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ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

THE PROSPECTOR

WWW.THEPROSPECTORDAILY.COM

VOL. 102, NO. 15

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

JANUARY 17, 2017



DESIGN BY ANA RAMOS, PHOTO BY GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

FRONTERAS

Des aceleramiento económico en México para el 2017, según estudio de UTEP

BY GRECIA SANCHEZ

The Prospector

La depreciación del peso, incertidumbre sobre políticas proteccionistas del presidente electo Donald Trump, posibles cambios en el Tratado de Libre Comercio de América del Norte por la nueva administración estadounidense y crisis por precios altos de la gasolina en México amenazan el futuro de la economía mexicana.

Según el cuarto informe del Proyecto de Modelación de la Región Fronteriza de UTEP (UTEP Border Region Modeling Project), el crecimiento de la economía mexicana disminuirá en el 2017. Se predice el crecimiento del PIB (Producto Interno Bruto) será de 1.4 por ciento, contrario al previo informe que proyectaba un 2.3 por ciento.

Tom Fullerton, profesor de economía en UTEP y encargado de BRMP (por sus siglas en inglés), habló de las proyecciones futuras de la economía de la región durante el Foro Económico de la Frontera para 2018, evento sucedido el pasado martes 10 de enero.

“En términos de la depreciación del peso sobre la frontera, no se está observando los mismos efectos que históricamente se han observado”, Fullerton dijo. “A pesar de que el costo de producción

ha bajado, como consecuencia de una moneda nacional más débil en México, eso no se está convirtiendo en ingresos extranjeros directos adicionales de la manera debida por la razón de que el presidente electo ha amenazado con clausurar el acuerdo de libre comercio”.

Fullerton dijo si el TLCAN llegara a clausurarse, se notarán efectos negativos en ambos países. Debido a esto, tanto la inversión extranjera directa

como relaciones de comercio entre los dos países disminuirán.

Gianna Salas, estudiante de comunicación organizacional y corporativa en UTEP, dijo la depreciación del peso afecta no sólo a la economía mexicana, sino también a la economía de la ciudad de El Paso.

“Si es muy cierto que personas de Juárez, Chihuahua, o de diferentes ciudades del estado consumimos en El Paso. Entonces mientras nuestra economía baje, pues también baja la economía de la ciudad de El Paso”, Salas dijo. “Somos ciudades muy dependientes una de la otra, tenemos gente, como en mi caso, que vivimos en Juárez, pero tenemos nuestra vida en El Paso o también gente que vive allá (El Paso) y tiene su sustento de la economía juarense”.

Un aspecto que amenaza las relaciones comerciales e industriales de la frontera es la falta de inversión extranjera en Ciudad Juárez. Según Fullerton, no hay inversión en plantas nuevas de Cd. Juárez porque los inversionistas están esperando a ver qué sucede con las amenazas del presidente electo Trump.

De acuerdo con el cuarto informe de BRMP, “The Trump Effect”, el cre

“El dinero que estaba destinado a otro tipo de cosas ya lo tenemos que gastar en gasolina, sobre todo yo que cruzo todos los días y no tengo línea exprés.

— Gianna Salas,
Estudiante de comunicación
organizacional y corporativa

see ECONÓMICO on page 7

O'Rourke advocates for Dreamer privacy



GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

Dreamers and supporters come together on Sunday, Jan. 15, at San Jacinto Plaza.

BY MICHAELA ROMÁN

The Prospector

On Sunday, Jan. 15, hundreds of supporters gathered at San Jacinto Plaza in downtown El Paso to listen to U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke and backers of protecting undocumented students, who were granted executive amnesty by President Barack Obama in 2012.

“We're here today because our current President, Barack Obama, made a commitment to hundreds of young people in this country, that we call dreamers, who

were brought here by their parents, who must've made excruciating decisions themselves to leave their countries of origin,” O'Rourke said.

The community meeting was held just five days before President-elect Donald Trump will be sworn in as president of the United States. While campaigning, Trump's platform called for the immediate termination of Obama's amnesty.

see DREAMERS on page 5



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JANUARY 17, 2017

OPINION

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
MICHAELA ROMÁN, 747-7477

The stupid concept that is a New Year’s ‘resolution’

BY RENE DELGADILLO
The Prospector



When you woke up on January 1st, you probably had one of the biggest hangovers of your life. You probably woke up craving the leftovers from the dinner you had the night before, while swearing to god you'll accomplish every resolution you have in mind for this upcoming year. Of course, you'll also be catching up on resolutions you made from five years ago, but never followed through on. To be honest, 90 percent or more of you won't ever accomplish what you have in mind, because by mid-February you'll forget about the gym, the healthy food and you'll start spending money like crazy. The truth is you're most likely not ready to accomplish the goals you have set your mind to. Why? Because you waited until the beginning of the year or semester to start with these resolutions as if the rotation of the Earth had anything to do with the decisions and accomplishments in your life.

New Year's resolutions are like horoscopes—it's stupid to believe they have anything to do with reality. Many of us have seen how our families have been engaging in these kinds of rituals for decades, that we just get caught up in them without even knowing why there's so much pressure behind making resolutions. It's good to have goals and resolutions, but you shouldn't base them on the stars in the sky or by creating false expectations. Starting resolutions on the first day of the year or of the semester is just a disguise for procrastination. Why didn't you start a month before the year began? Because you obviously thought "new year, new me!" That is just another lie brought by the holidays. This is coming from the guy who for the past two months has been trying to get his life together after making stupid decisions and experiencing the hardest breakup of his life. I'm trying to be positive and my goal is to overcome my depression and anxiety. And you know what? I started as soon I hit rock bottom, not when the Earth ended its rotation cycle.

Follow Rene Delgadillo on Twitter @rdelgadillonews

Out with the old, in with the new possibilities

BY MICHAELA ROMÁN
The Prospector



After all the unpleasant "Thanks 2016" blame posts that popped up on my news feed toward the end of December, it became clear that most people, or the vocal ones at least, could really use a fresh start. It's easy to look at others and say, "Why wait for a new year to make resolutions and change something big in your life? Shouldn't you be able to start whenever?" In reality, it's unlikely the average person will make a drastic life switch or even kick a bad habit without some kind of push. Making New Year's resolutions can be just as effective as spring cleaning.

Instead of uncluttering a house and throwing away unwanted trash and belongings, the same can be done with unhealthy routines or new aspirations. The adrenaline rush created when the sparkly ball drops from the top of Times Square or when fireworks go off over a city skyline at the end of a countdown is so highly anticipated because everything we do in life is based on a timeline. When one year ends, we're forced to evaluate what we now want for ourselves in the brand new untouched year in front of us. It's important to take advantage of this time and really reflect on improvements we can make and ways to grow. I took a quick survey of 10 friends, who are all college students or recent graduates, to see if they made 2017 resolutions. Seven had made them, while the other three didn't because they felt they had never been able to

consistently keep them and actually follow through. Some of the resolutions included wanting to eat healthier, spending less money, staying organized, taking more initiative at work, taking out unwanted people in their life and traveling more. Is it completely impractical for my friends to achieve these goals? Absolutely not. The start of a new year just means another chance to remind ourselves what we want in life, and the steps we need to take to achieve our goals. Cheers to a year of fewer celebrity deaths and less White House negativity. As for me, my resolution is to write better columns.

Michaela Román may be reached at michaelairoman@gmail.com.



EDITORIAL / THE PROSPECTOR



ALONZO MARTINEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

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Texas Republicans propose SB 6, the “Bathroom Bill”

The Prospector

After North Carolina passed its “bathroom bill,” the state lost \$395 million in revenues according to an article in the

"I comprehend what he is saying, (but) I do not believe what he is saying to be true or valid," Perez said in an email interview. "Personally, I'm angry. I'm also worried and scared about trans youth, specifically, trans-feminine youth in this state."



“UT System’s Office of General Counsel and Office of Government Relations continue to analyze Senate Bill 6 to determine the impact the bill would have on UT institutions should

The Prospector contacted UTEP President Diana Natalicio for a statement on the proposal of SB 6, but has not yet received a response.

Follow Rene Delaadillo on Twitter @rdelaadillonews




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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What are your fears for this semester?

ANDREW RIOS, CLAUDIA HERNANDEZ, ALONZO MARTINEZ, GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR



ALEXANDRA CAMACHO
Senior linguistics major
"I am graduating this semester. My biggest fear is to find out that I still have to take another class."



CARLOS RODRIGUEZ
Freshman mechanical engineering major
"I am afraid of getting up early since I have a class at 8:30 in the morning."



CLAUDIA CHAVARRIA
Senior political science major
"My graduation is getting closer, so I am afraid of all the pressure that's about to come."



ISMAEL BACA
Junior mechanical engineering major
"Since I'm from Mexico, probably the Trump election. I'm afraid of what the consequences will be."



LANDY MENDIOLA
Junior media advertising major
"What scares me the most is all the stress I'm going to have to deal with."



JONATHAN SAMBRANO
Sophomore criminal justice major
"My biggest fear is failing a class because I don't want my GPA to drop."



SAMANTHA RICON
Junior education major
"Trying to get all the credits that I need so I can get out within the four years and not be here for extra semesters"



LUIS CRISTIANO
Freshman computer science major
"I am afraid of not getting the scholarship that I want."



ROCIO QUINTERO
Junior nursing major
"Having to wait for my nursing test results is what scares me the most this upcoming semester."



CHRISTOPHER FARMER
Senior microbiology major
"The only fear that I would have is the work load, because I'm going to be taking a bunch of classes."

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DEYANNA RODRIGUEZ
Sophomore social work major
"My biggest fear is failing because I've never failed a class before in my life. So hopefully I just won't fail this semester."



JACOB BILLUM
Senior psychology major
"Finding a job. I volunteer in labs right now, but I'm also working on getting part-time jobs that will hopefully lead to a full-time job."



EVELYN HERNANDEZ
Sophomore nursing major
"Being a failure in all my classes because my GPA will drop."



GUSTAVO RODRIGUEZ
Sophomore history major
"My fear for this semester is putting too much pressure on myself. I want to get straight A's so it can be overwhelming at times."



GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR
(Top left) A woman chants “Don’t deport” as she’s asked to step down from the ledge in San Jacinto Plaza. (Top right) El Pasoans stand in support of Dreamers. (Bottom) Beto O’Rourke and his office held a community meeting Sunday, Jan. 15, at San Jacinto Plaza.

DREAMERS from page 1

DREAM stands for the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act. There are over 700,000 registered dreamers in the U.S. O’Rourke said that 200,000 of those are in Texas and around 10,000 reside in El Paso alone.

“We’re here to tell our president-elect that they’re not going anywhere,” O’Rourke said.

On Friday, Jan 13, O’Rourke introduced a bill to Congress that would protect the personal information of dreamers and not allow the federal government to use their information to deport them.

Those in support of DREAMers marched into the plaza chanting, “Build bridges, not walls” and holding signs that read, “We are all immigrants, we are all dreamers” and “education, not deportation.” A banner and petition were provided that O’Rourke said he would take back to Washington and present it to Congress.

UTEP alumna and member of Texas Sen. Jose Rodriguez’ staff, Claudia Yoli shared her story about growing up as a dreamer. Born in Venezuela, Yoli moved to the U.S. with her mother when she was 8 years old.

“Unfortunately, the biggest challenge for Dreamers like me is that legislators, and soon-to-be Presi-

dent Trump, who want to make our dreams unattainable,” Yoli said.

Despite not being able to vote herself, Yoli has worked with others to register thousands of El Pasoans to vote.

“We will not let small minds like President Trump’s tell us that our dreams are too big,” Yoli said.

Sen. Rodriguez, D-El Paso, gave notice to those in leadership positions across the state that, as a Texas legislator, he will not ignore the voices of immigrants.

“I am here to stand with the Dreamers. It’s not just the young students, all of us our dreamers, whether citizens or not,” Rodriguez said.

City Representative Lilly Limon read a message from Mayor Oscar Leeser on the resolution

Tuesday, Jan. 10, where the El Paso City Council backed a passed resolution to support undocumented immigrants living in El Paso.

“We do not need to spend any more money (on border security). We don’t need any more walls or fences. What we need is to take advantage of this wonderful asset that we have with Mexico, with Mexican Americans and with immigrants from around the world,” O’Rourke said.

✉ Michaela Román may be reached at michaelairoman@gmail.com.

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Cyber Café to get major upgrade in Union East building

BY CHRISTIAN VASQUEZ

The Prospector

A new Cyber Café will soon be open on the second floor of the Union, where the faculty and staff lounge used to be. The new technology center was a collaboration between the Office of Information and Planning and the Division of Student Affairs.

Frank Poblano, the director of technology support, said the café was a response by technology support to answer students' needs.

"Every year we do get all the responses from the students, who complete the surveys, who can provide feedback on the technology services that we offer for them," Poblano said. "One of the things that we have seen over the years is that students who would use the old cyber café, they would say 'we really need more computers.'"

The café will feature new Macintosh computers with access to the Adobe Creative Cloud, which has programs such as Photoshop, Illustrator and Premier.

"We'll have a lab administrator, this is a full-time employee who is going to be there 8-5," Poblano said. "(They're) going to be always there and we'll have one or two undergraduate assistants, student positions."

Like the technology center on the third floor of the UTEP Library, the Cy-

ber Café will also include a rental service for laptops, cameras and camcorders.

"The other kind of equipment going in there is going to be a poster printer, our students will be able to do their large-format print jobs in the Cyber (Café), using the print allocation funds that they already get every semester," Poblano said.

The café was funded from Union and technology fees that students pay in their tuition.

Poblano said if students are familiar with the tech support center at the library, they'll see the new Cyber Café as an extension of the technology support center.

The Bhutan Lounge (in front of the café) will remain an open area for students to use their laptops.

"It's going to become a mobile-friendly space, where students with their own devices can use a table or use a chair to use their equipment," Poblano said. "Students who are just using the open space in the Bhutan Lounge can just walk over if they have any problems with their own device. They can walk into the Cyber Café and get assistance there no matter what the technology may be."

The Cyber Café is going to be open during Union hours, which are Monday-Saturday, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

Follow Christian Vasquez on Twitter @chrismvasq

WELCOME BACK WEEK EVENTS



TUESDAY, JAN. 17

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Centennial Plaza. A donation drive will be on site for canned goods, coats, blankets, toiletries and donations. The items will be donated to a local charity.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 18

Nacho Average Wednesday, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Centennial Plaza. The event will include a "future #MinerGrad" photobooth, free scantrons, bluebooks and nachos.

THURSDAY, JAN. 19

Throwback Thursday, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m at the Union Plaza. Arcade games, tie-dye t-shirts and "retro jams" will all be part of the event.

FRIDAY, JAN. 20

Food Truck Friday will take place from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Parking Lot P9, the corner of Sun Bowl Drive and Glory Road. There will also be a live performance from the Yeah Man Clan and karaoke.

Here's what you need to know on inauguration day

BY MARIANA RODRIGUEZ

The Prospector

Donald Trump will take the oath of office on Friday, Jan. 20, when he will officially be handed the title of the 45th president of the United States. As of press time, there have been no

announced official viewing events planned at UTEP.

The Inaugural Selection Committee has themed the 58th Presidential Inauguration as "Uniquely American," as the peaceful transition of power indicates that the people are united behind a resilient republic—

an republic that is expected to have between 800,000 to 900,000 present during the swearing-in and inaugural parade.

With the amount of clamor in the nation, the president-elect took to Twitter to remind the public of the success he believes the ceremonies will hold.

"Inauguration Day is turning out to be even bigger than expected. Jan. 20th, Washington DC. Have Fun!" Trump tweeted on Jan. 14.

Despite his claim, events surrounding the president-elect have already caused a number of A-list performers to turn down the invitation to perform during the inauguration, as well as several members of Congress have refused to attend the swearing-in ceremony.

"You cannot feel at home with something that you feel is wrong," said Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., to NBC News. Stating that he does not believe Donald Trump is a "legitimate president," Lewis expressed his concerns about Russian interference in the presidential election, and he concluded that he would not be attending the inauguration.

Twenty-five other legislators have stated in news outlets or through Twitter that they will "stand with John" and will deny the president-elect their presence at the ceremony.

Outside of Congress, protests surrounding the ceremony have flared up across the country as well, with groups organizing protests during Inauguration Day and after.

Artists such as Elton John, KISS, Andrea Bocelli, David Foster, Jennifer Holliday and Charlotte Church have publicly rejected the invitation to perform for the president-elect. But Trump's administration is not concerned about this.

"This is not Woodstock," said Boris Epshteyn, director of Communications for the Inaugural Committee to CNN. "It's not a summer jam. It's not a concert."

Confirmed to perform at the inauguration are the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Toby Keith, 3 Doors Down, and Lee Greenwood, among others.

Among those who will not be attending the inauguration and will be protesting are artists Katy Perry, Scarlett Johansson, Cher, America Ferrera and Amy Schumer, who will be attending the Women's March on Washington on Jan. 21.

A group of women slowly formed a plan through Facebook. Teresa Shook, a retired attorney from Hawaii, and Bob Bland, founder of Manufacture New York, came together to expand on a single idea that turned into the Women's March on Washington, an event that is expecting more than 20,000 people in attendance.

Over 1,200 permits were issued for buses on Jan. 21, compared to the 400 permits issued for Inauguration Day.

"We need to form a resistance movement that's about what is positive," Shook told Vogue magazine. "Something that will help empower us to wake up in the morning and feel that women still matter."

The Women's March on Washington will have a sister march in El Paso, "Boundless Across Borders," in El Paso. It will begin at noon, Jan. 21, at Armijo Park.

Protestors and activists are not the only ones who will not attend the inauguration. Charlie Brotman, the inauguration parade announcer since 1957, is also not attending the parade as an announcer any longer.

"I felt like Muhammad Ali had hit me in the stomach," Brotman told CNN during an interview.

Brotman was recently informed through an email that he would be replaced by Steve Ray as the parade announcer. Steve Ray is a freelance announcer who also volunteered in the Trump campaign during the election.

Regardless of who will be attending the ceremonies, whether by choice or as a form of protest, there is one group who has traveled across the nation to make sure the ceremony is not disrupted.

Bikers for Trump, a biking organization that formed during Trump's election campaign, have sworn to protect the inauguration from any protestors. With over 20,000 members, the organization is prepared to form a "wall of meat" to keep out any unwanted protestors who want to disrupt the peace.

Whether or not a divisive crowd attends the inauguration, the 58th Presidential Inauguration will be a historical event.

Mariana Rodriguez may be reached at marianarodz11@gmail.com.

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ECONOMICO from page 1

El crecimiento en inversión sufrirá al menos un retroceso temporal debido, en parte, a la incertidumbre derivada de las posibles políticas proteccionistas de la administración estadounidense entrante.

Según este mismo informe, se predice la inversión en el 2017 será de 1.2 por ciento, un porcentaje menor comparado al del previo informe que es 2.3 por ciento.

“Se anticipa que habrá menos consumidores mexicanos haciendo compras en El Paso, o los consumidores mexicanos que vienen a El Paso comprarán menos volúmenes de bienes y servicios de este lado”, Fullerton dijo.

Fullerton también dijo el “gasolinazo” afecta al desabasto de gasolina en El Paso y, por lo tanto, el precio de la gasolina en El Paso aumenta unos seis centavos por galón, aproximadamente.

“Eso es como consecuencia menos paseños que están aprovechando de comprar gasolina en Ciudad Juárez y más juarenses que están cruzando la frontera para comprar gasolina aquí”, Fullerton dijo.

Daniel Mena, estudiante de ingeniería mecánica en UTEP, dijo haber sido directamente afectado en el negocio familiar por el gasolinazo.

NINA TITOVETS / THE PROSPECTOR

“Mi familia tiene un negocio de carnicería y abarrotes, por lo tanto todo el producto que llega es vía terrestre”, Mena dijo. “Los vehículos en los cuales llega el producto usan gasolina, por consecuencia todos los precios suben, no importa que producto sea.”

Según Mena, su familia ha utilizado siempre la gasolina de El Paso debido a su mayor rendimiento y la garantía de litros exactos.

Ahora que es más barata (el costo de la gasolina en El Paso en promedio es de 12.15 pesos por litro en contra de 15.89 la Magna y 17.65 la Premium en Cd. Juárez), Mena dijo “con mayor razón llenamos el tanque allá”.

Salas dijo haberse preparado antes del gasolinazo en año nuevo haciendo una fila de alrededor 26 minutos en una gasolinera de Cd. Juárez para llenar su tanque.

“Ahora gastamos mucho más dinero en transporte. En mi familia somos tres integrantes y tenemos tres carros y a los tres pues hay que ponerles gasolina”, Salas dijo. “El dinero que estaba destinado a otro tipo de cosas ya lo tenemos que gastar en gasolina, sobre todo yo que cruzo todos los días y no tengo línea exprés.”

Follow Grecia Sanchez on Twitter @grecias068



Una protesta pacífica tomo lugar en el centro de la Ciudad de México el pasado lunes 9 de evnero. Los asistentes protestaron en contra del gobierno de Erinque Peña Nieto por el reciente incremento a la gasolina.

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Sport	Deadline Date	Start Date
Basketball	01/25/2017	02/06/2017
Bowling	02/03/2017	02/03/2017
Free Throws	02/08/2017	02/08/2017
3-Point Shoot out	02/15/2017	02/15/2017
Indoor Soccer	02/22/2017	02/27/2017
Miniature Golf	02/22/2017	02/22/2017
Racquetball	03/01/2017	03/01/2017
Indoor Mini Triathlon	03/08/2017	03/08/2017
Softball	03/08/2017	03/20/2017
Indoor Soccer Shoot out	03/22/2017	03/22/2017
Table Tennis	03/29/2017	03/29/2017
Dodge-ball	04/03/2017	04/05/2017
Sand Volleyball	04/12/2017	04/17/2017
Ultimate Frisbee	04/19/2017	04/19/2017
Sand Soccer	04/26/2017	04/26/2017
Swim Meet	05/03/2017	05/03/2017

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE PROGRAM 2017 TRIPS

Date	Location	Type of Trip
1/21	Ski Apache	Ski/Snowboard
2/4	Ski Apache	Ski/Snowboard
2/11	Ski Apache	Ski/Snowboard
3/4	Tin Mines	Exploration Trip
3/11-16	Guadalupe River State Park	Kayak/Bike/ Camping
3/25	White Sands National Monument	Sledding Play Day
3/31-4/2	Three Rivers Petroglyph Site	Exploration/Camping
4/8	White Sands National Monument	Full moon bike ride
4/22	Hueco Tanks State Historic State	Bouldering
5/19-21	Taos Box	Whitewater Rafting

OPEN RECREATION

Open Recreation allows the use of recreational facilities in the SRC for leisure play. Members can enjoy basketball, indoor soccer, badminton, racquetball and volleyball. The Recreational Sports Department also provides Table Tennis and Foos-ball with various seating areas.

Racquetball

Fall/Spring

M-TH 5:30 am– 9:30 pm
FRI 5:30 am– 7:30 pm
SAT 8:00 am– 4:30 pm
SUN 12:00 pm– 4:30 pm

Summer

M-TH 5:30 am – 8:30 pm
FRI 5:30 am – 6:30 pm
SAT 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
SUN 12:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Inter Session

M-F 5:30 am – 6:30 pm
SAT 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
SUN 12:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Volleyball

Fall/Spring

T&TH 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Summer

T&TH 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Inter Session

T&TH 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Badminton

Fall/Spring

SAT 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
SUN 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Summer

SAT 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
SUN 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Inter Session

SAT 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
SUN 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Also Available Upon Request

Boxing Gym

Schedule To be announced

**Members may check-out equipment for use by providing an active UTEP ID/Membership Card.

The Student Recreation Center is a tri-level facility built through the vision and support of our UTEP Students. Philanthropy starts with our UTEP students. The SRC is a gift from the Students to UTEP, we thank you! Within the SRC, we offer a variety of programs and services, including intramurals, climbing gym, fitness classes, sport clubs, challenge course, various outdoor trips, open recreation and outdoor-equipment rentals.

FITNESS PROGRAMS 2017

FREE WEEK JAN 23 - JAN 28

Monday & Wednesday \$25 per program

Time	Program	Instructor
06:15 am-7:15 am	SPINNING®, Rm. 130	Mariel
07:30-08:30 am	HATHA YOGA, Rm. 120	Aman
11:00-12:00 am	BOXING CONDITIONING, Rm. 120	David
12:00-01:00 pm	SPIN & SCULPT, Rm. 130	Clarissa
12:10-01:10 pm	JUI JITSU, Rm. 110A	Juan
01:30-02:30 pm	H.I.I.T. (High Intensity Interval Training) Rm. 120	Caroline
03:00-04:00 pm	TONING PILATES Rm. 120	Rosa
03:30-04:30 pm	BOXING CONDITIONING Rm. 130	Juan
04:30-05:30 pm	TOTAL BODY WORKOUT, Rm. 120	Rosa
05:00-06:00 pm	RESTORATIVE YOGA, Rm. 110A	Rachelle
06:00-07:00 pm	ZUMBA®, Rm. 120	Marco
06:00-07:00 pm	SPINNING®, Rm. 130	Mariel

Tuesday & Thursday \$25 per program

09:30-10:30 am	CONDITIONING/RUNNING , Rm. 120	David
11:00-12:00 pm	ABS & GLUTES, Rm. 120	David
12:10-01:10 pm	KARDIO KICK-BOXING, Rm. 130	Juan
12:30-01:30 pm	HATH YOGA, Rm. 110A	Julie
01:00-02:00 pm	INSANITY, Rm. 120	Kristen
01:30-02:30 pm	BOXING CONDITIONING Rm. 130	David
03:00-04:00 pm	TOTAL BODY WORKOUT, Rm. 120	Rosa
04:30-05:30 pm	TONING PILATES, Rm. 120	Rosa
05:30-06:30 pm	KARDIO KICK-BOXING, Rm. 110A	Nellie
05:30-06:30 pm	ZUMBA®, Rm. 130	Marco

Tuesday & Thursday \$35 per program

06:00-07:30 pm	STRENGTH & CONDITIONING Rm. 120	David/ Carlos
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Friday For Fitness Participants

08:00am-9:30 am	FREE FITNESS ASSESSMENTS, Rm. 120	Carlos
12:30pm- 2:00 pm	FREE FITNESS ASSESSMENTS, Rm. 120	Carlos

Saturday \$15 per program

09:00am-10:00 am	PILATES, Rm. 120	Rosa
10:15am-11:15 am	STEP & SCULPT, Rm. 120	Rosa
11:00am-12:00 pm	HATH YOGA, Rm. 110A	Keiko

Please register at The Student Recreation Center
Membership Office: Room 102B
From 8:00 am – 6:00 pm, Monday-Friday

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE PROGRAMS:

Climbing Gym Open Climb

Monday & Tuesday
5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
Wednesday-Friday
2:00 p.m. -8:00 p.m.
Saturday
1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Free Belay School

Tuesday
3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Saturday
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Resource/ Game Room

Monday-Wednesday
5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
Thursday-Friday
2:00 p.m. -8:00 p.m.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
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VISIT: Student Recreation Center
E-MAIL: recsports@utep.edu
WEBSITE: www.utep.edu/rsd

JANUARY 17, 2017

ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR
LESLIE SARIÑANA, 747-7477



Top upcoming albums of 2017

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS
The Prospector

Editor's note: When I wrote this piece last year, I did not expect 2016 to even come close to how broad and amazing 2015's year in music was. Boy was I wrong. Through emerging trap artists, breakout indie groups, stellar R&B singers, and impressive hip-hop albums, 2016 shattered the expectations I anticipated for music. For 2017, as a music aficionado, I plan to enter this year with the same open-mindedness as I did last year. So, to the upcoming year, I hope 2017 in music, yet again, surpasses my expectations.

10 Young Thug - Hy!£UN35

There are few trap artists who have emerged from the scene and kept it going, mixtape after mixtape, quite like Young Thug. He broke out in 2015 with "Barter 6," which earned him wide critical acclaim. Then, Thugga followed it up with three back-to-back-to-back solid mixtapes, "I'm Up," "Slime Season 3" and "Jeffrey." While "I'm Up" was a little softer, "Slime Season 3" was Thug's most cohesive, structured tape to date. "Jeffrey" exhibited the creativity that Thug possessed and showcased how deep his artistry ventured through. Now, "Hy!£UN35" is Thug's most anticipated album to date. He has indicated how long he has worked on the upcoming project, which alludes to possibly his most organized and strong project to date. He and Future entered 2016 as the trap kings, but Thug snatched the crown due to his impressive releases. Now in 2017, if Thug fuzes his creativity on "Jeffrey" and his structure on "SS3," he could potentially drop a confirmed classic.

5 A\$AP Rocky

"At Long Last A\$AP" was the best rap album of 2015. Period. And, "Cozy Tapes," an album by the A\$AP Mob crew, was also an effortless, solid record. It was on "At Long Last A\$AP" where the hip-hop community saw Rocky become his true artist. He emerged from the underground rap scene up to the greats. The album was drug filled and experimental with tons of new sounds. Then on "Cozy Tapes," Rocky acted like a narrator and a last say on tons of verses. Throughout 2016, Rocky was very busy with the fashion world, named best dressed of the year by GQ Magazine, yet still dropped a noteworthy project. If he decided to drop something in 2017, there's really no telling what to truly expect. He could put out a solid rap album with tons of bars and hard hitting beats, like he did on "M's" and "LPFJ2." He could also put out a project that is completely experimental and groovy, as he has done on tracks like "L\$D" and "Electric Body."

9 The Internet / Syd Tha Kid

The Internet took over the R&B scene with their 2015 album, "Ego Death," and it felt like the neo-sounding tape took new highs under frontwoman, Syd Tha Kid. For 2017, if the band put out some promising new work, it would emerge the group from the semi-underground urban scene to the mainstream world of R&B music. In fact, Syd Tha Kid plans to release a solo project of her own titled "Fin." She announced the album on an episode of OTHERtone and described the work as "a lot more mainstream" than her previous work. Maybe listeners can expect more of an electronic/songwriter sound from Syd, like she did on "She Dgaf" or "Cocaine" on The Internet's debut album, "Purple Naked Ladies."

4 Lorde

Most 17-year-olds are content with getting their first job, good grades in high school and making new friends. When Lorde was 17 years old, she dropped one of the biggest albums of 2013, "Pure Heroin." The New Zealand native truly made a name for herself with her radio hits, award receptions and high chart recognitions. It would be interesting to see Lorde experiment with new melodic vibes that are different to her now. She has announced to be at various music festivals this upcoming spring and summer, so it's evident that Lorde is cooking up something new.

8 Khalid

The El Paso-bred 18-year-old Khalid broke out in 2016 with his hits "Location" and "Let's Go." He was all over Kylie Jenner's Snapchat and reaped famous artists' approval for his gentle voice. His new wave R&B/songwriter style sounds something of Frank Ocean mixed with DVSN. Throughout the recent months, Khalid has released four singles, "Saved," "Coaster," "Reasons," and "Hopeless." He has consistently delivered smooth vocals mixed with groovy on each of the tracks. Then, he went on Twitter to announce to his fans and followers both that he would be touring in 2016 and release an album.

3 HAIM



The recent photo of Haim, tweeted out of the band all together recording music, increased the hype for the American sister act's project in 2017. Their 2013 tape "Days Are Gone" is probably one of the most underrated indie albums of the 2010s. We can expect another strong indie pop album in 2017 from the group with some deeper lyrics and maybe experiment with some new sounds. Hearing this new project in the spring would be nice, but expect an early summer release from the sisters.

7 Vampire Weekend

Last year I made the assumption that maybe after three years Vampire Weekend would finally be releasing a new project. I was brutally wrong after the New York band failed to release a project in 2016. But maybe, just maybe, 2017 is the year for the Vampire. Ezra Koeing, the frontman for the band, ambiguously alluded to some future expectations from the group in the spirit of the seven-year anniversary of their hit album "Contra." There are no clear lines drawn about what the future holds. For me, it meant open to doing stuff with Vampire Weekend." It seems like forever since "Modern Vampires of the City" released in 2013. So an album in 2017 is exactly what their music-hungry fans have been asking for.

2 Chance the Rapper

In 2015, Chance the Rapper started to gain more traction and emerged from the underground scene into the top of the hip-hop game. Then 2016 came and Chance went headfirst with his third mixtape, "Coloring Book." He became the first Grammy-nominated artist based off streams because he refused to sell his album. He had a high top album based on streams. He spent the entire third and fourth quarter of 2016 on a world tour, he had his first daughter, he released a Christmas album, and that wasn't even all of it. There's no way that Chance stays quiet in 2017. The next chance (no pun intended) he has, he will spend it all in the studio and make another masterpiece. He's had back-to-back years where he has been a part of the top-five album of the year. The third time around will not disappoint.

6 Earl Sweatshirt

Even though it wasn't his first album, Earl's 2015 "I Don't Like Shit, I don't Go Outside" blew up extremely well for a sophomore, experimental album. During 2017, he dabbled through different artists' tapes as a guest feature, and one of his more noticeable was that of Danny Brown's song, "Really Doe." In his verse, Earl alludes to a new project in 2017. Earl's raw and vicious style is precisely what 2017 needs in music.

1 Kanye West - "Turbo Grafx 16"



No one can tell say that "The Life of Pablo" wasn't absolutely fire—easily the best Kanye album since "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy." The album reaped with hits, such as "Ultralight Beam," "Father Stretch My Hands," "Waves," and so much more. But it wasn't all highs for Kanye in 2016. He was admitted to the hospital for basically overworking himself. After getting out, who knows what is on the mind of the Chi-Town rapper. Whenever big events happen in Kanye's life, like this, he puts out some of his best work. He reportedly wanted to hit up the studio as soon as he got out of the hospital. "Turbo Grafx 16" will be one of the most hyped up albums, especially after his political rants supporting Donald Trump.

Follow Adrian Broaddus on Twitter @adrian_broaddus



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“Annie” shown for one night only at the Plaza

BY LESLIE SARINANA
The Prospector

The Tony award-winning production of Broadway’s “Annie” was in town for one night only, and I had the privilege of being at the opening night. At exactly 7:30 p.m., the curtains lifted and the show began.

I didn’t know what to expect, having only seen the movie version of “Annie,” but this rendition definitely succeeded. The play started and right away young Tori Bates, who played Annie, dominated the stage. Her spunky attitude and optimism was charming.

The show had little dialogue, but it worked well. Set in the 1930s, the play touched heavily upon the great depression and the effects it had on the people. They even had a song, “We’d like to thank you,” as direct criticism of Herbert Hoover’s failures while in office.

The whole performance was carried by the trio of Gilgamesh Taggett (Warbucks), Tori Bates (Annie) and Casey

Prins (Grace). Their musical numbers were without a doubt the crowd’s favorites. At one point in the show they even had the audience participate in the show.

Another standout performer was definitely Sandy the dog; my dog could learn a trick or two from him.

Overall, wonderful performances by the cast, the set design was lovely and the show was engaging.

The Plaza Theatre is definitely the best place to watch a show in town. The next show at the Plaza will be “VIVA España: EP Symphony Orchestra with J. Vieaux” on Jan. 20 and 21.

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



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOAN MARCUS
“Annie” came to the Plaza Theatre Jan. 15, in downtown El Paso.

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Juilliard piano department chair and alumnus collaborate at UTEP



CLAUDIA HERNANDEZ / THE PROSPECTOR
Jerome Lowenthal and Michael Brown perform at the Fox Fine Arts recital hall on Jan. 13.

BY LESLIE SARINANA
The Prospector

Weekends at UTEP are usually vibrant and filled with students going to the game, but last Friday night on Jan. 13, the main event was at the Fox Fine Arts recital hall. Juilliard pianists Jerome Lowenthal

and Michael Brown gave a riveting piano recital at UTEP.

Jerome Lowenthal is currently chair of the piano department at Juilliard where he has worked for over 26 years and is also on the faculty at the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, Ca. He started out his career at just 13-years-old

when he became a part of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Accompanying him in the performance was Michael Brown, a Juilliard alumnus and former student of Lowenthal. He is the winner of the 2012 Juilliard William Petschek Piano Debut Recital Award. Brown has also worked with pianists Leon Fleisher and Richard Goode.

Lowenthal and Brown performed in El Paso throughout the week as a part of the El Paso Pro Musica concert series. The duo first performed at the El Paso Museum of Art on Thursday, Jan. 12, where many students from the UTEP music department were present.

At Friday night's recital, the duo gave multiple four-hand piano performances, as well as a solo performance each. Their stage presence and way of speaking made it easy to like them. During the joint renderings of classical pieces, Lowenthal addressed the audience narrating a scene before playing each piece so that the audience could have a better understanding of the music. Each narration was animated and comical. At one point, Lowenthal and Brown had the audience laughing with a short reenactment of "Beauty and the Beast." Their joint pieces were from "Ma mere l'Oye," classical stories and George Gershwin's "An American in Paris."

Although they worked exceptionally well together, they did not disappoint as solo performers.

Brown played a captivating rendition of Ludwig Beethoven's "Fifteen variations and fugue in E-flat major, Op.35 Eroica," and Lowenthal gave a lively performance of Francis Poulenc's "Aubade," which he composed for piano. Before playing, each performer gave a background on their piece and explained some of the technical components. Both pianists received praise and standing ovations for their performances.

They gave a show that anyone, regardless of musical taste or knowledge would have enjoyed. Together they were enthralling and entertaining, and as individuals

they were both fascinating in their own way.

El Paso Pro Musica will continue to bring classical musicians to El Paso throughout the spring as part of the El Paso Chamber Music Festival. The next musicians who will be at the Fox Fine Arts recital hall as part of the festival are Grammy-award winning guitarist Jason Vieux on Jan. 22, and Zuill Bailey and Yullya Gorenman on piano, Jan. 28.

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



CLAUDIA HERNANDEZ / THE PROSPECTOR
Pianist Michael brown plays at the Fox Fine Arts recital hall.

2016-17

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‘Miranda Sings’ is back...you’re welcome

BY LESLIE SARINANA
The Prospector

After a year, Miranda Sings is coming back to the borderland. Colleen Ballinger who created, and plays the character of Miranda Sings, is revisiting El Paso on her tour titled, “Miranda Sings Live... You’re Welcome.” Ballinger was in town last January, on “The Colleen and Josh Show” tour with her then-husband, Joshua Evans of YouTube channel JoshuaDTV.

Ballinger created the widely popular character of Miranda Sings, a strongly confident, yet untalented teen blind to her obvious lack of talent. She developed the character as a joke, mocking arrogant singers who believe they will gain success by posting their videos on YouTube.

Miranda creates videos for her 7.5 million YouTube subscribers. Her channel has no specific theme. She creates tutorials, vlogs, song covers, collaborations and original songs. She does it all, but she doesn’t do it well. Being bad is what she’s good at. She is known for her messy lipstick, large red sweatpants and irritatingly nasally voice. Miranda even has signature catchphrases such as “haters back off” and “juss sayin.”

UTEP student and Miranda fan, Andres Correa, a sophomore biomedical major, attended last year’s show.

“It was actually a really emotional show. Her and her now ex-husband basically revolved the entire show around how they met, so it was really interesting to kind of get the behind the scenes look on their whole love story,” Correa said. “I still can’t believe I was there. There was something special about not having a screen in between.”

Since her last visit to El Paso, Ballinger has only grown more popular and successful. Reflecting on her first successful video, Ballinger told Variety magazine, “I really tried to take advantage of my 15 minutes of fame. And I’ve gotten lucky—those 15 minutes have become several years.”

“
I still can’t believe I was there. There’s something special about not having a screen in between.”
—
- Andres Correa, sophomore biomedical major

Staying true to her word, Ballinger has certainly been making the most



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIRANDA SINGS FACEBOOK PAGE

of her success. She has released a book, “Selp-Helf”, written by Miranda. It is a how-to guide that offers step-by-step lessons by Miranda on just about everything. Everything about the character of Miranda Sings is proof that irritating can be entertaining.

Ballinger has also created a show on Netflix around her character Miranda, called “Haters Back Off.” It premiered on Netflix last October, and has been picked up for a second season. One stand-out cast member from her show is Angela Kinsey, who is best known for her role as Angela Martin on “The Office.” Angela plays Miranda’s awkward and weak mother, Bethany.

She is not the first YouTube star to publish a book or create something on Netflix. Fellow YouTuber Shane Dawson has also published two books and even created a movie, “Not Cool,” which is now on Netflix. With their success, they are paving the path for online stars to cross over into acting, writing or even comedy.

This is Ballinger’s third comedy tour, and the first to be based solely on Miranda. You can catch both, Colleen and Miranda at the Plaza Theatre on Jan. 24. The first season of “Haters Back Off” is also available to stream on Netflix.

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

Tour stops set for the sun city this year

BY ALEJANDRA DE LA CERDA
The Prospector



JAN. 31
Foreigner

Jan. 31, 7 p.m. at the Plaza Theatre
The rock band Foreigner is touring for their 40th-year anniversary. Best known for their hits “Jukebox Hero,” “Hot Blooded” and “I Want to Know What Love Is,” you can catch them at the Plaza Theatre.

FEB. 9
Camila

Feb. 9, 8:00 p.m. at the Plaza Theatre
The Mexican pop duo Camila, which has reached success all over Latin America, is coming back to El Paso to promote their third studio album, “Elypse.”

FEB. 25
Jimmy Eat World

Feb. 25, 7:00 p.m. at Trick Falls
The rock band that gave us the rock classic, “The Middle,” is coming to town to tour their ninth album, “Integrity Blues.” This is their first album in three years.



MARCH 2
Green Day

March 2, 7 p.m. at the El Paso County Coliseum
The punk rock band is embarking on their “Revolution Radio” tour. One of the most popular bands of its generation Green Day is coming to the coliseum this March.



MARCH 4
Maluma

March 4, 8:30 p.m. at the El Paso County Coliseum
On the “Pretty Boy, Dirty Boy” tour, Colombian singer Maluma is one of the most anticipated Latino artists coming to El Paso this spring.

APRIL 26
Chris Tomlin

April 26, 7:00 p.m. at the Don Haskins Center
Grammy winner, Chris Tomlin begins his “Worship Night In America” tour. Tomlin is a contemporary Christian artist kicking off his tour on April 4. He will be featuring artists Big Daddy Weave, Phil Wickham and Zach Williams.



Elton John

MARCH 23

March 2, 7 p.m. at the El Paso County Coliseum
Elton John, who has been one of the best-selling artists for decades is gracing the Sun City this spring. He has sold over 300 million records and is sure to be one of the biggest concerts in town this year.



Guns N’ Roses

SEPT 6

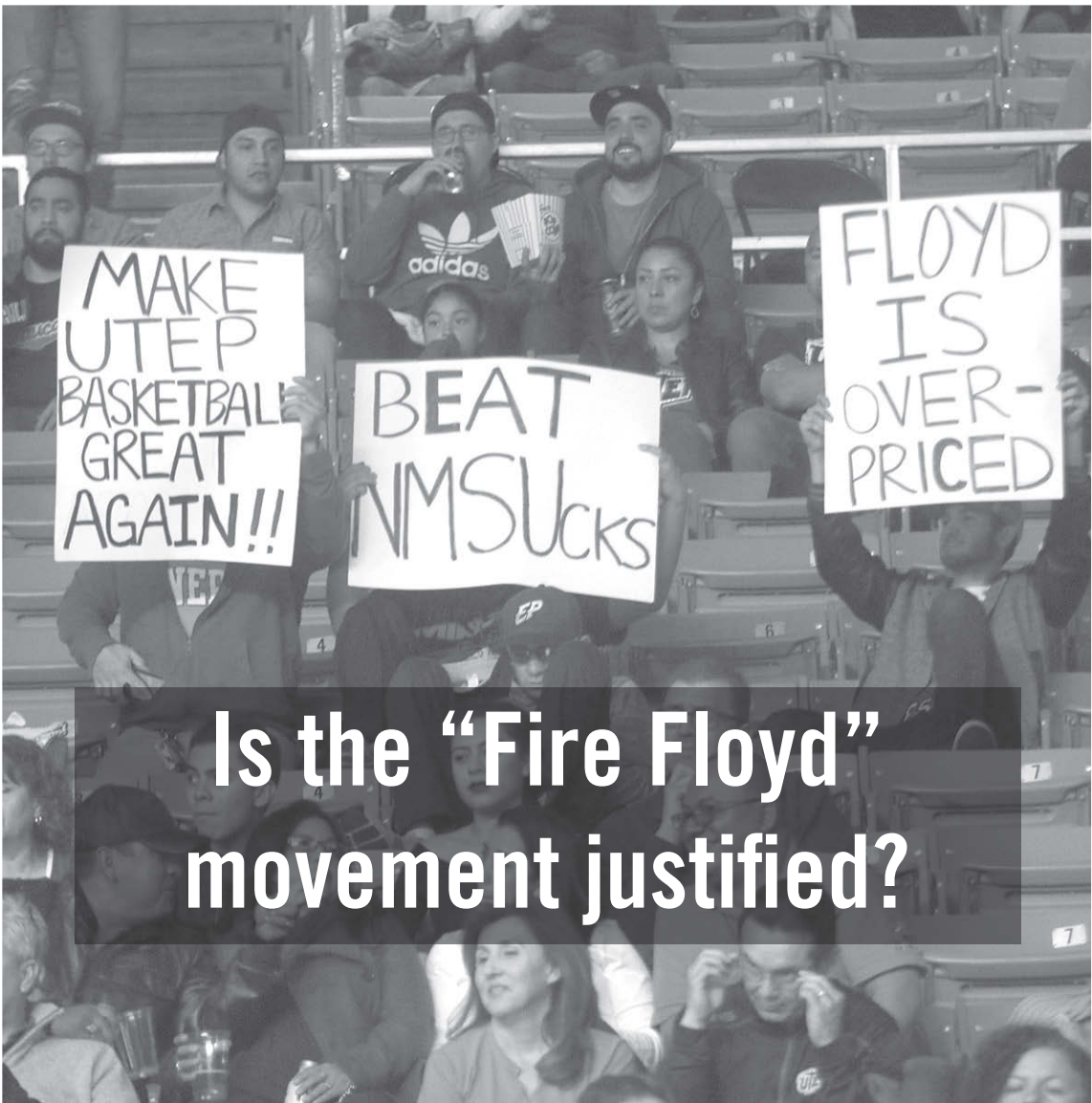
Sept. 6, 7:30 p.m. at the Sun Bowl Stadium
This is definitely the most talked about and anticipated concert to come to El Paso. The famous group Guns N’ Roses have expanded their tour and are returning with original members Slash and Duff McKagan. If you only go to one concert this year, make this the one. Some of his greatest hits include, “Tiny Dancer,” “Benny and the Jets,” “Candle in the Wind” and “Circle of Life.”

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SPORTS

EDITOR
JASON GREEN, 747-7477



Is the “Fire Floyd” movement justified?

FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR

Fans at a recent game hold up signs expressing their displeasure with the state of the UTEP men’s basketball program—and how they feel about New Mexico State.

BY JASON GREEN
The Prospector

A new chapter in UTEP lore was written a few weeks ago when former Miner football head coach Mike Price stormed into the stands to rip a “Fire Floyd” sign out of the hands of UTEP basketball fan Louis Cepeda.

Price had been sitting with UTEP Athletic Director Bob Stull during the game and had apparently had enough of the crowd booing the team’s play—and the sign. The sign, the calls to local sports talk radio stations, boos and a noticeable lack of attendance have all been the by-product of the UTEP men’s basketball team’s poor performance this season.

The team is currently 4-13 and had lost 12 in a row prior to winning two in a row against Florida International (in double-OT) and Florida Atlantic (in OT).

The majority of the fans’ blame has been pointed at one man—head coach Tim Floyd. But is Floyd worthy of firing? Just like the recent presidential election, there are those who see it both ways.

Floyd was named men’s head basketball coach on March 30, 2010. He had been without a job since June 2009, when he resigned from coaching the Southern California men’s basketball team.

In a letter to USC Athletic Director Mike Garrett, Floyd claimed to have lost his joy for basketball, saying in part, “I no longer feel I can offer the level of enthusiasm to my duties that is deserved by the university, my coaching staff, my players, their families, and the support of Southern Cal. I always promised myself and my family that if I ever felt I could no longer give my full enthusiasm to a job, that I should leave it to others who could.”

Following the 2009 season and prior to Floyd’s departure, Floyd’s Trojans had lost Demar DeRozan,

Taj Gibson and Daniel Hackett, who all declared for the NBA draft.

Floyd had also been implicated in an improper benefits scandal involving future NBA star O.J. Mayo.

When several recruits de-committed and current player Marcus Johnson left to go pro, despite clearly not having much chance at an NBA career, Floyd had seemingly had enough. At one function, Floyd told boosters “Kansas has two players who would have been NBA lottery picks, Cole Aldrich and Sheron Collins, and they are returning to school, good for them,” according to Los Angeles Times reporter Chris Foster. “Our guys get an offer from Islamabad and they’re gone.”

Following Floyd’s departure, USC would vacate 21 wins from the 2007-08

season and withdrew from postseason consideration for the 2009-10 season.

Floyd took over a 26-7 UTEP men’s team, which had been ranked as high as 24th in the AP poll and lost in the first round of the NCAA Tournament under head coach Tony Barbee, who left for a job at Auburn following the season.

The 2010-11 season would prove to be Floyd’s best at 25-10, with all of Barbee’s players still on the team (minus power forward Arnett Moultrie who transferred to Mississippi State). Floyd brought in center John Bohannon prior to the season.

The mercurial big man proved to be a steady force in the middle for the next four years and one of only four Floyd

see FLOYD on page 14



FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR

Men’s basketball head coach Tim Floyd is 125-90 in seven years with the UTEP Miners.

Stull defends Floyd during email Q&A

BY JASON GREEN
The Prospector

After presenting the statistics from this article and questions to athletic director Bob Stull, he responded via email in defense of the statistics, the men’s basketball program and coach Tim Floyd.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UTEP COMMUNICATIONS

Q: What do you have to say to the people with the “Fire Floyd” signs at UTEP basketball games this season?

Stull: That is their right. We also had people that had signs that read, “We love Coach Floyd.”

Q: Coach Floyd has been more vocal on the radio with reasons why the team is losing (i.e. McSwiggan’s transfer, Winn leaving, Moore leaving, etc.). Are you ok with these reasons?

Stull: Coach Floyd takes responsibility for his program. We have had unexpected circumstances resulting in the departure of several of our best players the last two years, but coach Floyd is determined to correct the situation.

Q: Is this number of transfers during a seven-year period acceptable? Do you see it as the norm these days?

Stull: Unfortunately the norm! Forty-eight percent of all Division I freshman transfer within the first year and a half—over 875 last year! If a player doesn’t get enough minutes of play, they are advised to transfer so they have a better chance of starting and ultimately a chance for the NBA. Then of course those that feel they are ready to play professionally and decide to enter the draft early like Vince Hunter and Lee Moore.

Q: Is there any reason that you know of that UTEP may be so far ahead of the rest of the league in players transferring away from the school?

Stull: No, except UTEP and El Paso are a long way from home for a lot of our players. If they are not getting playing time, and are unhappy, they usually transfer closer to home so their parents and friends can see them play.

Q: When the gambling scandal happened, was there ever any thought toward a punishment for coach Floyd or the basketball program as a whole?

Stull: Just the opposite. Coaches were publically recognized by the FBI

and the NCAA for their cooperation and aid in eventually convicting a bookie on campus. Usually the FBI tells the coaches that there is a betting problem on the team. Our coaches informed the FBI despite the fact it involved all three of our point guards.

Q: In a recent interview with 600AM, you mentioned that a 20-win season was acceptable for UTEP basketball nowadays. By your standards, does that mean that Floyd will not be living up to his end of the bargain following this season?

Stull: Twenty wins is more than acceptable. Actually in Division I it is very hard to do! Two seasons were 18 and 19 wins. Twenty wins used to always get a team into the NCAA Tournament. He has averaged 20 wins over the last six years.

Q: When you look at other head coaches in their seventh year, coach Floyd does rank ahead of most in winning percentage (0.579), but behind most in conference championships (0) and NCAA Tournament appearances (0). Which is more of a marker for you? Wins, conference championships or NCAA tournament appearances?

Stull: Wins are the most important, having a winning record 124-88 (5 of 6 seasons) going into this year. Only the second year after losing 9 players he had 15-17 record (not counting this year). Conference championships are always the goal. The NCAA tournament has changed the way they do business so no matter how good you are, unless you are in a power five conference, you have to win your conference tournament to get in. Only one team from the “Group of Five” – CUSA, MAC, AAC, MT WEST, SUN BELT, conferences got an at large bid last year. A good example of this was the women last year—they won the conference, won 29 games and ranked as high as no. 20 nationally, and did not make the NCAA!

Q: Salary is always an issue at UTEP. Is that a major reason behind keeping him despite the team’s recent poor performance?

Stull: In CUSA only one coach is paid higher. So this is not an issue.

Q: Other mid-major coaches have less transfers, more conference championships and more NCAA tournament appearances than coach Floyd after seven years at their schools—five, in fact Russell Turner (UC-Irvine), Jason Hooten (Sam Houston), Andrew Toole (Robert Morris), Greg McDermott (Creighton), Leon Rice (Boise State). Does this change your mind in support of coach Floyd at all?

Stull: It is hard to evaluate even these as the level of competition varies. If you look at coach Floyd’s career, he has been to seven NCAA tournaments, twice to Sweet 16 and two to the second round. No one has been welcomed more than coach Floyd. Long time season ticket holders and donors are huge coach Floyd fans. coach Floyd was one of coach Haskin’s favorites and remains a favorite with Mary Haskins and the Haskin’s family.

Q: How much would it cost UTEP to terminate the contract of Coach Floyd?

see STULL on page 15

NFL calls for several Miner football stars



FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR

Tight end Hayden Plinke enters the 2017 NFL draft as a projected third to fifth round pick after scoring eight touchdowns in 2016.

BY MIKE FLORES
The Prospector

UTEP football's first underclassmen of modern-day history, Aaron Jones, declared for the 2017 NFL draft. Jones skipped out on his last year of eligibility to chase his dreams of becoming a professional football player.

Jones leaves the Miners as their all-time leading rusher (4,114 yards) and second all-time rushing touchdown leader (33) in just three years with the program. However, UTEP's star was told that his best bet was to stay in school for his upcoming senior year. But with the connections Jones has established with his agents Leigh Steinberg and Chris Cabbot, along with head coach Sean Kugler, Jones is optimistic about his chances of getting drafted anywhere between the second and fourth round of the draft.

Jones is not the only Miner with hopes of getting their name called on draft night, which starts April 27.

Miner fullback Darrin Laufasa also declared for the 2017 NFL draft after four years under Kugler's care.

Laufasa is a 6-foot-1, 240-pound back with all the tools to contribute to an NFL backfield. In his time with the Miners, Laufasa paved and guided Jones' road to the record books with his timely blocks, ability to create rushing lanes and sure hands. He also rushed for 369 career yards, totaled 153 receiving yards and scored six times with the Miners.

Laufasa was named to the Polynesian College Football player of the year watch list in his senior season. The award recognizes the best Polynesian players around the nation.

Fullbacks were once a dying breed in the NFL, but have recently seen a resur-

gence in the blocking and receiving portions of the game. They are much-needed for football units due to their skills of shedding off lineman and linebackers for their halfbacks to gain positive yardage.

In a widely used position now, Laufasa could be called upon from as early as the fifth round to the seventh round of the NFL draft.

Another offensive weapon the Miners polished for the NFL is the 6-foot-4, 256-pound tight end Hayden Plinke. He should be the highest UTEP player taken off the drafting board this year. Plinke is 24 years old, which could translate to him being the most NFL-ready athlete from the Miners declaring. He has the body build of an ideal tight end in the league.

Tight ends are not only useful for their catching ability, but also for their skill on the blocking end. His big body could match up to the linebackers he will be fac-

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recruits to graduate during his seven-year tenure.

In a recent press conference following the departure of star forward Terry Winn, while announcing the suspension of guard Omega Harris due to lack of class attendance, Floyd said, "I have convictions about why I'm here. These kids are here to get diplomas and they're here to get degrees."

Bohannon—a three-star recruit—is also tied for the highest-rated recruit to attend UTEP for more than one season under Floyd. Much like the recruits who backed out on him at USC in his final years, Floyd has been plagued by the same problems during his time at UTEP.

Although it can be hard to get a true count of the players who have verbally committed and then backed out, there are several high-profile players who have left UTEP "high and dry" so to speak. Isaac Hamilton, a guard from Los Angeles, went so far as to sign a National Letter of Intent to play at UTEP and then changed his mind.

Floyd would not release the five-star recruit—the highest in UTEP history—from his NLI to transfer to USC, to be closer to his ailing grandmother; according to Hamilton. Eventually Hamilton would sit out a year and is currently starring for the UCLA Bruins.

Several other high-profile recruits, including forward Chris Sandifer (four star) and guard Shaquille Carr (three star) were ruled academically ineligible and never played for UTEP.

The 2010-11 Miners went to the NIT and finished tied for second in the

conference. Like the previous season, UTEP exited in the first round of the postseason in 2011. There would be no postseason again until 2013-14, when the Miners were rewarded with a trip to the College Basketball Invitational following a 23-11 season and a fifth-place finish in conference.

During the season, three Miner players were kicked off the team for undisclosed reasons that was later discovered to be betting on basketball games. McKenzie Moore, Jalen Ragland and Justin Crosigle became three of the 20 players during Floyd's seven years to transfer, go pro or be kicked off the team prior to their projected graduation date.

This equates to 47 percent of all players who have signed to play for Tim Floyd at UTEP.

Since Floyd's tenure began, a total of 14 players have transferred away from UTEP. Since 2010-11, 147 players have transferred away from Conference-USA teams. This equates to UTEP being responsible for 10 percent of all transfers on average—from a 12-member league.

As UTEP's performance on the court has continued to disappoint fans this season. Stull saw fit to email members of the Miner Athletic Club defending Floyd—and to a lesser extent, women's basketball head coach Keitha Adams—prior to the recent two-game win streak.

In the email, Stull says that "both coaches have averaged 20 wins a season since they took the helm of the program."

Currently Floyd averages exactly 20 wins per season, with seasons of 15, 18 and 19 wins to go along with this season's four wins. To maintain an average of 20

wins, the Miners would need to win every game from here on out, including the C-USA tournament championship.

"Twenty wins used to be a good barometer for getting a team into the NCAA tournament, but now the only way to guarantee a bid is to win the conference tournament," continued Stull, while lamenting the fact that UTEP is a member of a "group of five" conference, along with the American Athletic, Mid-Atlantic, Mountain West and Sun Belt conferences.

In Floyd's seven years at UTEP, he is 126-90 for a 0.583 winning percentage. His strength of schedule is -0.19, according to sportsreference.com, meaning that in seven years, the overall difficulty of the teams that the Miners have played has been just below average. As stated previously, UTEP has not been to the NCAA Tournament or won the C-USA championship during his tenure.

Other coaches who have been at a "group of five" school for seven years include Tod Kowalczyk at Toledo (MAC), Keith Richard at Louisiana-Monroe (Sun Belt), Bob Marlin at Louisiana-Lafayette (Sun Belt), Jeff Lebo at East Carolina (AAC) and Leon Rice at Boise State (Mountain West).

Only Rice at Boise State has more wins than Floyd with 133. Rice also has one conference championship and two NCAA Tournament appearances, while playing a 2.56 SOS. In his seven years, Rice has only had five players transfer out.

Kowalczyk at Toledo and Marlin at LA-Lafayette have both won one conference championship each, but only Marlin has taken his team to the "Big Dance." Marlin is also closest to Floyd with 119

ing week-in and week-out at the professional level.

Plinke found himself on numerous award lists as a Miner. During his 2015 season, he was rewarded with the John Mackey Midseason watch list and made the Conference USA Honorable Mention. The following season and his final year, Plinke racked up more awards such as the Athlon Sports Preseason All C-USA third team and Dave Campbell's Preseason All-Texas first team.

It was safe to say that Plinke was ex-

“

When my college career comes to an end, I will be ready for the next level. But for now, all I am worried about is UTEP.

”

- Will Hernandez,
UTEP football junior
left guard

pected to have a big senior season and he produced as advertised. In 12 games in 2016, Plinke earned himself a spot on the All C-USA first team after his eight touchdown year—a Miner record. In his two years under Kugler, the standout tight end caught over 400 yards in both campaigns. In a pass-heavy NFL era, Plinke could be a great asset as he was in his time with the Miners.

Expect Plinke's name to be called anywhere from round three to five, after his record-setting year in El Paso.

On the other hand, one Miner who decided to stay for his final year in college is 6-foot-3, 330-pound starting left guard Will Hernandez. He was projected to be drafted first from all the orange and blue players.

Coach Kugler gave Hernandez some insight about how entering the 2018 NFL draft would be beneficial and would gain Hernandez a higher spot in next year's draft. Before Kugler was named the head coach of the Miners, he worked as the Pittsburgh Steelers' offensive line coach—if anyone knows what is best for the o-line, it is Kugler.

El Paso will be getting back their C-USA first teamer, and someone who has not missed a game in his entire career at UTEP, in Hernandez. During Hernandez's junior season, he was honored with ESPN's All C-USA First Team, and he helped Jones rush for a UTEP record in one season (1,773 yards).

Despite the absence of Jones for the 2017-2018 season, Hernandez will be a great building block for the younger and inexperienced halfbacks to grow and flourish. The offensive lineman will look to extend his talents and make his last mark before he hits the draft board next year.

"I want to help my team (UTEP) win a conference championship, I am extremely close with all my teammates and I want us to go out winners," Hernandez said. "Spending my last year learning from Kugler and coach Leftwich will only benefit me. When my college career comes to an end, I will be ready for the next level. But for now, all I am worried about is UTEP."

As the NFL season approaches its end, the offseason will shortly follow. UTEP football will be well represented when the NFL offseason kicks off with the draft. Miner fans could look forward to three names being called, as the athletes will find out their new homes and new teams. The NFL draft will begin Thursday, April 27 and end on Saturday, April 29.

Follow Mike Flores on twitter @MikeyTheReal.



FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR

Sophomore forward Paul Thomas is one of two players out of five left from the 2015-16 recruiting class.

wins. Kowalczyk (-1.61) and Marlin (-2.58) have played statistically far easier schedules.

Out of all five coaches, only Kowalczyk (16) has had more players transfer out than Floyd. In fact, out of all coaches in NCAA Division-I with seven years at one school (21), Toledo's head coach and Oregon's Dana Altman (15) are the only ones with more transfers out than Floyd.

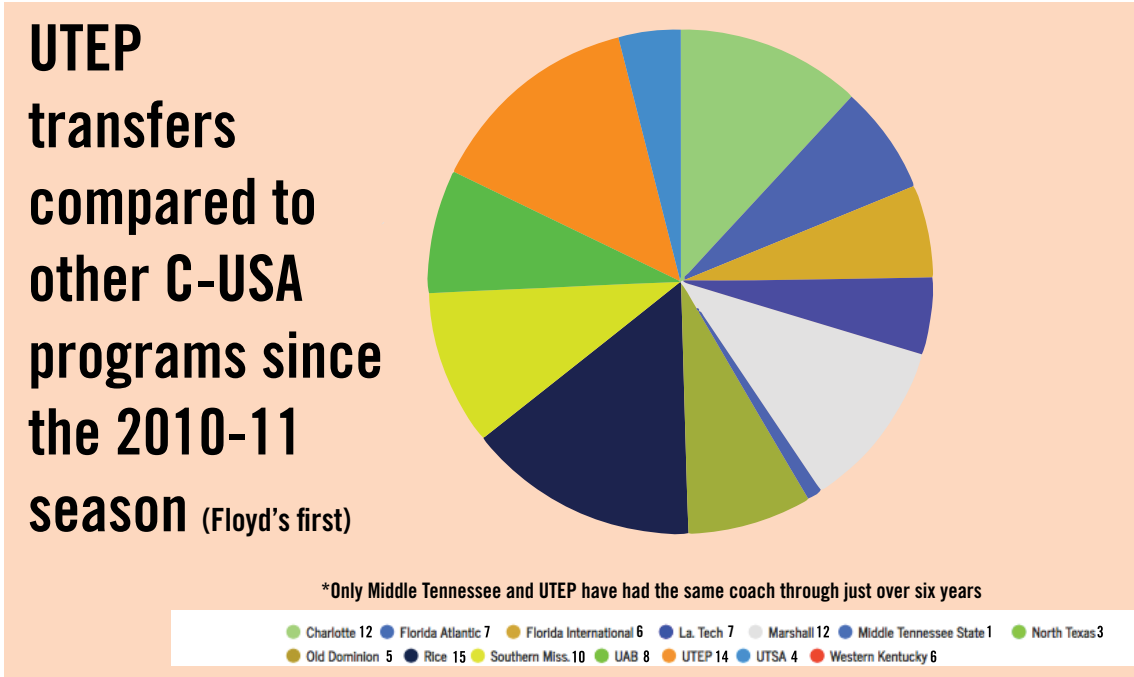
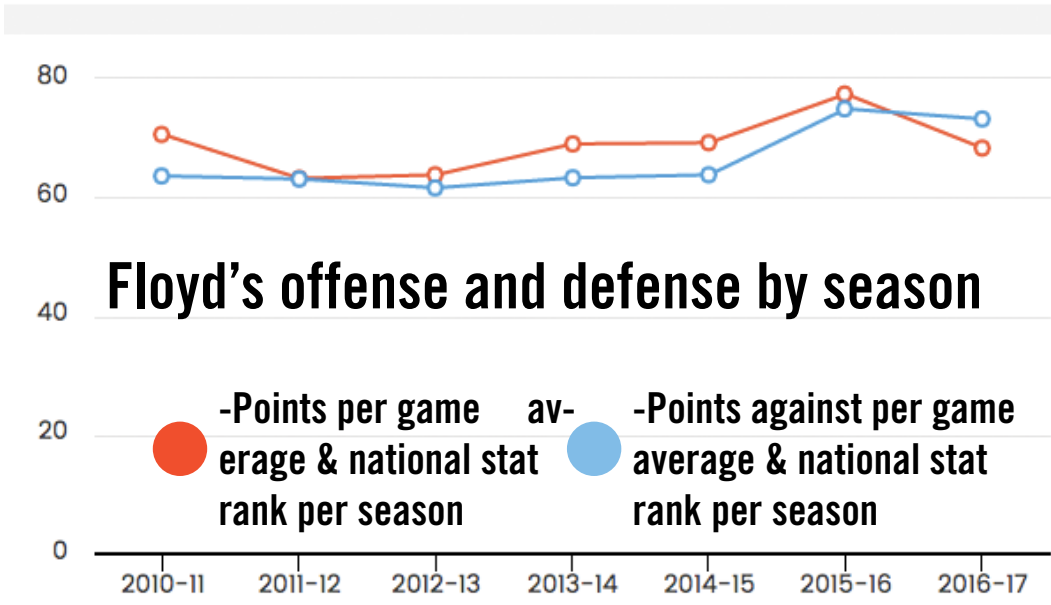
Despite that fact, Kowalczyk has found success and Altman could be considered the most successful of the seven-year head coaches with four NCAA Tournament appearances. Altman is tied with Colorado's Tad Boyle for the NCAA Tournament lead.

Floyd's predecessor, Tony Barbee, was 82-52 despite a 1.74 SOS at UTEP. He took the Miners to the NCAA Tournament and won a conference championship.

Just like the election, votes will continue to be cast in either direction. The facts will continue to be facts, but just like in the election, they have already begun to be used in any way that people need them to be.

However, unlike the election, this decision comes down to only one man—and it appears that maybe he is firmly entrenched.

Follow Jason Green on Twitter @greenevansj.



DESIGNS BY ADRIAN BROADDUS / THE PROSPECTOR

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Stull: No comment

Q: What do you say to the fans who have come out in support of Coach Floyd?

Stull: We thank them for being true UTEP fans and supporting our team and coaches. When things are tough is when we need them! We have a lot of history at UTEP and are recognized as one of the toughest places to play. Coach Floyd and the team are working hard to improve—so let's support

them with the same loud enthusiasm opponents have come to expect in the Haskins center. I have hired three coaches (four counting Coach Adams) who have made it to the NCAA. Those coaches (except Coach Adams) all left for other jobs. Coach Floyd has had opportunities to leave for other jobs but is committed to UTEP. We are fortunate to have a coach who loves El Paso and UTEP.

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