerpiece of an active soul community in Detroit. Their hit song “Cutie Pie” reached no. 4 on the Billboard Soul Singles chart.

Tennessee soul trio, The Temprees have enjoyed a lengthy career, releasing five albums over the span of 28 years. They were

one of many artists to perform at legendary concert Wattsax in front of 100,000 attendees commemorating the 1965 riots in the African-American community of Watts, Los Angeles.

As part of the first wave of vocal Chicano artists, Thee Midnitters had a visible impact in the Chicano rock scene due to their pro-civil rights approach to music. The song “The Ballad of Cesar Chavez” is a reflection of the Chicano struggle during that era.

Evelyn “Champagne” King was one of the prominent female artists in the disco scene in Philadelphia in the 1970s. Her biggest hit “Shame” came during the peak of the disco era in 1978.

The Persuaders were at the center of the massive R&B mecca that was New York City in the 1970s, contributing a gold-certified single to the movement. “Thin Line Between Love and Hate,” which topped the Billboard R&B Chart, immediately becoming a hit.

Rene Ornelas, performing under the name Rene Rene, is half of the iconic latin pop duo Rene y Rene. Their hit single “Lo Mucho que Te Quiero” reached no. 14 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart.

Sunny Ozuna started his career as the lead singer of Sunny & the Sunglows, a Chicano blues band in 1960s San Antonio. The band released albums under their own label Sunglow, including the single

“Talk To Me,” which reached no. 11 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart.

Tierra contributed to the Chicano arts movement in California playing across different venues in Los Angeles. Their biggest hit was a cover of The Intruders’ “Together,” which reached no. 9 on the Billboard R&B chart.

Ticket prices range from \$28.50 to \$49.50 and can be purchased at ticketmaster.com

Follow Eddie Velazquez on Twitter @ezvelazquez

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SPORTS EDITOR JASON GREEN, 747-7477

UTEP athletes find love on and off the field



PHOTO COURTESY OF STERLING NAPIER
Sterling Napier and wife Alex make it work despite being athletes at rival schools. Sterling plays football at UTEP and Alex runs track at NMSU.

BY AUGIE TOURIS
The Prospector

For college athletes, dating can be a difficult task. When you are an athlete dating an athlete, that task can become even more difficult.

The grind of a full school schedule combined with workouts, study hall hours and meetings can take up an immense portion of a UTEP scholar-athlete's time. It can be difficult to spend quality time with a significant other. In talking to a variety of athletes from different sports and settings, it becomes clear that despite the difficulties of a packed schedule, relationships can actually enhance the college experience and even produce better results for athletes.

Bri Barreiro, a soccer player for UTEP, is in a relationship with softball player Miranda Gutierrez.

"It's certainly difficult to find time when the both of us aren't tired," Barreiro says. "Often times, working out can be our main time together, but we love it and it's something we both enjoy."

For star running back Aaron Jones and his girlfriend, soccer player Nicole Lindsay, distance can be a major issue. Currently training for the NFL combine, Jones is at a workout facility in California with some of the top NFL prospects in the country.

"Certainly distance can be a problem," Jones says. "In El Paso, things were a little easier from a dating perspective. We were both in the same city."

Jones said that when a couple is far apart, communication is key.

"We don't talk every second of the day," Jones said. "We both have busy schedules and understand that support is the most important part."

Sterling Napier, a football player heading into his senior season, is married to a New Mexico State track member, Alex Napier. Although they attend rival schools, Sterling says that they do

not let their competitiveness get between them.

"We both have an edge, and get pretty riled up around our games (against NMSU and UTEP). We never let it boil over to the rest of our lives, and keep a friendly household during these rivalries," Sterling Napier said. "Happy wife, happy life."

The Napiers live right on the border of Texas and New Mexico, providing a near equal driving distance for Alex to go to NMSU and Sterling to make the trek down I-10 to El Paso.

“

Brianna has motivated me in so many ways, and I can honestly say that I've never been happier.

”

- Miranda Gutierrez, senior outfielder UTEP softball

Spending time together comes almost naturally for married couples doing everyday tasks, but what about couples who are still in the dating phase?

For Barreiro and Gutierrez, their time together, when not working out, often consists of doing the same things as most college students.

"Often times our dates include staying in and watching movies or doing homework," Barreiro said.

Gutierrez says that she and Barreiro just try to make the most of their time together. "Sometimes it's a simple lunch

date with her (Bri), that takes away from the stress of the week and makes everything better," Gutierrez said.

For Jones and Lindsay, physical dates are not as frequent anymore due to the distance.

"It was easy when we were both in El Paso, but with me being in California and her in El Paso, it's a little trickier," said Jones. "I've come to appreciate when we FaceTime and talk more, as it gives me a break from the grind to relax and talk to her."

Jones was in Houston for Super Bowl weekend and said he was very happy to see Nicole again.

"After being separated for a while, it's great to see her in person," said Jones.

For the Napiers, the duty of playing sports with different seasons at different schools can create a feeling of distance in its own right.

"Certainly in season, we often times are apart frequently," said Sterling. "During the crux of football, I'm at school from 6 a.m. to 6 or 7 p.m. If it's an away game, I may not even be home from Thursday to Saturday night"

So how do the Napiers make it work?

"We understand each other's schedules," said Sterling Napier. "We know how demanding it can be, and support one another as best we can."

Gutierrez notes that at the end of the day, their support for one another is unparalleled.

"We're at each other's games as much as is possible," Gutierrez said. "Sports are draining and take a toll, but knowing that you have a fan that you care about at every game makes the process easier."

Jones said he and Lindsay are always looking forward.

"As I prepare for the NFL, she's been with me every step of the way. Those little displays of support mean the world to me," said Jones. "I look forward to getting to FaceTime her at the end of the day when I'm tired and drained."



PHOTO COURTESY OF AARON JONES
Aaron Jones tries to find time with girlfriend Nicole Lindsay while preparing for the NFL Draft.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRI BARREIRO
Bri Barreiro and Miranda Gutierrez make it work despite different schedules in their two sports.

In the case of the Napiers, their marriage is running smoothly despite the rivalries with their schools.

"At the end of the day, she knows I support her immensely and I know the same for her to me," said Sterling Napier. "It's all a fun rivalry at home. We bust each other's chops when it comes time to compete, but at the end of the day, I'm her biggest supporter."

Motivation is key, and it's a consensus that having someone to lean on for support makes all the difference in the world.

"Brianna has motivated me and inspired me in so many ways, and I can

honestly say that I've never been happier," said Gutierrez.

The consensus from these athletes seems to be that dating—or marrying—another athlete can most definitely be a positive thing. Having the support system of someone to love is a big help in college and as an athlete.

It appears that it is even more important when that person can understand first-hand what it is like to compete at the Division I level day in and day out.

Follow Augie Touris on Twitter @atouris85

UTEP hockey enters playoffs as top overall seed

BY JEREMY CARRANCO
The Prospector

The UTEP men's hockey club had a superb regular season and will look to continue that success into the Texas Collegiate Hockey Conference (TCHC) playoffs, which will be played in El Paso from Feb. 9-11. The Miners finished the regular season with a remarkable 28-3 record, outscoring their opponents 203 to 77 while claiming the conference's top seed.

The TCHC formed in 2016 and began play last fall. The conference is separated between the North and South divisions. UTEP competes in the Southern division with Texas, Texas A&M and Texas State. The Northern division is composed of Texas Tech, Texas Christian, North Texas and Dallas Baptist.

The Miner's first game in the playoffs will be Friday, Feb. 10, at 3 p.m. versus either Texas Tech or North Texas. The Miners went 3-0 against both Texas Tech and North Texas during the regular season.



FILE PHOTO/ THE PROSPECTOR

The UTEP hockey team will host the first ever TCHC playoffs and will enter the tournament as the top seed, with a 28-3 overall record.

"We're excited, once we got the word of the bid to host the playoffs, our goal was to finish at the top of the pack and have strong showings," said head coach Tom Herman. "Goal number one is complete, and now we're waiting for the playoffs to start to see what we can get done there."

UTEP dominated their division, compiling a 9-2 record to claim the first-round bye in the playoff. The Miners won 15 straight games in between the two losses, which came at the hands of Texas A&M on Oct. 1 and recently on Jan. 9. The Miners split with the Ag-

gies 2-2 this season, with an even 17-17 goal count total for both teams. However, the Miners went 7-0 against Texas and Texas State, most notably completing a four-game sweep of the Longhorns from Nov. 11 to Nov. 19, outscoring them 23-4 during that stretch.

Against the rest of the conference, UTEP went undefeated at 8-0 with two signature wins against the Northern division champion and second-seeded Dallas Baptist. The Miners defeated the Patriots 7-3 on Dec. 2 and snuck by them 6-5 in a close one on Dec. 3, thanks to an early

"I hope our fans come out and continue to show their support for our club and UTEP."

- Tom Herman,
UTEP hockey
head coach

tal of 739 saves with a .906 save percentage.

"Lazarski is our last line of defense, he's our rock back there," said Herman. "We kind of leave him out to dry and rely on him a little bit too much, but he's always there. He's has been solid for us all season long. You can't really say enough about the guy."

UTEP has also been outstanding on the power play both offensively and defensively this season. The Miners have scored on 24.3 percent of their power plays, while they are holding their opponents to 12.8 percent, with only 25 power play goals allowed, owning an 87.2 percent penalty kill percentage.

The Miners could meet the only team that seems to give them problems in the championship game on Saturday, Feb. 11, with Texas A&M. The Aggies would have to get past both Texas and Dallas Baptist before getting another shot at UTEP. The Aggies went a combined 3-1 against both the Longhorns and Patriots during the regular season.

tiebreaking third period goal by Lucas Znosko.

UTEP lost just one game out of conference finishing at 11-1 overall. That loss was against Northern Arizona by a score of 2-0 on Jan. 26, this was the only time UTEP was shutout this season. The Miners only got 24 shots off in the loss, far from their average of around 32 shots per game.

UTEP's success could be marked by the fact they score 6.52 goals per game. However, the Miners are also holding their opponents to 2.48 goals per game. A statistic that would make any coach and team happy.

"Our biggest strength right now is our depth," said Herman. "We have three lines that can score and we can roll four lines almost all game long, it's a next guy up kind of mentality, if we have guys in the penalty box or hurt, we're able to just keep rolling and that's helped us find our success this year."

UTEP is led by stars Razaepour and Znosko. Razaepour leads the team with 75 points, thanks to a well-balanced 38 goals and 37 assists. Znosko leads the team in goals with 42, tacking on 31 assists for a total of 73 points.

Three other Miners have scored double-digit goals, while nine others have added double-digit assists. The rest of the team has combined for a total of 363 points on the season.

Goalie Aleksander Lazarski has been just as stellar as his teammates. Playing in every game this season, Lazarski has tallied a to-

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All games will be played at the El Paso County Events Center. On Thursday, Feb. 9, there will be two qualifying games. The North qualifier between Texas Tech and North Texas will begin at 2 p.m and the South qualifier between Texas A&M and Texas will start at 7 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 10, will be the semifinals, where UTEP awaits their opponent, along with Dallas Baptist. Dallas Baptist and the South qualifier winner will play at 11 a.m. prior to UTEP's first game at 3 p.m.

The championship game will be Saturday at noon.

"I hope our fans come out and continue to show their support for our club and UTEP," said Herman. "We're really excited about it because our fans have been great all year, we hope they can come out for this last stretch because they have been a big part of our success all season long."

Ticket packages start at \$20 for section H and N. For other ticket prices or for more information, visit minershockey.com/tchcplayoffs.

Softball welcomes the 2017 season with trip to Arizona

BY MIKE FLORES
The Prospector

In 2016, UTEP softball completed one of their most successful seasons to date, which saw the Miners clinch their fourth-ever conference tournament berth, a first since 2010. This year, UTEP is predicted to finish seventh in C-USA.

Last season, the Miners went 23-32 and 13-11 in C-USA, which was their first winning record during conference play in program history. This was, in large part, possible thanks to the C-USA Player of the Year, infielder Courtney Clayton. Clayton consistently rewrote the record books for UTEP all year long as she totaled the most hits in one season for the Miners with 79, along with the most doubles ever for UTEP (21).

“Every day I come in trying to be the best version of myself for the team. My goal is to do whatever it takes to help the team with whatever they need, so we can get better each and every game,” Clayton said. “Everyone on this team is about the team, we play as individuals. We try and get better each day on the field and off the field.”

The reigning player of the year is coming off an injury that forced her to be sidelined for fall workouts, but she is back and ready to work following her break-out campaign.

“I feel good. It’s always hard to deal with an injury, but it also teaches you a lot. I’m thankful that it’s feeling better and I’m more than ready to start the season,” Clayton said.

Clayton is one of two UTEP players in the 2017 Preseason All-Conference Team. The other Miner mentioned is the junior Kaitlyn Ryder, who led the team in walks (23) and had 17 multiple-hit contests. She also recorded UTEP’s second-highest batting average (.350), just behind Clayton’s .416 average.

“It’s exciting that I’m mentioned on the Preseason All-Conference team, but it’s my teammates that got me there. We, as a team, look at the bigger picture of things and we hope to have another incredible season,” Ryder said. “Our team is coming together and it’s about that time where we show everyone what we can do. If we play how we know we can, it’ll be no problem getting back to conference tournament. I think we can go all the way this year.”

The Miners will be under head coach Tobin Echo-Hawk for the fourth year. She won her 200th career game when UTEP overcame Florida International at the beginning of the league tournament before her third season was abruptly put to an end by Southern Mississippi.

However, she did will her unit to overcome the odds since the orange and blue was forecasted to finish ninth in the conference.

Her team will have much to live up to with Echo-Hawk’s rewarding season in the review mirror.

Picked to finish in the bottom half of C-USA, UTEP will have to quiet their critics once again. It will be no easy task with no. 23 Florida Atlantic as the favorite to run away with the conference.

“At UTEP, we don’t get the respect that we deserve and that’s the motivation that we use. You look at the teams that are predicted above us and we were right there with a lot of them. I think we are a lot better than people think we are,” Echo-Hawk said.

UTEP is also set to square off against four NCAA Softball Tournament teams from 2016 in Arizona State, Utah, Wichita State and Florida Atlantic.

“I think we are going to compete in every game this year. Two years ago, we played a great team in ASU and we almost beat them. So having that experience and knowing that we were close; I think our kids will go into the bigger games saying ‘Let’s go out and play them,’ instead of them coming into the game with their eyes wide open. And hopefully we can take one from them,” said Echo-Hawk.

The orange and blue also have only 14 games scheduled on their home field, compared to over 20 matchups the season before. El Paso will not get a chance for a home game until March 18. A year ago, UTEP was seven games under .500 on the road at 6-13. Improvement during away games is a must if the Miners hope to compete in back-to-back tournament berths.

“In the past, we weren’t very good on the road, but last year we started building. Now, our team has the mentality that they don’t care where we’re at, a field is a field and we are going to continue to play our game,” said Echo-Hawk.

Opening the new year, UTEP will challenge themselves in four tourna-



FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR

Softball is gearing up for the 2017 season, which begins in Arizona on Feb. 8 against Stanford.

ments before engaging in conference games. The Miners are scheduled for the Kajikawa Classic, the DaMarini Desert Classic, the Riverside Invitational and the Jeannine McHaney Memorial Classic before the team kicks-off conference play against North Texas, on March 11.

The goal for the Miners is set in stone—make it to Hattiesburg, Mississippi on May 15 where the Conference-USA tournament will take place this season. With the combination of veterans and youth, with seven freshmen, Echo-Hawk and her unit are seizing the opportunity to compete with any school at any given time.

“I think we have the most potential and the most talent we’ve ever had. I think it’s just about putting the pieces together and making sure that we play to our potential,” said Echo-Hawk. “I told the girls yesterday, we could win conference; that’s how good we are and how good we could be. But we have to stay the course and respond to failure along the road in a positive way.”

UTEP will travel to Tempe, Arizona, to start their 2017 journey. A doubleheader with Stanford and Arizona State awaits the Miners on Feb. 8.

Follow Mike Flores on Twitter @MikeyTheReal

Five takeaways from the 2017 football signing day class

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS
The Prospector

Head football coach Sean Kugler announced the 2017 signing class for the Miners on Wednesday, Feb. 1. Now that all the names are laid out on the table and preparation for spring ball has commenced, it gives the opportunity to look in depth at the recruiting class as a whole. The program signed 17 members to play football for the Miners, and Kugler had a different approach to this signing day. Here are the top five takeaways from signing day:

1. DEFENSE GALORE

Ten of the 17 signees for the football team were defensive players, so it could go one of two ways—Kugler could choose to keep the individuals at their intended position and start working on them or he could redshirt them to give the new individuals time to work underneath upperclassmen.

The defenders to take notice of from the signees list are defensive lineman Trace Mascorro and linebacker Kobie Herring, who were both high school teammates from Refugio, Texas. Both defensive specialists played all four years of their high school careers and are coming off a Class 2A Division I state championship. Mascorro and Herring were both named to the All-Area football team after the championship finish. These two bring both skill and experience to the forefront.

Another notable addition by the UTEP staff is the seven linebackers that they signed for this class. The Miners rely heavily on their linebackers; however some of these seven signees could end up converting to another spot, such as safety or defensive lineman.

Two defenders the Miners snatched locally include Javaughn Thomas from El Paso High School and Joshua Wells from Parkland High School. Thomas is an all-around athlete who has experience on offense and defense, while Wells was a monster on defense and named 2-5A All-District Football Defensive MVP.

2. MIGHT NOT BE MUCH TALENT RIGHT AWAY

Historically, the Miners have not been too expectant or reliant on their new class of individuals who sign unless they absolutely need to fill that position.

Last season’s true freshmen such as running backs Kevin Dove and Quadraiz Wadley both saw early action because of TK Powell’s injury in the spring.

With the absence of standout running back Aaron Jones and fullback Darrin Laufasa, newcomers like running backs Joshua Fields and Forest McKee might see action on the field offensively.

Last season, when cornerback Kalon Beverly was out, Justin Rodgers stepped in to fill his shoes as a true freshman.

Playing time as a freshman is possible, but it might not be so likely for the new class that comes in. Gun-slingers Alex Fernandes and Calvin Brownholtz will not likely see the lights of the field unless Ryan Metz, who is the anticipated starter going into the spring, goes down or performs under par.

One individual who might see early playing time is JUCO transfer tight end David Lucero. The 6-foot-5, 230-pound tight end can haul passes in and block accordingly. Also, he has experience playing at a high level of football because he started his collegiate career at Boise State. As a

freshman, Lucero saw action with the Broncos and has continuously progressed statistically since then.

3. JOSHUA FIELDS AS THE NEXT AARON JONES?

One of the more surprising signings of the 2017 class was Americas’ running back Joshua Fields, who chose UTEP over New Mexico. His brother Jack Fields, who graduated from Americas High School in 2013, played at Boise State, so Joshua is trying to successfully follow in the shoes of his older brother.

When standout back Aaron Jones came out of high school, he chose UTEP over Air Force and New Mexico as a two-star recruit. Fields with three stars under his belt and a storied high school career that make him a lot like Jones was on paper.

But paper stats that are paralleled between two players only go so far. It was truly the work ethic and growth that saw Jones rise to one of the top tailbacks in the nation. He developed into a top contender through his first summer practices and training camps. Kugler believed that Wadley demonstrated some Jones-esque play last summer, so maybe Fields can do the same?

“As I recall watching these guys on film, his running style is very similar. But I look back, Aaron Jones was a 165-pound player coming out of high school, Josh Fields is a 195-pound athlete and he’s only going to continue to get bigger as he’s a worker in the weight room,” Kugler said at the signing day press conference. “This is one of the best players to come out of El Paso in a very long time. We are extremely excited for him to be a part of our program.”

The way Kugler spoke about Fields makes it seem that Wadley, Powell and Dove have a fourth competitor for the starting spot at tailback.

The thing that makes Fields special is the fact that he is elusive, agile and carries the physical body size that he can grow into more.

4. SCHOLARSHIPS HOLD

To finish off the 2017 signing day, Kugler said that he and his staff are holding off on two more scholarships available for last-minute signings to the squad.

Although this is not normal compared to previous signing day classes, this could be a strong sign for the program. It shows that Kugler feels comfortable with the position his team is currently in and he does not feel the need for any certain players right away. This allows time for the coaching staff to evaluate some players on the fence and look at them in all areas.

“We’re going to be extremely patient,” Kugler said. “We’re going to hold on to those scholarships until May and possibly look for a late qualifying high school player.”

Kugler’s reasoning behind this was simple: it is based off of prior luck with last-minute additions.

“The last one worked out pretty well for us. His name is Will Hernandez. Or a late qualifying (junior college) linebacker. The last one worked out pretty well for us—his name is Dante Lovilette, who finished second on the team in tackles,” Kugler said. “When we do sign those players, we’ll announce that to the Miner faithful.”

Maybe with two extra scholarships, Kugler can add on some strong, on-the-fence talent that can emerge into a Hernandez or a Lovilette.

5. STARS DON'T GO FAR

When the program announced those who were going to sign their letter of intent for UTEP, the 2017 signing day was much different than previous ones. First there was a lesser amount of signees than previous years. Second, which is not too surprising, the Miners were not able to sign athletes with notable recruiting stars on their belt.

However, Kugler does not put too much weight into stars.

“Many of these guys—no stars, two stars, three stars—but what you’re looking at, and I don’t know who they’re going to be yet, but some of these guys are going to be future All-Conference players for UTEP, future leaders or captains that lead our team to a bowl game or a championship,” Kugler said. “Some of these young men will have opportunities to go play in the NFL, and I don’t know who they are. It’s going to be up to them and what they put into it.”

For what seemed to be going off on a tangent, Kugler stressed how many players he has seen go through the collegiate process and end up in the NFL, who had few or no stars coming out of high school.

The numbers really do not lie; some of the future NFL players, such as Nick Usher and Jones, did not look like special stars coming into UTEP. It was college football that made the individuals emerge into special players.

UTEP was ranked the worst (no. 14) in C-USA as far as recruitment quality, yet that still did not faze Kugler. He was completely confident in the quality of players that he and his staff recruited.

Follow Adrian Broaddus on Twitter @adrian_broaddus

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS
The Prospector

At the start of January, the men's basketball team was clawing for a win after losing 12 games in a row. "Fire Floyd" signs were seen in abundance at the Don Haskins Center, former starting forward Terry Winn left the team, and less and less fans showed up in support. The Miners were tired of being bullied on the court.

It all started with a double-overtime victory against Florida International, a team most believe they should have beaten. After another nail-biting overtime win against Florida Atlantic, the Miners took their most quality win of the season, beating UTSA 59-39.

The quality wins did not stop there. Despite a close loss to top Conference-USA squad Western Kentucky, the Miners won back-to-back key wins from Marshall (91-68) and UAB (63-59).

Remember, this was the same team that started the month of January with an embarrassing record of 2-13.

Now the Miners have won six of their last seven games and scraped together an 8-14 overall record. They are undefeated in conference home games (5-0) and are stretching for one of the more noteworthy season turnarounds since 2014.

The Miners (8-14, 6-4 C-USA) will play host to second-place LA Tech (16-8, 8-3 C-USA) on Thursday, Feb. 9, at the Don Haskins Center.

This will be a test of both team's strengths and capabilities.



Dominic Artis and the men's basketball team have been on an incredible winning run after losing 12 in a row earlier in the season.

On LA Tech's end, the Bulldogs have won six of their last eight games and are coming into Thursday's game as one of the hottest teams in the conference. Last time the two squads faced off on Jan. 5, LA Tech rolled all over the Miners, 64-44.

The Bulldogs get it done offensively and defensively with players on their squad who rank among the best in the conference. Senior forward Erik McCree leads the troop with a strong 17.5 points per game, followed by guard Jaco-

bi Boykins, who is second on the team in scoring with 15.1 per contest. While McCree is second in the league in rebounds per game (8.9), Boykins is a defensive fiend and ranks first in the league in steals per game (2.2).

The team has six players who average 9.0 points per game or better, so they are expected to try to score significant buckets.

The Bulldogs are not the only group who holds some notable stat lines through conference

play, however. Currently, center Matt Willms holds the league's best shooting percentage from the floor with a 59.9 percent rate. Right behind Boykins on the steal stat leaders is Dominic Artis, who averages 2.1 steals per game. Artis is also second in C-USA in assists with 6.0 per game.

After their 57-54 victory over Middle Tennessee, who had previously won 10 games in a row, Floyd believes that the Miners took a big

step forward in rising together as
a team.

"This was just another step in our growth," Floyd said after their win. "We got good guys, our players are getting better and we are going to be a very legitimate group here the rest of the season. We go back and work, we have spirited practices and our guys are in a new place. It's obviously easier because of our great crowds, our fans get it here."

Defensively, the Miners are becoming better as they have started to create more turnovers per game and decrease team's shooting percentage in second halves.

“Defensively (against Middle Tennessee) we created some turnovers, which led to some easy baskets for us,” Floyd said. “It’s those stops that gave us a chance.”

With hopes to stun the Bulls dogs, the Miners will need to key in on both Boykins and McCree but they also need to be aware of a third emerging scorer from Loyola Tech, most likely forward Omar Sherman.

Tip off between teams is slated at 7:05 p.m.

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