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ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

THE PROSPECTOR

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VOL. 102, NO.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

MAY 12, 2017

THE GRADUATION ISSUE

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DESIGN BY ANA RAMOS / THE PROSPECTOR



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MAY 2, 2017

OPINION

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
MICHAELA ROMÁN, 747-7477

The Spring 2017 Prospector staff wishes you good luck on finals!



THE PROSPECTOR
(From left to right) Top row: Michaela Román, Leslie Sariñana, Claudia Hernandez, Gaby Velasquez, Kathy Flores, Eddie Velazquez, Andres Martinez, Mike Flores, Jeremy Carranco, Isabel Castillo. Front row: Ana Ramos, Claudia Flores, Nina Titovets, Augie Touris, Adrian Broaddus, Rene Delgadillo, Christian Vasquez, Jason Green, Malia Greene. Not shown: Grecia Sanchez, Ashley Muñoz, Jacqueline Razo, Jacobo De La Rosa, Laura Chaidez, Vanessa Guevara, Marcela Luna and Veronica Gonzalez.

The four-year plan Okay with not knowing what comes next

BY LESLIE SARIÑANA
The Prospector



One hundred and twenty—that's how many credit hours you need in order to graduate. Universities don't set a time frame in which they have to be completed. You just need the correct 120 hours completed in order to get a bachelor's degree.

I'm a very organized person, and I like to stick to outlines and rubrics. I've made an outline of my college career and that involves me graduating in four years. I have to be realistic and open to the possibility of things not going according to plan. But why wouldn't they? I've mapped out alternative school plans in case the original one doesn't work, and they all have me graduating in four years, eight semesters, not one more.

From the beginning of my collegiate career, I've always taken more than what is considered full time every semester so that I can complete all of my degree credit requirements in under four years. As much as I love school, I don't want to prolong my time here.

I refuse to let college be the place I peak. Staying longer than four years will make it feel like that.

I'm only half way there and I'm already itching to be out in the field reporting full time for a living. Getting a degree just isn't enough, you need to have a whole background of experience in order to even be considered for a job. Being able to get through school quicker leaves room for trying to accumulate that experience in case I couldn't do so while in school.

I don't want to spend five years at school and possibly still have to wait another year until I'm hired. It seems as though I'll never get there. Run, don't walk—that's my mentality when it comes to graduating. I want to be able to get my degree as soon as possible so I can start pursuing my career at a more serious level.

Being in school for only four years is also cheaper. Sure, I'm paying for the same amount of courses, but if I'm in school longer, I will spend more money on supplies, food, gas, etc.

Graduating in under four years is not unrealistic, just a bit more difficult. I have my plan and I don't plan to derail from it. Anyone who doesn't believe me can ask me about my graduate status in two years.

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

BY ARMANDO ZAMORA
The Prospector



As graduation approaches, the questions that many people keep asking me are, "What are you doing after you graduate?" and "Oh my God, are you excited?" I can answer the second question with, "yes!" After six years of classes, I'm excited to graduate. My answer to the first question is, I have no idea. I've heard the same response from many other students who are about to graduate as well; we all just work our asses off every day and hope for the best.

This past winter break, while talking about internships with Michaela, she

suggested applying for an internship as a videographer for The Prospector. I decided it was a great idea and gave it a shot. Before interning for The Prospector, I never thought about becoming a journalist. I saw myself more as a cinematographer or producer of films. Working here made me change my mind about that, and now I am gaining interest in visually telling other peoples' stories through video. This past semester, I met some pretty interesting people who had some unique stories to tell—artists who want to share their music and students sharing their opinions.

Over these past few months, I've made some new friends here at The Prospector who are also like me, they are figuring out what their next chapter in life will be. We all have similar interests and have a passion for news. The newsroom definitely taught me many things, and gave me more experience as a journalist

and even helped me meet and network with people with similar interests.

As my last days of being a digital media production student come to an end, I look back and remember all those long nights studying or finishing editing a video at 3 a.m. only to have to wait one more hour while it renders. All these long nights made me hate school at times and wish for it to all be over. This wish has finally come true, only to start yet again from the beginning and now focus on what new challenge I take on—whatever that may be.

Now that I am finally done with school, I look toward my future with excitement, bringing with me many anecdotes, a few added pounds, but most importantly—more knowledge in what I love to do. As long as I have my DSLR, I should be good.

THE PROSPECTOR

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Sunny/Breezy	Sunny/ Breezy	Sunny/ Breezy	Partly Cloudy Windy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
0% Chance for Rain	0% Chance for Rain	0% Chance for Rain	0% Chance for Rain	10% Chance for Rain	20% Chance for Rain	0% Chance for Rain

2017 Spring Commencement schedule

All ceremonies will take place May 13
at the Don Haskins Center.

Morning Ceremony - 9 a.m.
College of Liberal Arts

Afternoon Ceremony - 2 p.m.

**College of Business
Administration
College of Education
School of Nursing**

Evening Ceremony - 7 p.m.
College of Engineering
College of Health Sciences
College of Science

If you're walking you should arrive at Memorial Gym at least an hour prior to the ceremony. Upon arriving have your green screen Commencement portrait taken in Memorial Gym. Leave all personal items (backpacks, mobile devices, purses, coats, etc) at home or in your automobile.

Tips for graduates:

- Make appropriate plans for the care of your children, since there will not be child care provided by the university.
- Wear comfortable shoes.
- Remain for the duration of the ceremony out of courtesy for your fellow graduates.

Tips for grad students provided by University Relations.

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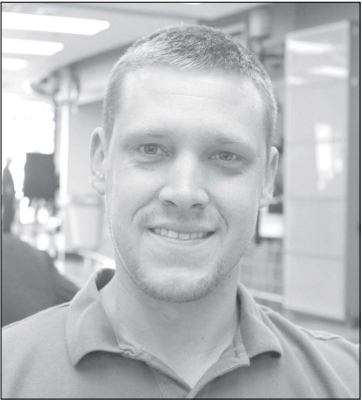
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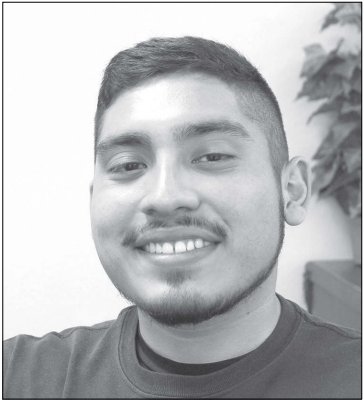
QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Is there anything you regret not doing before graduation?

CLAUDIA HERNADDEZ, DREW RIOS, NINA TITOVETS, GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR



TRAVIS BEVIS
Senior English education major
“If I could go back and go to college all over again, I would get more involved in the extracurricular stuff.”



RAFAEL SANCHEZ
Senior biology major
“I had a really good time in college, but I think I would’ve liked to study abroad.”



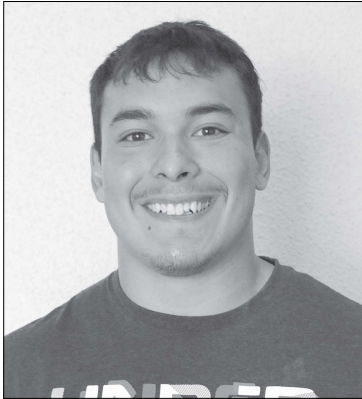
RACHEL CASTILLO
Senior biological sciences major
“I’ve enjoyed my entire experience here at UTEP. I’ve been involved in student organizations and activities across campus. I’ve loved it.”



MORGAN CHAMBERS
Senior history major
“I regret not being more involved with campus events, like going to the Minerpalooza and stuff like that.”



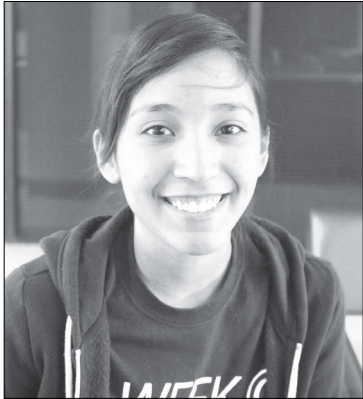
MICHAEL ELLIS
Senior computer science major
“I wish I had gone out and done more things related to my major such as hackathons, which are events where you solve and create coding.”



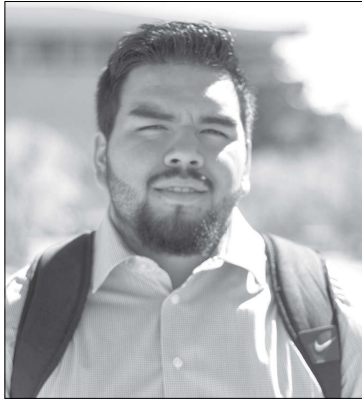
ELIJAH PERALES
Senior kinesiology major
“No, I took part in everything I could and wanted to.”



DALIA HERNANDEZ
Senior education major
“To have a higher GPA, and not pile on responsibilities for myself.”



CLAUDIA DIAZ
Senior interdisciplinary studies major
“I regret not being more involved in school in regards to being part of more organizations and doing more volunteer work.”



CAMILO SOLIS
Senior business major
“The thing I regret not doing would probably be not knowing what I wanted to do when I started here.”



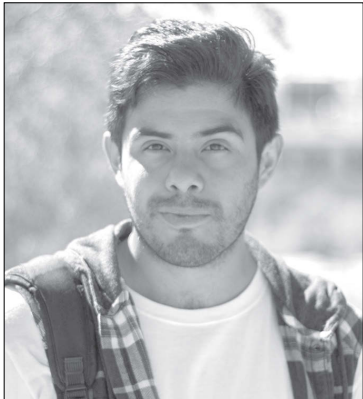
AMANDA SAENZ
Senior linguistics major
“I regret not attending more school events and not being more active in class.”



ALAN VENTURA
Senior history major
“The only thing I regret is not being as vocal in class. As a history major we have a lot of opportunities to get into a discussion and I tend to be the shy student who doesn’t voice their opinion.”



ALEJANDRO MARQUEZ
Senior mechanical engineering major
“I would say I don’t really regret anything, I had the opportunity to study abroad, make lots of friends and attend various school events.”



ALFONSO BARRAZA
Senior music major
“Not really, I feel like I did all the things I wanted to do, so I don’t really regret anything.”



PRISCILLA DE LOS SANTOS
Senior electrical engineering major
“Not getting into organizations since my freshman year and not looking as much into internships. I’m doing better now, but I wish I would had those two extra years to do it.”



CARLOS LOPEZ
Senior electrical engineering major
“Not getting into organizations and participating in school activities because I know that they offer a lot and I didn’t get a full college experience.”



ALEXA BAIN
Senior business marketing major
“When I was an underclassman, I didn’t take advantage of going to my teacher’s office hours and asking them questions if I had any, or just letting them know that I was invested in my work, making sure I was showing my face.”



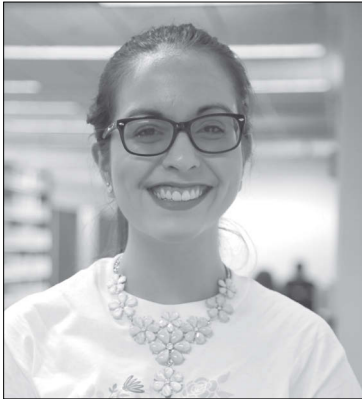
CARLOS VASQUEZ
Senior anthropology major
“I gave the same regrets as in high school, wish I actually wasn’t so lazy and actually study a little bit more.”



MARIANA GALLEGOS
Senior pre-pharmacy major
“Getting more involved in research, there’s a lot of opportunities on campus and I haven’t really participated in that.”



OMAR ALI
Senior mechanical engineering major
“Not getting involved in a lot of extra curricular activities that have to do with my major, that’s one of my biggest regrets.”



SONIA CARDENAS
Senior biology major
“What I regret as a student was that I didn’t get involved in student government.”

I got 99 problems, but a degree ain't one

BY CHRISTIAN VASQUEZ
The Prospector



There's a lot of pressure to have specific accomplishments by a certain age, whether they're from society or from yourself—to know who you are by 18 and what life-long career is lined-up by 21.

I graduated from high school at 17 years old and I thought I was set. I thought I knew what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. The idea of not having to worry about where I will be in life was like a weight off of my mind. But, just one semester in, the idea of knowing the outline of my life drew all the fun out of it. I'm not normally an anxious person, but that got me anxious. What if I made the wrong decision? What if I'm 30, doing my job and

am absolutely miserable? Half-way through the semester I wasn't enjoying my classes so I went to my adviser to change my major from art to undecided.

I was scared that I would hate my life because of the decisions I made then. That was because I was making decisions based off the formula handed to me at birth; school, career, marriage, children, retirement, social security, death.

Later that year, much to the chagrin of my family, I stopped going to school. I'm stubborn, and I don't like doing things I don't like doing. People would continuously ask me, "when are you going to school again?" "When I feel like it," I would respond. I wasn't being snarky, I meant it. When I felt like going to school, I would go.

So every other semester I would go to community college and sign up for a couple of classes that interested me. The classes that stayed interesting I attended and got an A, but the

ones that I didn't like I just stopped going to. I wasn't going to EPCC to get my associate's degree and transfer to UTEP, I was going just to learn and have fun. But I had too much fun and was told I was reaching the maximum amount of credits someone can take for that degree. Okay, no worries. I stopped going. Did something else, had fun again.

I wanted to write, and I wanted to get paid to write. So I decided to become a journalist. Rather than going through the blog-to-fame route, I came to UTEP and applied at The Prospector. It's fun. I write, meet new people and take classes I think are interesting. Some of the required classes are less interesting, but that's okay.

If journalism doesn't work out, I would like to work at a library for a while and catch up on all the reading I've missed out because I've been reading textbooks. But if I find a job in journalism somewhere fun, I'll probably quit school, accept

the job and finish my degree somewhere down the road. Or maybe not. Who knows? Who cares? I'll let future me decide. He seems like the person to make that decision, not present me.

Some would call me irresponsible, and some have. But I've found that I'm a lot happier when I just follow my own sense of curiosity and wonder. Planning a life out is easy, formulaic and, for me, boring. I don't even like to plan trips. I won't go somewhere blindfolded, I'll learn enough to feel like I have a general idea about the place. But when I get there I won't follow an itinerary. I don't want my life to be a listicle. I don't want to go somewhere and think, "Yes, this is exactly what the article told me it was like."

So I don't mind that it's taken me so long to get my degree. It bothers other people, and I've seen more than one shocked face when I tell them my age. But I don't regret it and would do it all over again if giv-

en the chance. I like that I'm always surprised where I end up. I like that every year I would not have guessed that I am where I am and I'm doing whatever it is I'm doing.

There's a phrase that gets used throughout everyone's formal education. They'll say things like "you know out there in the real world they won't do this or that." As if school is apart from the "real world." Please tell my bills that I cannot pay them, as I am currently not in the real world. It makes school seem like a separate part of life that you have to endure in order to get out there and experience "real life." School is just another part of life, and if you need it to get somewhere else, then don't treat it like a bad stretch of road that you want to speed through.

Life is just one long road anyways. You might as well learn to enjoy it.

Follow Christian Vasquez on Twitter @chrismvasq

UPCOMING EVENTS



UP ALL NIGHT AT THE UNION

The traditional midnight breakfast is back to help students get through an all-nighter studying for finals with a free meal. The Office of Student Life is hosting a night of activities starting at 9 p.m. on Tuesday, May 9, at the Union East building.

MINER NIGHT

The Student Government Association is hosting an open mic, poetry slam, karaoke, game and free food night on Wednesday, May 3, at Boquillas Hall in Miner Canyon. The event is a break before finals week so students can enjoy themselves and interact with other students and those who live on campus. Admission is free.

RESCUE MISSION OF EL PASO VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

If you would like to do community service or want to know about what it's like to be a volunteer you can attend the Rescue Mission orientation Sunday, May 7, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.. The non-profit helps those in need by providing them with meals, a place to stay and job opportunities.

ANNUAL JURIED UTEP STUDENT ART EXHIBITION

The opening reception for this year's annual Juried UTEP Student Art Exhibit will take place Friday, May 5, at the Rubin Center. Overall Best of Show will be awarded \$750 and best life drawing or painting will also be awarded \$750.

AN ARABIAN NIGHT AT EL PASO

The Arab Student Association and Layali Al Sham will be hosting a night of Middle Eastern food, music, henna drawings, raffles and games on Saturday, May 20, from 7 to 11 p.m. at La Casita De Yommy, located at 645 Wallenberg Dr. Tickets are \$22 for adults, \$16 for kids up to age 12 and free for kids under 3.

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UTEP Professor cautions against new DHS hirings



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

BY CHRISTIAN VASQUEZ
The Prospector

While the Department of Homeland Security prepares to hire 15,000 new officers for Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection, Josiah Heyman, director of the Center for Inter-American and Border Studies and professor of anthropology, cautions that dramatic systematic reform is necessary to avoid corruption and abuse that has marred the last surge of hiring.

The American Immigration Council released a report on April 24 by Heyman titled “Why Caution is Needed Before Hiring Additional Border Patrol Agents and ICE Officers.”

Earlier this year, through two executive orders, President Trump called for an increase of Customs and Border Patrol officers by 5,000 and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents by 10,000.

In the report, Heyman gives an easy to digest account of the increase in agents that corresponds with an increase of abuse and corruption. From 1999 to 2016, Border Patrol expanded from 4,297 agents to 19,828, and between 2006 and 2009, the department nearly doubled. Consequently, arrests of Border Patrol employees for civil rights violations, misconduct and off-duty crimes had a 44 percent increase from 2007 and 2012, according to the Associated Press.

The pattern of abuses by both CBP and ICE has been well documented. In a 2013 survey of 1,095 deported Mexicans by the Immigration Policy Center, which Heyman was one of three authors, found that 11 percent reported physical abuse and 23 percent reported verbal abuses by U.S. authorities. While ICE only made up for 11 percent of both physical and

verbal abuse, CBP made up 67 percent and 75 percent, respectively.

The ACLU of New Mexico Regional Center for Border Rights, and ACLU of Texas, alongside the Southern Border Communities Coalition, filed an administrative complaint to CBP on behalf of 13 individuals, who upon crossing from Mexico into the United States at ports of entry, were subjected to verbal and physical abuse, including an 11-year-old boy who got a hairline fracture of his arm.

Heyman points out that a 2011 study of the CBP workforce by the Homeland Security Studies and Analysis Institute found that there existed a “code of silence—an unwritten rule not to report another colleague’s errors, misconducts or crimes.”

James Tomscheck, chief of internal affairs at CBP until he was ousted in June of 2014, told the Center for Investigative Reporting that Border Patrol suffers from “institutional narcissism,” with a “self-identity of a paramilitary border security force and not that of a law enforcement organization.”

Heyman argues that while CBP is discussed more than ICE, the latter has the same systematic problems of abuse since ICE regularly recruits from CBP. The New York Times reported that ICE agents and contract guards, who are responsible for detaining and deporting undocumented immigrants, have been “arrested and charged with beating people, smuggling drugs into detention centers, having sex with detainees and accepting bribes.”

Much of the issues of corruption and abuse of power can be partly attributed toward inadequate hiring methods, Heyman argues.

Heyman gives the example of Border Patrol agent Justin Tackett in San Diego, who shot and killed U.S. citizen Valerie Tachiquin, but did not report the incident until almost a week later. Tackett pre

see DHS on page A16

GRADUATES COME IN ALL SHAPES AND COLORS BUT WE ALL SHARE THE SAME UTEP PRIDE!




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Spring 2017

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Alberto Bosquez
Michael James Castañeda
Mario Alberto Cazares Dominguez
Martin Chavarin Jr
Pablo Cobos
Alejandra Escajeda
Melissa I. Escalante
Armando Esquivel
Hector Javier Gomez
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Pablo Jaurrieta Baca
Lindsey Nicole Larson
Sofia A. Martin
Robert Joseph Mendez
Mariana Mercado Prieto
Catherine Naddour
Ivan Mauricio Ramirez
Jesus Mario Rivera Jr
Tyler Michael Solem
Zahid Sotelo
Marc C. Tarango
Joshua Tavarez
David G. Valenzuela
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Paola Villescás
Paloma Zamarripa

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sario Elizabeth Garcia
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Luis David Grajeda
Paulina Andrea Guerrero
Pablo Roberto Guevara
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David Andrew Henderson
Daniel Hernandez
Jaime Eduardo Hernandez
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Gabriela Herrera
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Alonso Orea Amador
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Vamsi Krishna Pinnamaneni
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Anna Marie Goodwin
Jerome Lamarr Harris
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Congratulations

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- Stephen Hawking

UTEP's 2017 top 10 seniors



GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

(From left to right) Raudel Avila, Caitlin Harmon, Eden Klein, Lizette Gutierrez, Ryan Saenz, Ilana Gomez, Kimberly Gonzalez, Samuel Alvidrez, Mayra Rodarte and Andrea Norte.

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS AND RENE DELGADILLO

The Prospector



Mayra Rodarte- theater

Rodarte was an officer in the liberal arts honors program and is among one of the first liberal arts ambassadors that UTEP has had. She interned with Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center, where she was able to help low-income immigrant receive legal aid.

“I’m leaving theater and I will be going into public administration to help the community and El Paso, which is something I learned while being an undergrad,” Rodarte said. “Through my internship and my professors, I realized it’s our job to make the world a better place and I want to contribute the best I can.”



Lizette Gutierrez - biological sciences

Gutierrez was part of the Medical Professions Organization and the A-Prime Time organization at UTEP. She was also part of a church program where she helped high school students.

“I did a project with La Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey and essentially I was a mentor and tutor to at-risk children, and our goal was to get those students to graduate from high school,” Gutierrez said.

Gutierrez is still waiting for a response from a medical school, but despite the wait, Gutierrez said she knows what she would like to do in the future.

“My plan in the future is to become a traveling physician, I want to help people in developing countries,” Gutierrez said.



Eden Klein – economics

Although her time at UTEP was significantly shorter than most, Klein made the most out of her UTEP experience. Now at only 19 years old, Klein entered college with over 60 credits from her early college high school. She was a part of various organizations such as the Law School Preparatory Institute, where she actively pursued her dream of getting into law school.

In the fall Klein will attend the University of Texas at Austin’s law school and plans to one day be a public defender.

“I’m very excited to receive this award,” Klein said. “I’ve only been at UTEP for two years, and UTEP offered a lot of opportunities for me and I’m very grateful for it. I’m only 19 and I believe that all the experiences here have helped me a lot.”



Caitlin Harmon – biological sciences

Harmon did almost everything a pre-med student could do during her four-year tenure at UTEP. She was selected to participate in the A Prime Time program, which prepares medical school hopefuls, and she participated in lab research at UTEP. During the summer of 2016, Harmon interned at MD Anderson Cancer Center, where she shadowed doctors and spent the summer learning new cancer research.

She plans on studying for the MCAT during the next year and then hopes to attend a top medical school.

“I am humbly honored and blessed to be chosen as a Top 10 Senior. We are painted as the image of UTEP’s finest students, where it’s unequivocal that we continuously represent in its highest honor. I couldn’t have done it without my friends and family,” Harmon said.



Ryan Saenz- biological sciences

Saenz was a member of UTEP’s Medical Professions Organization, where he participated in various projects and community service events. He also received two scholarships from the Hospitals of Providence and a scholarship from the Hispanic Scholarship Fund. Saenz was a part of the cross country team during his first semester, but he decided to quit the sport to become a better doctoral applicant.

Saenz said that as he enrolled at UTEP, one of his goals was to make his parents proud.

“I wouldn’t be here without my family, we’ve gone through a lot in the last few years, financially. This is a reflection of all the hard work we’ve done as a family,” Saenz said.



Samuel Alvidrez - finance

Alvidrez was on the Dean’s List during most of his time at UTEP, and was named to Who’s Who, Men and Women of Mines as well as two internships in Texas and New York. Although he had a successful academic career, Alvidrez plans to pursue his lifelong dream of becoming a professional soccer player after he graduates. If that doesn’t work out, however, he plans to become a business analyst for a major company.

“It means a lot to receive this award; it’s one of the greatest honors UTEP offers,” Alvidrez said. “My advice for someone would be to find a true passion and work towards it every day.”



Andrea Norte – English & American literature

Throughout her years as a Miner, Norte had a goal of becoming more involved through extra curricular activities while maintaining a strong GPA. She actively participated in organizations such as Alpha Sigma Alpha, Chicano Law Study, Liberal Arts Honors Program and was a SGA collegiate senator for Liberal Arts.

“This feels surreal,” Norte said. “I actually attended (the Top 10 Seniors banquet) as a sophomore in Miner Ambassadors. I remembered all the speeches and I wanted to work towards being one of them someday.”

Norte said she first chose to go to college in Dallas before attending UTEP.

“When I first came to UTEP, I didn’t want to come. I left to Dallas for school and then I came back and gave UTEP a shot. I started doing well in school, joined leadership clubs and organizations—it went on from there,” Norte said. “I had a humbling experience that I was wrong about UTEP.”



Raudel Avila- mechanical engineering

Avila said that being a Top 10 Senior is not just about grades, he applied because he dedicated a majority of his time to doing research at UTEP. Avila has published several conference papers and is currently writing a journal article. Some of his work has been presented in Japan and India.

“I’m very thankful with UTEP, this school gave me so many things,” Avila said. “I received honorable mention by the National Science Foundation, I also got a Walter P. Murphy Fellowship for Northwestern University for incoming doctoral students and a national scholarship from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.”



Ilana Gomez – philosophy

Carrying with her a storied academic career of prospering in various fields, Gomez is now at the end of her collegiate career and has high hopes for the future. She was actively involved with SGA and participated in internships with the UT Archer Fellowship, state Senator Jose Rodriguez and Congressman Beto O’Rourke.

Gomez plans to study for the LSAT through the next year and hopes to attend law school in the fall of 2018. When asked about her school of preference, Gomez said she is striving for Harvard Law.

“Words can’t explain how humbled I am to receive this award,” Gomez said. “I couldn’t have done it without UTEP—all my professors, friends and family who supported me through this.”



Kimberly Gonzalez — forensic biology

Gonzalez has been on UTEP’s Dean’s List throughout her time at UTEP, and she received a national scholarship from the International Association for Identification, the largest and oldest Forensics organization in the world. Besides being a member of a student organization, Gonzalez took the initiative to become the treasurer of the National Society of Collegiate Students chapter at UTEP, while being a peer leader in UTEP’s entering student program. Just a few days before graduation, Gonzalez said she found her future educational path.

“I just got word that I got accepted to my master’s program at UNC Health Science Center and I will be attending UNC for the next two years,” Gonzalez said.

OUR VIEW

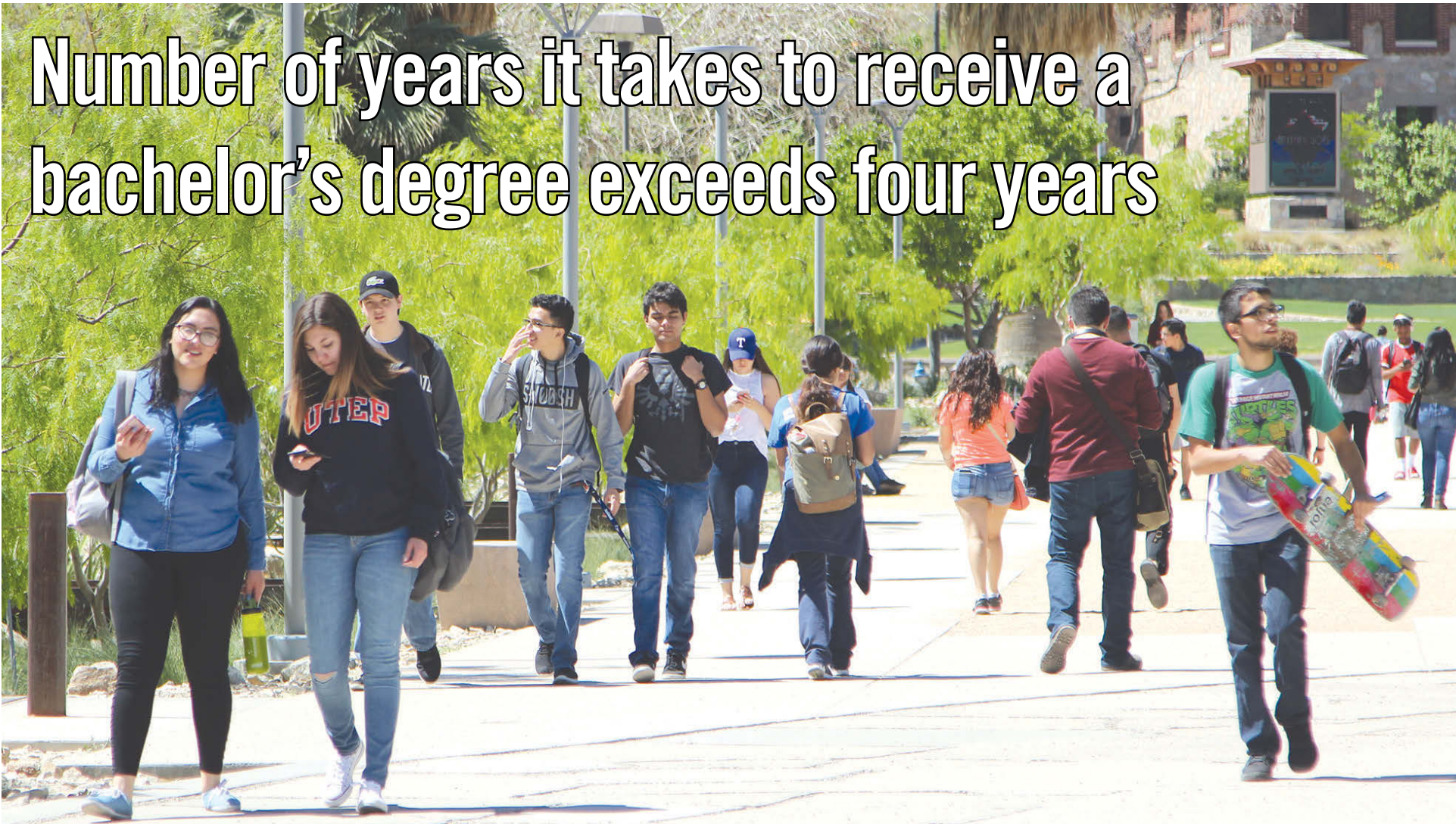
PHOTO EDITOR
GABY VELASQUEZ, 747-7477

Spring was full of protests on the border



GABY VELASQUEZ, CHRSTIAN VASQUEZ ,MICHAELA ROMÁN / THE PROSPECTOR

1. 50 demonstrators locked arms across the Paso del Norte International Bridge in protest of President Trump's proposed border wall on Sunday, Feb. 12. 2. Governor Gregg Abbott's visit to El Paso for the El Paso Republican Party's Lincoln Day Dinner fundraiser drew approximately 150 protestors on Saturday, Feb. 18, outside the Blackstone Event Center. 3. Thousands marched from Armijo Park to San Jacinto Plaza in downtown El Paso in the Women's March on the Border. 4. On March 11, UTEP students, staff faculty and the El Paso Community came together at Centennial Plaza in honor of Sirinivas Kuchibhotla, who was shot and killed as a result of hate crime. UTEP students and faculty quietly walked from the Mike Loya Academic Services Building holding signs against hate crimes. 5. On April 27, as part of Earth Day week, demonstrators marched the streets of downtown El Paso in a science march for climate change awareness.



It takes an average of 12 years to recoup the cost of getting a bachelor's degree.

FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR



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BY EDDIE VELAZQUEZ
The Prospector

Traditionally, universities have set a standard for a four-year graduation time frame. However, the price of college, parental pressure and a cutthroat job market are some of the factors that may influence a student's graduation plan.

According to UTEP's Center for Institutional Evaluation, Research and Planning (CIERP) in their Common Data Set for the 2014-2015 school year, only 251 (12.18 percent) students out of a cohort of 2,060 finished their respective degree programs within the four-year range—that statistic was taken from a fall 2008 sample set.

Jose Perez, sophomore civil engineering major, said the average graduation expectancy for a student in his major is five years. However, external pressure from his family is what pushed him to pursue an earlier graduation date.

"Being the first from my family to go to a university, it's a very big deal to them (parents), and being a big brother, I am also supposed to set a perfect academic example," Perez said. "They constantly ask if I am going to graduate in four years and why not, yet they also expect me to work full time."

Another pressing factor for Perez has been advisors and faculty members.

"The university also focuses on getting the students out of here as fast as possible," Perez said. "I constantly get asked by my advisor or professors why I am not graduating in four years."

For junior biological sciences major, Evelyn Chavez, the increasing tuition rates are a concerning factor that influences the time it takes to graduate.

"I feel as though if I don't graduate on time, I am going to start slacking off and start losing more interest and money," Chavez said.

According to CNN Money, the College Board reported that it takes an average of 12 years to recoup the cost of getting a bachelor's degree.

Additionally, student readiness is important in the job market to match the cost of university.

"I do not feel like I will be prepared at the end of my degree," Chavez said. "I feel like the teachers pass more students than the ones that are actually ready."

According to a study by CIERP, students from the graduating class of fall 2015 were surveyed—39 percent out of 3,181 students responded—and 60 percent had their sights set on entering the workforce within a year of having graduated, followed by 25 percent who would want to pursue a post-graduate education.

PolicyMic reported on a recent analysis that looked at 1,248 four-year colleges and universities—including Ivy league institutions—across the country. The study showed 28 percent of those four-year schools offered a negative return on investment (ROI), putting more pressure on students during the college application process.


The CIERP study also shows that from an entering cohort of 2,060 freshmen students in 2008, only 251 or 12.5 percent had graduated in four years. Of that cohort, 788 or 38 percent had graduated within six years.

"I wanted to graduate in four years, but realistically I knew it was going to be around five and a half," Perez said.

Follow Eddie Velazquez on Twitter @ezvelazquez


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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.




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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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Deseche correctamente los residuos peligrosos, pesticidas, y fertilizantes. Llama al departamento EH&S en UTEP y agendar fecha para recoger los desperdicios.




Report illegal dumping in storm drains, culverts, or arroyos to UTEP EH&S. Reporte el veritado ilegal de residuos en los drenajes o arroyos al departamento EH&S en UTEP



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SGA host El Paso mayor candidates on campus



GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR



This Saturday, May 6, the City’s regular election will be held. Office for mayor and City Council representative spots for districts 2, 3, 4 and 7 will be open. On Monday, May 1, five of the mayoral candidates spoke at a town hall hosted by SGA at the Tomás Rivera Conference Center in Union East. Elisa Morales, Jaime Perez, Jorge Artalejo, Charlie Stapler and Dee Margo answered questions from students. The candidates answered questions from students in the audience such as how they’ll protect tax payer money, what they think of solar panels and how they plan on getting youth involved. Dee Margo won the student poll where they anonymously picked who they would vote for at the end of the night.

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The best and worst top 10 jobs of 2017

A recent report by CareerCast, a database for job industries, found the worst and best jobs of 2017. The study looked at 200 jobs and broke down key metrics of growth outlook, income, environmental conditions and stress. The study also says the worst jobs are still great for those who can work under stressful and dangerous environments.

WORST JOBS

- 10. **Taxi Driver**-Salary: \$23,510 expected job growth: 13 percent
- 9. **Retail salesperson**-Salary: \$22,040 expected job growth: 7 percent
- 8. **Firefighter**-Salary: \$46,870 expected job growth: 5 percent
- 7. **Advertising salesperson**-Salary: \$48,490 expected job growth: -3 percent
- 6. **DJ**-Salary: \$30,080 expected job growth: -11 percent
- 5. **Pest control worker**-Salary: \$32,160 expected job growth: -1 percent
- 4. **Enlisted military personnel**-Salary: \$27,936 expected job growth: N/A
- 3. **Logger**-Salary: \$36,210 expected job growth: -4 percent
- 2. **Broadcaster**-Salary: \$37,720 expected job growth: -13 percent
- 1. **Newspaper reporter**-Salary: \$36,360 expected job growth: -9 percent

BEST JOBS

- 10. **Speech pathologist**-Salary: \$73,410 expected job growth: 21 percent
- 9. **Occupational therapist**-Salary: \$80,150 expected job growth: 27 percent
- 8. **Software engineer**-Salary: \$100,690 expected job growth: 17 percent
- 7. **Mathematician**-Salary: \$111,100 expected job growth: 21 percent
- 6. **University professor**-Salary: \$72,470 expected job growth: 13 percent
- 5. **Data scientist**-Salary: \$111,267 expected job growth: 16 percent
- 4. **Information security analyst**-Salary: \$90,120 expected job growth: 18 percent
- 3. **Operations research analyst**-Salary: \$78,630 expected job growth: 30 percent
- 2. **Medical services manager**-Salary: \$94,500 expected job growth: 17 percent
- 1. **Statistician**-Salary: \$80,110 expected job growth: 34 percent



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DAYLUTA MEANS KINDNESS ★ YUNG JUNG ★ EDDY BOY ★ TROST HOUSE ★ FRYTHM ★ MIKEY CLOUD
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DHS from page A16

viously resigned from the county sheriff's office after facing a termination notice that labeled him unfit for the job, citing "notice cited "unprofessional conduct, dishonesty, violation of or refusal to obey reasonable regulations, insubordination, violation of rules, incompetence and failure to follow proper procedures of arrest..." Heyman writes, "Yet in admitting him as an agent, the Border Patrol either failed to obtain this information or was aware, but ignored it anyway."

Failure to conduct basic background checks has also allowed criminal organizations to infiltrate CBP. In a Texas Observer exposé, they revealed that this was largely due to the post-9/11 creation of the Department of Homeland Security, which merged 22 agencies, including border patrol, and left roughly 200 internal affairs investigators responsible for over 220,000 employees. Agents, who were suspected of being paid by cartels, went uninvestigated, and the DHS Office of Inspector General, which was tasked with rooting out corruption of the largest law enforcement agency in the country, became a "black hole of bureaucracy."

Heyman cites the Homeland Security Advisory Council, which reports that, "the true levels of corruption within CBP are not known, nor is there an evaluation based on sophisticated risk analysis. This means that pockets of corruption could fester within CBP, potentially for years."

The call for 15,000 agents also comes at a time when there has been a drastic decrease in apprehensions of unauthorized immigrants, and over half of those crossing are from Central America, who are fleeing prosecution and violence and actively seeking out CBP to plead for asylum.

Heyman instead advocates for re-vamping the overloaded immigration court systems, which have an average wait time of nearly two years.

To read the full report by Heyman, visit americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/why-caution-needed-hiring-additional-border-patrol-agents-and-ice-officers.

Follow Christian Vasquez on Twitter @chrismvasq

MAY 2, 2017

ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR
LESLIE SARIÑANA, 747-7477

OUR VIEW

A look back at this semesters local acts



1



3



4



2



5

1. Nico & the Silent Films performed for the Sun City Craft Beer Fest Pre-Party. 2. Khalid at Americas High School as part of Spotify Sessions. 3. Ribo Flavin performed at the Lowbrow Palace. 4. Stan Z opening his album release party March 4 at the Lowbrow Palace. 5. The Fifth Estate performed at his first headlining show at the Lowbrow on Friday, April 14.

GABY VELASQUEZ, EDDIE VELAZQUEZ, ANDREW RIOS, MICHALEA ROMÁN, ADRIAN BROADDUS / THE PROSPECTOR

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1	2	3	4	5

A guide to Free Comic Book Day in El Paso

BY LESLIE SARIÑANA
The Prospector

Free Comic Book Day (FCBD) is celebrated every first Saturday of May. It was first created in 2002 by the North American comic book industry in an effort to help get more readers into independent comic book stores. The date was set after Jim Valentino, an Image Comics publisher, suggested having the first FCBD the same weekend as the opening of the Spider-Man film in order to take advantage of the promotion surrounding the film.

The first FCBD was celebrated May 4, 2002. Since its beginning, almost every FCBD has lined up with the release of a film based on a comic book. This year, FCBD aligns with the release of “Guardian’s of the Galaxy Vol. 2” on May 5. Thousands of comic book stores across the country participate in the event. Here are some of the ones celebrating FCBD in El Paso.

1 Asylum Comics

Asylum will be having a guest artist Jorge Baeza, and have exclusive items on sale just for that day such as exclusive metal pins. They are located on 5360 N Mesa St., Ste. L12, and will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

2 Old Major Comics

Old Major Comics will be having raffles and prizes as well as free comics on FCBD. They will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. that day at 10780 Pebble Hills Blvd.

3 Rebels Comics

Every year, Rebels Comics has celebrated FCBD. They have a selection of free comics and even have raffles and host games. Last year they raffled the first Deadpool comic book. Rebels is located at 12400 Montwood Dr. and open on FCBD from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.

4 Sunrise Games & Comics

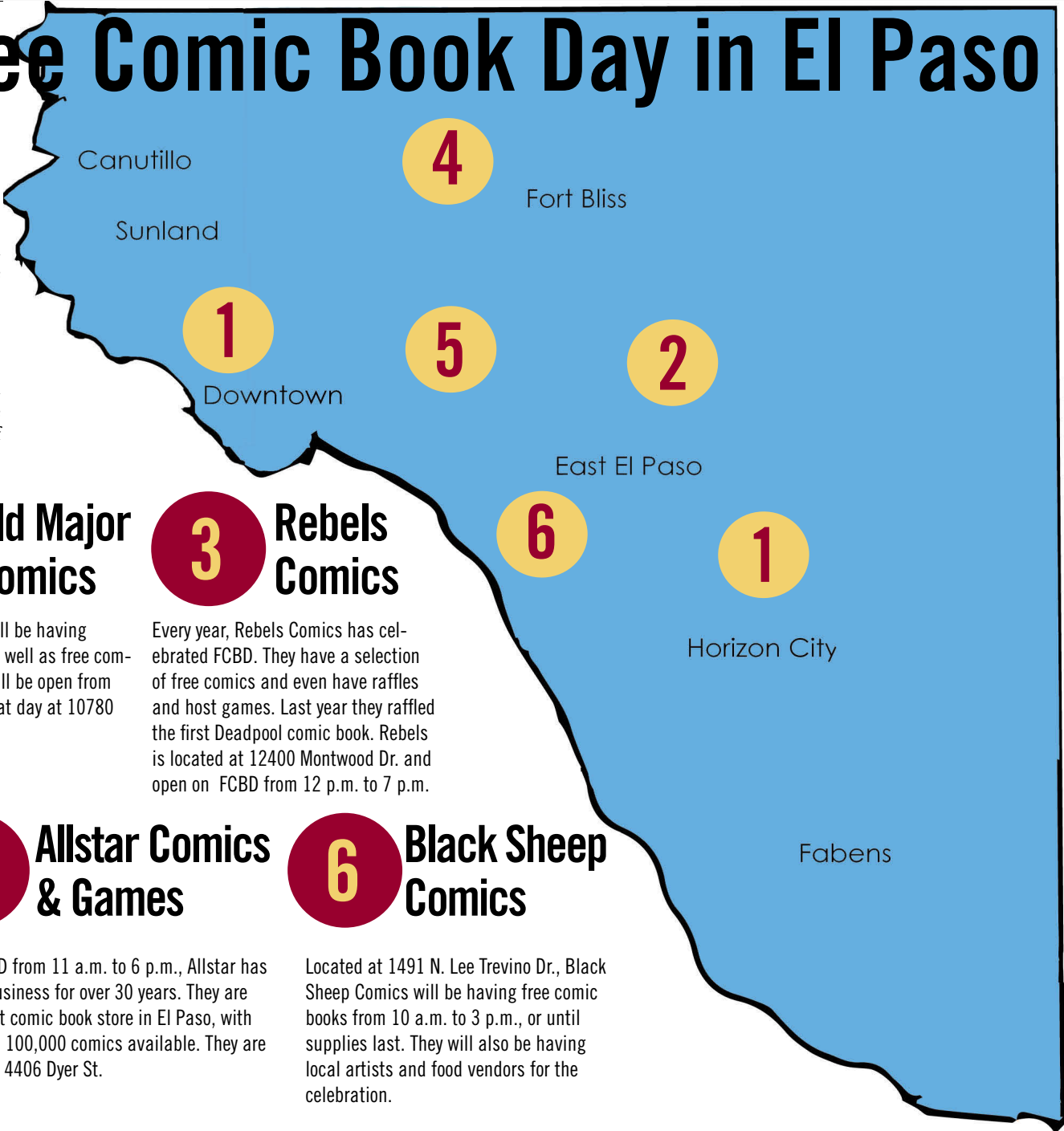
Sunrise Games & Comics will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on FCBD. Located at 8500 Dyer St., Sunrise typically hosts game days on Saturdays, but FCBD will be the exception, as they take the day to celebrate and give away free comics.

5 Allstar Comics & Games

Open FCBD from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Allstar has been in business for over 30 years. They are the largest comic book store in El Paso, with more than 100,000 comics available. They are located at 4406 Dyer St.

6 Black Sheep Comics

Located at 1491 N. Lee Trevino Dr., Black Sheep Comics will be having free comic books from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., or until supplies last. They will also be having local artists and food vendors for the celebration.



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Get to know locals performing at NDMF

BY LESLIE SARIÑANA &
ADRIAN BROADDUS
The Prospector

Neon Desert Music Festival is usually filled with local artists. Get to know a bit about the local talent playing the festival this year. Here are only a few of the many local acts who will be performing at the festival.



If We Were Turtles

Genre: Indie rock
The four-man band ventures through softer alternative rock and use strong vocals to accommodate it.



Rare Individuals

Genre: Hip-hop
Comprised of a group of hip-hop heavy heads, Rare Individuals has truly grown in the local music scene and pioneered a new wave of hip-hop. They utilize live instruments in their act and deliver a unique alternative rap style.



Our Friend the Mountain

Genre: Indie-folk
This six-member band have already garnered attention around town, having played at Street Fest, Chalk the Block, Robinson Block Party, Plaza Film Festival and Cool Canyon Nights. They have been working on new music set to be released in late 2017.



Volta

Genre: Rock alternative
This Spanish rock band has only been together for five years, but they've already gotten to work at Sonic Ranch. Their upcoming album, which they hope to reach larger Latin audiences with, was recorded in Mexico City.



Mijas

Genre: Surf punk
Surf punk rockers, Mijas, take inspiration from The Ramones and The Ventures. They have toured along the west coast a few times and have even performed at SXSW. Their last musical release was in 2016. You'll have to wait to see if they bring any new music to Neon Desert.



Frythm

Genre: Future Beats
Genres do not define hip-hop influenced producer Matthew Pena, or as he's known by his stage name, Frythm. Rather, he draws inspiration from all bits of genres and progresses through his sounds. He has gained much fame through his Soundcloud page and has accumulated a good count of listens.



Frontera Bugalu

Genre: Cumbia
Founded by accordionist, Kiko Rodriguez, Frontera Bugalu is a group that sounds like no other. Their sounds mix folk and cumbias. The group of nine just released their second album "Alma de Jaguar" (soul of a jaguar) last year.



The Other Half

Genre: Indie rock
The Other Half combines alternative rock with an indie flavor, and never shy away from a thrashing sound. They are inspired by bands like The Arctic Monkeys and Kings of Leon, whom they showcase time and time again.



Trost House

Genre: Garage Rock
Popular among the El Paso bar scene, Trost House has been playing variations of garage rock since 2013. They have most recently been part of the 306 Live Sessions.

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

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At the Drive-In to perform in El Paso after album release



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR COURTESY OF AT THE DRIVE-IN FACEBOOK

At the Drive-In will be at the El Paso County Coliseum on May 6.

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS
The Prospector

Before the days of pop sensation Khalid stealing the hearts of the local music audience, there was At the Drive-In, a '90s punk-rock band comprised of El Paso-bred Omar Rodriguez-Lopez (guitar), Cedric Bixler (vocals), Jim Ward (guitar), Paul Hinojos (bass) and Tony Hajjar (drums). Now, almost 20 years since their formation, At The Drive-In will return to El Paso at the County Coliseum on Saturday, May 6, in anticipation of their upcoming album "in•ter a•li•a." It's the band's first album in 17 years, preceding their 2000s project, "Relationship of Command."

same style has stayed with the band to this date as heard on their newest singles, "Incurably Innocent" and "Hostage Stamps." Their first single leading up to their new album, "Incurably Innocent," immediately thrashes hard with exceptional vocals by Bixler. He said in a press release that the song was about "sexual abuse and being able to finally speak out." The same upbeat energy translated over to their second single, "Hostage Stamps." What starts as a slow track quickly develops into another true rock anthem for the band. This song does not entirely focus on vocals, but it shows the instrumental talents of the band as the track is drum and guitar heavy. Traveling back in time to the '90s, the band moved beyond local popularity with their debut

record, "Hell Paso." They signed with Flipside Records and released their first full-length project, "Acrobatic Tenement," which received massive critical response. Then, they had back-to-back-to-back hit projects with "El Gran Orgo" in 1997, "In/Casino/Out" in 1998, and "Relationship of Command" in 2000. The band made the decision to take a break in 2001, when Bixler and Rodriguez-Lopez decided to branch off and form The Mars Volta, and Ward, Hajjar and Hinojos formed Sparta. Both bands flourished in their parallel careers as they each toured the world, released various projects and grew their audience. Over a decade after the band's split, Mars Volta announced they would disband in 2013. Then in

2016, At the Drive-In began their reformation and decided to record new music. However, the band would have to do it without Ward as he decided not to continue with the band in March of last year. Although they are one man short, the band has already hyped about their upcoming album. Their album's name "in•ter a•li•a" is Latin for "among other things," which could hint at the band diverging into new sounds and experimenting a bit. To further add significance to the album's release, the band plans to drop "in•ter a•li•a" on May 5, the day before their show at the coliseum. This will make their live show on Saturday that much more special for the homegrown band. Tickets are still available online on ticketmaster.com and all local

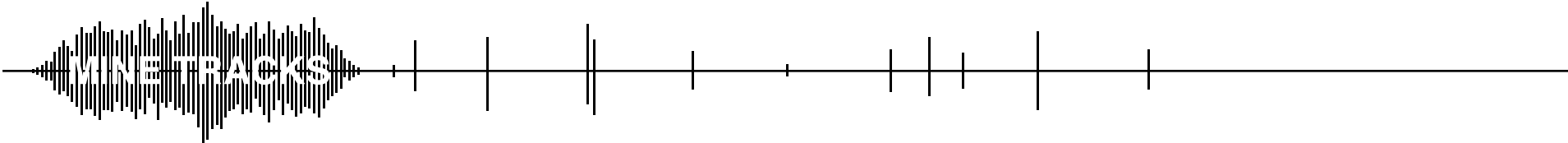
Ticketmaster locations. Doors for the concert are slated to open at 7 p.m.
Follow Adrian Broaddus on Twitter @adrian_broaddus

WHAT: AT THE DRIVE-IN
IN•TER A•LI•A TOUR

WHEN: DOORS OPEN AT 7 P.M.

WHERE: EL PASO COUNTY
COLISEUM

TICKETS: \$25 GENERAL
ADMISSION



Gorillaz and guests take on American politics in 'Humanz'



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

BY EDDIE VELAZQUEZ
The Prospector

The newest album from Damon Albarn and Jamie Hewlett's Gorillaz, "Humanz," features a rich roster of stellar guest appearances and an interesting doomsday take on the current political climate in America. However, a feeling of self-containment for every track, and a musical approach that leaves the listener questioning the band's

identity, make "Humanz" a promising project that never quite lives up to its lofty expectations. Over the years, Gorillaz have established themselves as one of the biggest proponents of the virtual band genre thanks to their innovative mix of developing the band members as characters through the music and a healthy dose of all-star guest appearances. While the sound may lend itself to feeling

formulaic, having the guests bring in their own style to the album has kept Gorillaz varied in its sound. A drawback to that approach is reflected in "Humanz," where the featured artists seem to overtake the production aspects of the record and impose their own style, drowning out Gorillaz' own musical style. For the majority of it, the album feels like a compilation of other artists' work that leaves Albarn and company with very little to do. This makes the 26 tracks included feel tired, incohesive and repetitive. However, the most intimate and emotionally powerful song "Busted and Blue" proves something that previous albums had hinted at. Gorillaz seem to reach new heights when they are forced to work alone. In the band's previous full-length effort, "Plastic Beach," tracks like "Broken," "On Melancholy Hill" and "Rhinestone Eyes" are safe, but solid tracks that should be emblematic of the band's catalog. Production-wise, "Humanz" seems to follow a simple formula: add a few trip-hop beats to mix with dismal-sounding synthesizer samples and Albarn's soft vocals. Songs like "Sex Murder Party" and "Ticker Tape" are examples of this formula firing on all cylinders.

"Sex Murder Party" features a catchy beat that blends well with the spacey synthesizer and Albarn's characteristic vocals. "Ticker Tape" showcases a more synth-wave approach to the background melody, while also discussing the topic of human innovations in science and technology going at an unprecedented pace and whether or not we should stop and think about these discoveries with more caution. Yet, the funkier "Andromeda" and "She's My Collar" might be the stars of the album. Originally one of the two singles revealed to British radio station BBC 1 this past March, "Andromeda" mixes a syncopated soul bass line, nightclub beat and jaunty synthesizer work, making it one of the band's new hits. "She's My Collar" shows a funkier side to Gorillaz with the help of Colombian singer Kali Uchis incorporating a more experimental melody and lyrics regarding the secrecy found in interpersonal relationships. Lyrically, "Humanz" focuses primarily on President Trump's surprise election and the artists' take on it. "I told everyone to imagine you're in America after the inauguration and it's the worst-case scenario: how would you feel that night? Let's make a party record

about the world going fucking nuts," Albarn said in an interview with Q Magazine. In the song "The Apprentice," Albarn wrote, "I am a mirror, I am a broken screen, I am a mad routine that's just patterned out" in reference to Trump's tendency to tweet and the singer's belief that Trump being a reflection of society. The album also addresses other worldly issues directly and effectively. For example, in "Ascension," rapper Vince Staples sings, "This is the land of the free, where you can get a glock and a gram for the cheap, where you can live your dreams long as you don't look like me," alluding to the color of his skin and the challenges black people experience. For a band that is always trying to innovate, Gorillaz could have used a more focused approach to the music component of the project. Its long track list poses the question, would a more quality-over-quantity approach be the new direction the band should return to?

Follow Eddie Velazquez on Twitter @ezvelazquez

UTEP Symphony brings ‘Sounds of the Cinema’



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

UTEP Symphony Orchestra will be performing ‘Sounds of the Cinema’ on May 4, at 7:30 p.m. at the Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall.

BY CLAUDIA FLORES

The Prospector

Since 2012, the UTEP Symphony Orchestra has dedicated their last concert of the season to classical music featured in films and original scores written for the movies. On May 4, they will be performing the “Sounds of Cinema” at UTEP’s Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m.

With the UTEP Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Dr. Lowell E. Graham, and a discussion about music in movies given by event host Charles Leinberger, the audience will have the opportunity to enjoy a great evening full of music.

“This is a great way to end the semester on a high note (and I don’t mean it pitch wise) but with something really, really fun. This is one of the greatest collaborations in concerts that we do at the end of each academic year,” Graham said. “This is about sharing with the audience music that they know, music that they’ve heard and music that they want to know and

the involvement of how was the music used in the film.”

According to Leinberger, the idea behind this concert is to educate the audience to be more engaged with film and music rather than just be a passive listener attending to simply be entertained.

“In a movie there is always music, and if you don’t notice it, the composer did a good job,” Leinberger said. “When you go to a movie you have to pay attention to everything you hear because in film half of it is visual and half of it is what you hear.”

This year, the UTEP orchestra will be performing two original scores from two recently acclaimed films.

“Starting at 7 p.m., I will be giving a pre-concert talk called ‘Music, what music?’ to introduce the audience to some of the terminology used throughout the evening when we talk about film music,” Leinberger said. “We always feature two original scores written for a movie, and this year two of them are Hans Zimmer’s music for ‘Pirates of the Caribbean, Dead Man’s Chest,’ and John Williams’ Academy

Award -nominated music for ‘Star Wars-Episode 7: The Force Awakens.’”

Graham said he uses music pieces he believes in and is passionate about in order to give the orchestra and audience a great experience.

“I’ve been playing in this orchestra for 14 semesters, this is our sixth year doing the movie music concert and is a great way to end of the semester,” said graduate cello student Nathan Black. “This concert is a great introduction for the people who aren’t super comfortable attending classical music concerts, but when they come see the symphony orchestra, they can have a great time no matter what.”

With the “Sounds of Cinema” being the last concert the UTEP Symphony Orchestra will be offering, don’t forget to attend this event and “May the 4th be with you.”

Tickets Prices are \$5 for adults, \$3 for students or Military. Free for UTEP faculty, students and staff.

✉ Claudia Flores can be reached at gigiberto43@gmail.com

INBRIEF ‘Medea’ plays at UTEP



GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

UTEP’s Theatre and Dance Department is bringing “Medea” to the Wise Family Theatre as their last production of the semester. “Medea” is an ancient Greek play written by Euripides.

The play follows a wife (Medea), who has set out for revenge on her unfaithful husband. Seen as a barbarian by the locals and her husband, Medea looks to exact brutal vengeance.

The play is directed by Jay Stratton, assistant professor of theater, and students have been rehearsing for the play since early March. The show is full of technical stage effects.

“It is exciting, it is scary, there’s violence, there’s bloodshed, there’s angry couples fighting,” Stratton said. “It’s good, good stuff. It’s one of the greatest revenge stories of scorned love ever written.”

“Medea” will be playing May 4-6 at 7:30 p.m. and May 7 at 2:30 p.m. at the Wise Family Theatre at the Fox Fine Arts Center, located on the second floor. Tickets are \$14 for adults, \$12 for military, UTEP faculty, staff and alumni and \$9 for UTEP students.

May the Fourth be with you



BY LESLIE SARIÑANA

The Prospector

May the fourth is with us. For those of you who don’t know what that means, allow me to explain. May 4 is the official/unofficial Star Wars Day. Just a day to celebrate one of the most successful ongoing movie franchises in history. How did this come to be? Well, it all originated from a pun. The holiday started in 1979, after Margaret Thatcher became Britain’s first woman prime minister.

To celebrate her win, her party took a half page of advertising space in the London Evening News where they wrote, “May the Fourth Be With You, Maggie. Congratulations.” This was the first grand public display of the impact of Star Wars.

Not long after, fans all around the world started connecting May 4 with the franchise. Star Wars is easily one of the most recognizable franchises in film history.

The first six live-action Star Wars movies were all released in May, so it’s fitting to have the unofficial holiday in the same month. It’s also the birth month of Star Wars creator, George Lucas.

Even though the holiday didn’t originate from George Lucas or the creators of the films, the film company, StarWars.com and all official Star Wars’ social media channels recognize the fan-created holiday and has even spread the word on fan events that happen on that day.

UTEP junior international business major, Gavin Reyes, celebrates every year by rewatching



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR COURTESY OF STAR WARS FACEBOOK

his favorite films of the franchise while wearing his favorite Star Wars gear.

“The day is just a day of happiness. Star Wars is an amazing memory and part of my life. The day just normally is nothing but happy to me,” Reyes said.

Not everyone who likes Star Wars celebrates or even celebrates the same way. The franchise has expanded so largely that there’s more than just the films to commemorate. Sophomore mechanical engineer major, Joel Viescas, is not a fan of the movies, but does enjoy playing the Star Wars video game, “Battlefront.”

“I don’t like the movies a lot, but the video games are great. I do ac-

knowledge it (May the Fourth) and I think it’s pretty cool, but I don’t really celebrate,” Viescas said.

The following day has recently become a separate Star Wars holiday, created by fans. It is referred to as “Revenge of the Fifth.” A pun on “Revenge of the Sith.” This day is celebrated by joining the dark side.

For those new to the holiday, welcome, and may the force be with you. Many businesses in El Paso will be hosting Star Wars Day celebrations on May 4.

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

EVENTS OUT OF THIS GALAXY

FABLAB: CODING DROIDS

FabLab is hosting a Star Wars themed social. They will be having an introductory course on coding and computer science. The objective is to learn to control two droids, R2D2 and BB8, with coding phrases. The event starts at 6 p.m. at 601 N. Oregon St. Tickets are \$10.

FAN ART EXTRAVAGANZA

BarMen Kitchen & Patio Bar is having a celebration in honor of Star Wars Day. Starting at 6 p.m. they will have a Star Wars trivia game, Estar Guars Loteria, fan art and costume contest and they will be playing the films all night. BarMen is located at 4130 N. Mesa St.

LET THE WOOKIE WIN

The Alamo Drafthouse will be hosting Let the Wookie win: a Star Wars quiz. The quiz will be related to the Star Wars episodes IV through VII and Rogue One. Registration is required beforehand. Teams may not exceed six players. Registration fee is \$5 per player, and the event starts at 8 p.m.

STAR WARS NIGHT

Boomtown is having their second annual Star Wars night. They will be screening three of the movies, starting with Episode V, “The Empire strikes Back.” There will also be a cosplay contest with cash prizes. The event will take place at 501 Texas Ave. at 8 p.m.

The revival of Cincinnati Avenue

BY MIKE FLORES
The Prospector

Over the years, Cincinnati Avenue seemed to be the place where restaurants and bars went to die. A street that was once the place to be for El Paso's nightlife was quickly brought to a halt as other places around the city grew in popularity and business in the Cincy area shrank.

However, a bundle of new bars, highlighted by College Dropout, Ditzzy Duck and Fool's Gold, brought back the buzz to the once-dying street and have changed people's plans for their nights.

These are the places to go celebrate after graduation, with most bars offering different graduation drink specials on top of their existing specials. Both College Dropout and Ditzzy Duck have graduation specials on champagne for UTEP students, and for graduation, Spirit of 66 will be discounting shots at their own call.

Cincinnati Avenue is back to its former glory, despite the recent failures of the many other businesses that have not survived the street, such as Palomino Tavern, Liquor Dicks, Corner Tavern and many other bars that have been a victim of the "Cincy Curse."

On March 22, El Paso's nightlife received a huge jump start from one of the newest college bars in town—the College Dropout, located on Cincinnati Avenue. College Dropout seems to be defying the odds against the so called curse.

Dickey Williams, the owner of College Dropout and an El Paso native, owns multiple bars aside from College Dropout. Williams runs Topsy Tiger, Murrays' and Ditzzy Duck, which happens to be right next to College Dropout.

Since 1999, Williams has been a member of the UTEP fraternity Alpha Kappa Lambda, and since then he realized El Paso was missing out on the college scene that many other schools possess—a college-style atmosphere.

"When I was going to UTEP, my fraternity didn't have a frat house and I

always felt that UTEP was missing that type of environment, and the nature," Williams said. "I wanted to give College Dropout that kind of frat house, school feeling with all the wood and all, for all the kids."

Having a place for students near their school was something Williams strove for. When the property opened up, he did not hesitate to open up another bar in the area, despite the history of other places not surviving the location.

"To be honest, I don't think anyone is hitting that real college atmosphere here in El Paso, and that is what the Dropout has compared to others," Williams said. "Catering to the right demographic is really important. In any kind of business, you have to know your demographic that you are going for."

College Dropout offers Trap Thursdays, an event that lures in many UTEP, EPCC and NMSU students to get away from their stressful week at school and have a place to interact and have fun with everyone who attends.

Right at the entrance, they are greeted by a large bar where drinks can be ordered, with a lot of room compared to the other bars in the area. There is a patio for anyone feeling the urge to be outside, with many chairs and seating available, and another small bar there, as well. Right near the restrooms, a basketball arcade game is set up.

Williams' other bar, Ditzzy Duck, also brings an atmosphere where college students would want to spend their weekends.

The theme of the bar is stated in the name itself—ditzzy. In an all-blue colored bar, with music blasting from the entrance to the back, El Pasoans are encouraged to let go and bring out their inner silliness with open space to dance the night away.

"The one thing I am not fond of about Ditzzy is the struggle of getting around inside," said Victor Vasquez, junior biological sciences major. A four-foot-wide hallway that connects one side of Ditzzy



NINA TITOVETS / THE PROSPECTOR

Some of the bars on Cincinnati Avenue will be having graduation specials for UTEP students.

to the other just is not fun when the place is flooded with people."

Ditzzy is place for many future Instagram photos, because there are many memorable objects such as a look-alike Han Solo carbon-freeze frame, a mugshot height chart backdrop, a lot of pictures of people who have their noses replaced with a duck nose, and a large duck mask to prove you were at Ditzzy Duck.

To the left of Ditzzy Duck, there is a secret doorway that looks like a fridge that bouncers guard. Behind the closed refrigerator doors, stands one of El Paso's most popular bars—Fool's Gold.

Since July of 2016, the Southwest desert dive bar, Fool's Gold, has brought the largest outdoor patio place for visitors to enjoy their drinks with family and friends, as people can savor the weather and views of the El Paso skies.

"There is no patio like ours in El Paso, nowhere from anywhere else on the Westside to the Eastside. We are the largest outdoor patio here," said Octavio Gomez, one of Fool's Gold owners. "It looks like a casual dive bar. We don't have DJs, we just play what we want and people like that. Everyone is kind of hidden inside the patio, and they can see the stars and clouds anytime they're there with the people they want to be with. We were meant to be outside."

Gomez, a UTEP alum, wanted to take on the challenge of bringing back the Cincy area instead of shying away from the idea. He knew it was time for the resurgence and Gomez opened what he feels El Paso wants in a bar.

"My partners and I wanted to be a part of the rise of Cincinnati again. We wanted to bring the street back to what it once was, and it was just perfect timing with everything around us opening up, as well," Gomez said.

Mat Viramontes, junior pre-med student at UTEP, said that it was great to be outdoors with a drink in his hand and good music.

"It's a unique scene and somewhere I love to spend my weekend nights at," Viramontes said. "And have you tried their tacos? It's a bargain at that price, you could go there for just the tacos if you wanted."

Fool's Gold holds specials every day such as their \$1 tacos and their \$2 special on the Mexican beer Sol.

And just across the street is the dive bar and pub, Kern Place Tavern. At Kern Place, there is a different special every day of the week with great bartenders.

On Mondays, it's \$1 Rolling Rock. On Tuesdays, it's \$2 wells all night long. On Wednesdays, it's Whiskey Wednesdays with \$2.50 shots. Thursdays are \$1 Tecate's all day, and \$2 for a You Call it Friday.

Spirit of 66 is another bar also making a name for themselves. They are a sports bar decked out in UTEP and El Paso Chihuahuas decor and professional sports teams from every sport. However, Spirit's theme honors the 1966 Texas Western national basketball championship.

With a wide selection of TV's surrounding the inside of the bar, every game or sporting event may be caught at Spirit. On top of the TVs, a sports ticker keeps every fan updated on every score around each league.

"Being a basketball fan, it was cool seeing how it was set up with the UTEP national championship decorations and it really shows off El Paso, and there's not another bar like that here. At other schools. I know they show off their university, and now we have that, too," said Naomi Vela, a junior business management major.

Follow Mike Flores on Twitter @MikeyTheReal

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SPORTS

EDITOR
JASON GREEN, 747-7477

Aaron Jones: mama’s boy, father’s man, Green Bay Packer



Aaron Jones (center) with agent Chris Cabott, father Alvin Jones Sr. and family and friends watches the draft on Friday evening.

BY JASON GREEN
The Prospector

Day Two Disappointment

The crowd had shown up on Friday night at the Jones’ house in Northeast El Paso, hopeful and exuberant.

The second and third round of the draft would be televised and there was plenty of expectation in the air following a first round that saw surprise after surprise, as well as several running backs drafted.

Flanked by agent Chris Cabott, Aaron sat on the family’s large sofa in a spacious living room. The second round began promptly at 6 p.m. and the Packers were on the clock.

“We know the 49ers and Packers have him in the day two range. We want more running backs to get off the board,” Cabott said.

Cabott and Jones clapped and high-fived as several notable running backs were drafted such as Tennessee’s Alvin Kamara to the Saints and Toledo’s Kareem Hunt to the Chiefs.

But, slowly the clapping and excitement began to die down. The friends and family, who had joined in with Aaron and Cabott’s clapping because it seemed like the thing to do, began to look around at each other and wonder why nobody was clapping anymore.

Aaron’s parents, busied themselves with preparing food for everyone. Vurgess made sure that the numerous television reporters had plenty to drink and eat. Alvin Sr. grilled hot dogs, burgers and ribs.

“Somebody has to do it,” he would say. Not yet willing to acknowledge the fact that he was too nervous to sit down and wait with his son.

Once there was nothing left to cook, the entire collection of humanity gathered in a large circle to clutch hands and ask a blessing for the food – and of course, for Aaron. That blessing was not asked that he get drafted in a timely manner, but that he end up with the right team for him.

Cabott constantly checked his computer, marking off who was drafted and keeping Aaron abreast of where the agent believed that teams with a need for running backs were leaning.

Once, the entire room readied itself when Aaron’s phone rang. It turned

out to be a team checking to make sure that his number was still the same. As much as the air was let out of the room in that instance, it appeared to be even more so for Aaron.

This was perhaps the first time while watching the draft that he let his poker face crack. His posture slipped – slightly. Cabott, sensing his client’s frustration, put his arm around Aaron and rubbed his shoulder.

“That chip on his shoulder just became a mountain.”

- Alvin Jones Sr., on his son’s fall to the fifth round of the NFL Draft

Then the Pittsburgh Steelers made pick number 105 of the draft.

“With the 105th pick, in the 2017 NFL draft, the Pittsburgh Steelers select James Conner, running back, Pittsburgh,” said the ESPN announcer.

There was no more noise in the room. With three more picks left on day two of the draft, the last team to appear to be in need of a running back, had taken the hometown kid.

At the end of a long day, Jones Sr. could only shake his head and say quietly, “That chip on his shoulder, just became a mountain.”

Vurgess’ Little Boy

There is no doubt that Aaron Jones is a mama’s boy.

Even while on the phone with Green Bay Packer’s head coach Mike McCarthy, moments after being drafted in the fifth round of the 2017 NFL draft, Aaron held his mother Vurgess under his massive right arm as she sobbed on his chest.

Yes, there are two Jones twins. Yes, they do have a mother and a father.

Yes, they were both alongside the former UTEP star running back as his name was announced on the ESPN’s NFL draft telecast on Saturday afternoon, April 29, to the roars of a house full of friends and family.

But, make no mistake about it, at that moment, Aaron was a mama’s boy.

The nights that a soldier/mother spent in Mosul, Iraq, seemed a lifetime away at that second, as Vurgess’ little boy held her tight. Everything that a mother watching her child play little league football (even for his first tackle football team, the Packers) could hope for had happened with that one phone call from Green Bay, Wisconsin.

And what about him being in Green Bay?

“It doesn’t matter where he lives,” said Vurgess, when things finally settled down Saturday afternoon. “I’m going to be there.”

The Moment?

As day three of the draft – day two of the Jones’ family draft party – began, there was just the twins, Aaron and Alvin on the couch in front of the TV.

Aaron’s agent was not there for day three due to previous commitments.

For the fourth through seventh rounds of the draft, all of the members of the immediate Jones family were decked out in black and gold Nike t-shirts emblazoned with a silhouette of Aaron and the phrase “Wake Up Call!”

The Jones twins wore matching hats that read, “Dream Big.”

More UTEP teammates trickled in, all stopping by the couch to render greetings to the man of the hour, who hardly took his eyes off the TV. While everyone enjoyed food and drink, Aaron hardly touched anything.

Then it began to happen again.

Samaje Perine to the Redskins. Aaron whispered to his brother.

Tarik Cohen to the Bears. Nicole Lindsay, Aaron’s girlfriend, walks by and places a hand on his shoulder.

None of these are the 49ers or Packers. Everything is alright. Aaron still knows that the 49ers and Packers like him a lot.

Pick 121, Joe Williams out of Utah, to the 49ers; Williams is a running back very similar to Aaron. Like Fri-

day night, the house fell silent again. For the first time during either day, Jones got up to use the restroom.

“I saw teams that didn’t need a back were up, so I got up to walk around,” said a much happier Aaron following his selection by Green Bay. “But, there weren’t many places to walk without a TV.”

The seat that had been empty opposite Aaron’s twin brother Alvin on the couch was now occupied by a family friend for a while after Aaron sat back down.

Shortly after the Packers selected running back Jamaal Williams near the end of the fourth round, a friend and fellow Leah Steinberg Sports client, Aaron was asked for a photo. He smiled and complied, as always, but several bystanders noticed – despite having just clapped for Williams – that Aaron was not really in the mood anymore.

Following the photo, Aaron got up and walked out the front door. The 49ers and Packers had their running backs. Lindsay followed him, while Vurgess and Alvin Sr. continued to pace.

“The longer it went, the more anxiety,” said Jones Sr., following the relief of the draft ending for his son. “Initially I wasn’t nervous, but I just started to see a lot of these running backs being taken and I was like, ‘what are these guys thinking?’ But, that’s kind of the story of his life. Being overlooked and things like that. But, (Aaron) always takes that personal, putting that chip on his shoulder.”

As if having three TV cameras trained on you at all times was not bad enough, Aaron’s phone rang several times during in the fifth round. When the phone would ring, cameras would begin clicking, floodlights would come on and all eyes would be trained on his face for any sign of a smile or frown.

Shortly after running back Jeremy

McNichols was drafted by the Buccaneers with pick No. 18 of the fifth round, Aaron’s phone rang again. His brother Alvin began to video with his phone as Aaron cracked a smile, saying “yes sir” occasionally while nodding, as if the voice on the other end were watching.

The room leaned in behind him. Camera men gathered in front. Then Aaron looked at his brother and

shook his head ever so slightly. No, this wasn’t it.

The call was from a Baltimore Ravens’ coach letting Aaron know that he was hard at work fighting for him in the team’s war room. The Ravens had pick number 186, the second pick in the sixth round, and if this coach had his say, Aaron would be added to the team’s roster of running backs.

Aaron seemed to take heart following the call. Perhaps it was a friendly voice more than it was the fact that someone was fighting for him. People kept their distance from Aaron that day for the most part and a friendly voice on the line seemed to have broken the tension – briefly.

Alvin Sr.’s Grown Man

Alvin Jones Sr. just wanted to be a dad to the boys. He never knew his father and he just wanted to make sure he was there.

Jones Sr. spent the third day of the draft eating and pacing the bottom floor of the house that he and Vurgess purchased when they both retired as sergeant majors from the U.S. Army.

Now he could sit down and catch his breath.

He spent the moments after his son’s journey to becoming a Green Bay Packer had ended, thinking about his journey in raising his sons.

“I never met my father, never even seen a picture of him,” said Jones Sr., sitting in the garage filled with the overflow of awards for his two football playing sons. “For me to be a retired command sergeant major, with a master’s degree, and for me to be blessed enough to devote everything I have to my kids, to make sure that they’re successful in what they want to do—do you know how much of a blessing that is?”

Being around the Jones family, one is able to look past the time and resources dedicated to the football upbringing of Aaron and Alvin Jones and to see the effects of great parenting by Vurgess and Alvin Sr. on all of the Jones’ children.



Aaron Jones speaks with Green Bay Packers head coach Mike McCarthy while Vurgess sobs.

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Quiero agradecer a todas las personas que me apoyaron en este viaje sobretodo a mi esposo y mis hijos que siempre estuvieron ahí a mi lado. Estoy feliz por este nuevo escalon en mi vida. Denise B

I would like to thank UTEP for all the wonderful opportunities offered to me. Cheers to all the late nights, those long exams, the Arisbee nights at Centennial Plaza, the Union Crew, the research lab, the summer internships, and the wonderful faculty and staff! Thank you, God, thanks to my family and friends! We did it! Lizette C Gutierrez

Quiero dedicar y darle las gracias a mi mamá, quien siempre me apoyó. Te quiero mucho mamá. Y gracias por todo lo que me has dado. También a mis hermanos y a quien amo con todo mi corazón. Alejandra Cruz

Le doy gracias a dios, a mi madre, a mi hermana y a mi familia por su apoyo. -¡Aquí vamos!

I did it for my dog!! -Andrea

Con Dios TODO SE PUEDE!! GRACIAS FAMILIA!! Jessica Ayala SUW CLASS 2017

It's finally over! On to bigger & better things thanks to the support of my family & friends! Love you all -Dor

Gracias a mis papas, familia, & amigos por todo su gran apoyo & amor! -Yazmin Castruit

Thanko to my family for helping me achieve my dream. Ricko, Riley & Logan, I love u! Thanks to God for all things I do as for him. xoxo Melissa Shores Class of 2017

Estos para mi familia y para mi familia y en ese largo camino apoyandome! ya merito todo esto por ustedes. LOS AMO! Alejandra Ortega

Thanks to all my family for making this day possible. Love you all! -Manny

I made it! Thank you to my Mom, Dad, Brothers and Sister for everything. Thank you to my Aunts, Uncles, Cousins and friends for the continued support. Last but not least, thank you to Gilbert Love Amanda

It wasn't easy I had so many ups and downs that sometimes I felt like this day would never come. Nevertheless, I persisted. Thank you Mom, Dad, Ade + UTEP

After so long I'm glad to say I finally made it! But this is not the end, just the another beginning!

THANK YOU JESUS! Mom this is for you! I love you! Always to my family. BE BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING! 2017

Gracias a mis papas y a toda mi familia por apoyarme siempre en mis decisiones. UTEP 2017! Denise & Tovar

TGBTB!!! To my family and everyone who has helped me! -Daniel Mejia

If you can dream it you can do it! + Gracias a Dios! This is only the beginning. -Genesis Areola 6/10/2017

Después de todo el esfuerzo, agradezco a todos los que estuvieron siempre ahí apoyandome. Jehová! Muchas Gracias a mi familia y amigos. -Vilma

FAMILIA LOS AMO! ESTO ES PARA USTEDES! "Todah Raba" Muchas gracias por su apoyo, paciencia, y amor. Arely

Gracias a mi mamá y papá por todo el amor y apoyo. -Lorena

I can't believe the day has come! Thank you everyone who has helped me along the way! -Adrian Sammy

Gracias a mis padres por todo su apoyo. No estaría donde estoy sin ustedes. Gracias a German por todo su amor. Este y todos mis logros son de ustedes. Eva 17

Finally I am here! I am so proud to be a UTEP Miner! Anna G.

Ma' 'Apa, por fin termine! Les debo todo! -Rosas

For one of my biggest steps. Thanks mamá y papá! #strongerthandesperanza Claudia

THANK YOU MOM & DAD! I love you.

Después de 4 años de desvelos y desarrollo una adicción al café, finalmente ha llegado el momento de aplicar todo lo que he aprendido. Le agradezco a Dios, a mis papas y familia, mi mamá y amigos y profesores. Biochemistry-German 2017

THANK YOU TO ALL MY LOVED ONES WHO SUPPORTED MY DREAM TO COME BACK TO SCHOOL. THIS ONE IS FOR ME! ALEJANDRA LOPEZ

I thank God first. Then thank you to my family, friends, BF, and classmates. Marsha P.

I did it! C's got the degree! -Jacobo

Thank you Jesus Christ! -Victor Mendez

Gracias padres por su esfuerzo y darme la educación que necesito para sobresalir en la vida. Los amo! -Shairy Berdeja

Congrat

Texas at El Paso

Gracias
Mama! y
a toda mi familia
por estar orgullosos
de mi
I did it - I did it - I did it -
and much support from
family + friends - Ingrida



picks
up!

This
is to

my family - that supports
my education - I thank
you all for helping me out.
I finally did it!
Love
Angie

Thank
everyone!
couldn't have
made it without you
Mango is here
lol
Tea
me, Pa

mmmandad!
I finally did it!!
Thank you so much
I love you!!
-Celina Garcia

Gracias
Mama y Papa
por todo lo apollo
los quiero mucho
y espero que los amo
orgullosos de mi
- Ariadna
Mendoza

I want to thank my mom
brothers, and everyone
else who has heard
me complain about this
long journey
but this
is still
worth it
all!!
- Ariadna
Mendoza

Thank
you mom
& dad
grandpa John!
I love you all so
very much
-Steph

Done
Chris
Smith
C.10.17
Yeeee!!!

Thank
you to my
parents, friends,
family for always being
supportive of my aspirations.
Love you!
Rachel
Castillo

For you
mom and
sister I and
proud of me from
Heaven.
Love
Valerie
Torres

Thank you
mom, grandma,
and sister for all
your help! We did
it!!!
-Crystal
Chavez

I will be
the first in
my family to
graduate with
a college degree.
I finally made it!
Thanks for all the
support -
Lizzie

Thank you
to my entire
family for the
support especially my
mom and dad
Love you
all!!

Thank
you Mom + Dad
for all the support
& to my sis & my
 fiance & my cousins
for not letting
me give up
Love you all
Brianna
Ramos

Finally!
Thank you Martinez
Family for all your
support time & work!
Love Katie

Thank you
Masyn (son) for
giving me the strength
to keep on moving
-Michelle

Thank
you to my amazing
family and my nursing
fam. I love you
-Danielle M

It goes without
saying I would not
be here without your
love, support and
ability to know
exactly what to say
when I need you the
most. Only going to
say this once you were
right. Love you dad - Amy

To my Mom, thank
you for always being
supportive of me all these
years through school. I love
you so much! & to my dad
you are in heaven. I made it
dad!! I miss you every day.
-Your son
Oscar

It was a hard
journey, but I
have learned about
my field and the
many things I can
accomplish. Thank
you mom and dad.
-Amber

A hard journey
but so worth it
Thank God
I made it!
-Marcela

Si se
puedo!
Gracias a Mama.
Papi y Sebastian
Papi y Monica
2017

I owe this
ALL TO MY
SUPPORTIVE FAMILY
AND FRIENDS WHO HAVE
WAITED OVER 35 YEARS
FOR ME TO GRADUATE.
I DID IT!!
Richard A. Blanes
Love
Mom

Thank
you to my family,
I owe all of this to
you. We have
many years to go
but it's something.
Yes! Bye
-2017
Jeros.

I want to thank my family
for encouraging me to
become a great person -
my BSP Brothers and
all my new friends
-Krystal Pimentel

Para Mi
Familia,
Gracias.
-Andres
Cruz De las
Santas

To my Son
Masid,
Thank You for
motivating me to
continue & finish
my studies. Love,
Mom. A.C.

Thanks
mom, dad,
Lark, Scott, Scout &
Steven for being my
biggest supporters,
This was only possible
because of you!!
Hugs, love, &
Kisses
-Cole

Class of 2017
I want to
thank my
family, my best
friends, my baby
Michael and my professors
for pushing me and
believing in
me! Love
Robyn

2017

ulations

Ex-starting QB embarking on teaching and coaching journey

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS
The Prospector

Spring 2016 was supposed to be the season when Mack Leftwich returned to the gridiron and led the way for the Miners' starting quarterback race. He was coming off a tough fall football season, where he suffered two concussions that limited him to eight games. This could have been his time.

However, fate had a different idea in store for the gunslinger. Leftwich left a spring practice with a shoulder injury that would require surgery. He was ruled out of playing in the fall before the season had even started.

After rehabilitation, Leftwich gave throwing another shot, but never quite fully recovered from the injury. "I never got back to my full strength physically," said Leftwich, who started seven games in 2015. "I couldn't come back."

What started as a hard decision to call his collegiate career quits turned into a blessing in disguise. During the winter break, Leftwich decided that he wanted to graduate and enter the coaching field.

"It's been a hard process in the sense that it was tough leaving the football team," Leftwich said. "I knew I never really had NFL aspirations and I was actually mentally prepared for it to go into coaching afterwards."

It was his father, UTEP assistant coach/offensive line coach Spencer Leftwich, who prompted Leftwich to go into coaching.

"My dad is a coach and growing up I've always been around football," Leftwich said. "I love football and I want to make an impact on kids and see them grow. Now it's finally time for me to do this and I've never questioned it."

While some may come off of a career-ending injury and cling to the "what-if" scenarios, Leftwich does not have any bitterness for leaving the team.

"It feels pretty good; I'm ready to move onto another chapter in my life," he said. "When I graduate, I plan on being a math teacher and a coach. There's a couple of opportunities around here and around the area."

After Christmas break, came much needed work for Leftwich. He was required to take 21 hours so he could graduate on time and join programs to train him about teaching.

"I've been busy this spring," he said. "I'm taking 21 hours plus this math academy course, where I get observation of a class setting and get ready for teaching. I didn't really have a choice, and right after Christmas break, it all started."

The former quarterback decided to go into the math field because of the opportunity he's seen in the field.

"Math was always what I was best at," Leftwich said. "There's always a shortage of math teachers, so there's opportunities to get jobs."

As he mentioned, he is undergoing intensive training for the classroom setting—something Leftwich felt he had not been prepared for yet.

"I didn't really have to prepare for any coaching training. I've done a lot more preparation for teaching math. In a sense, I've been around great coaches for a long time by being around it so much," Leftwich said. "I think I'm more prepared for the football part, but the classroom is a whole different animal."

As a future coach at the high school level, he also promises that he will be the first to persuade



FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR
Mack Leftwich saw his UTEP career cut short due to injury, but the former starting quarterback has found a new calling in the high school teaching and coaching ranks.

players, who want to go to the higher level, to play for the Miners.

"I definitely will be an advocate for coach 'Kugs' and his program. It's the least I can do for everything he and the staff have done for me," he said.

Leftwich has been described by his former teammates as a wizard of the game. In 2015, he led the Miners with 1,228 passing yards, nine touchdown passes and only threw three interceptions all season.

"When I found out he was going into coaching I told him he is going to be a great coach," said Ryan Metz, UTEP's starting quarterback. "That guy has a lot of football intelligence and the way he was able to help me, I can only imagine how he will be able to help

out players preparing to go into college. And who knows, I think he will even find his way coaching into the college level. The coaching world picked up a good one in Mack Leftwich."

His younger brother, Cutter Leftwich, who played for Franklin High School, committed to play for the Miners and will join the team during the summer.

"My advice (to Cutter) would be to be confident," Mack Leftwich said. "He's there for a reason, so he can compete with them. Don't waste time and work every day to be the best you can be."

Reflecting on his time with the Miners, Mack Leftwich hopes that he paved the way for a steady progression in the Miners' program.

"I hope I made an impact on the program and helped some of the guys grow as leaders. I hope the program is in a better position than when I first got here," he said.

Mack Leftwich hopes to have the answer of where he will coach by the end of this week, but his goals are so much higher for the future.

"Eventually, I would like to move up to college football," he said. "That would be something I'd be interested in because I've been around it for so long. But for now, I'll take it one step at a time."

Follow Adrian Broaddus on Twitter @Adrian_Broaddus

UTEP women's basketball coach happy to have landed his 'dream job'

JEREMY CARRANCO
The Prospector

For the first time in 16 seasons, the UTEP women's basketball program will be led by a new head coach. On April 24, UTEP Director of Athletics Bob Stull announced the hiring of former UT Tyler and Angelo State head coach Kevin Baker.

Baker, born and raised in Texas, has also coached his entire career in the state, with UTEP being his first Division I gig.

"Most people in America have to take a job and then make it their dream job, that's what you have to do in most cases. Today, I get to accept a dream job," said Baker during his introductory press conference. "In 1994, I was 21 years old when I started coaching. I used to tell people I want to coach the biggest game at the highest level. I want to win a national championship at Division I."

At Division 2 Angelo State, Baker led the Rambelles to a combined record of 50-14 in two seasons (2015-16, 2016-17) with a trip to the NCAA Tournament in the 2015-16 campaign. In the 2016-17 campaign, Baker led Angelo State to its first-ever NCAA Sweet 16 and a runner-up finish in the NCAA South Central Regional.

Prior to Angelo State, Baker coached just 365 miles east at Division 3 UT-Tyler. Baker went a combined 72-16 with UT Tyler in three seasons (2012-15), taking the Patriots to their first NCAA Sweet 16 in school history in the 2013-14 season.

After setting a school record for wins in 2012-13 with 18, Baker led UT Tyler to back-to-back American Southwest Conference Championships (2013-14, 2014-15) while breaking his own record for wins yet again with 27 in both seasons.

Out of his combined five seasons at both Angelo State and UT-Tyler, Baker has won four conference titles and has

been named Conference Coach of the Year four times, all in a row.

"I knew for me to excel in this profession, I was going to have to win," said Baker. "So no matter what I did, no matter what job I took, I was going to have to win."

Before his time coaching in college, Baker coached in high school for 10 years as a head coach and as an assistant for three years prior.

Baker started his career as an assistant at Hudson High School in his hometown of Lufkin, Texas, in 1994. Baker earned his first go at being a head coach when he took over the reins at Commerce High School in 1997, going 18-10 in his first season.

Baker put together three seasons with 29 or more wins with a combined record of 222-101 in the high school prep ranks. Baker went 29-4 at Palestine High School in 1999-2000 and 30-4 at Nacogdoches High School in 2002-03, where he set school records for victories while earning district and bi-district titles at each.

"I'm proud of a lot of things in my career, a lot, but the number one thing that I'm most proud of is that every school that I've ever coached at from 1994 until now, we've won a championship, multiple championships," Baker said.

Baker has just one losing season since being a head coach of women's basketball and that came in his first season as being a head coach at Nacogdoches (2000-01), where he posted a 5-22 mark. The five-win total for Baker is his lowest win total in all 15 years of coaching.

The lowest win total in his other combined 14 years of head coaching was 18 wins three times. Commerce High School in 1997-98 (18-10), Palestine High School in 1998-99 (18-13), and

see BAKER on page B13

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OUR VIEW

The best moments in Spring '17 sports



(Top Left) **Sophomore** Tobi Amusan, a native of Nigeria, ran the fastest time in the world in 2017 in the women's 100 meter hurdles during the UTEP Springtime Track Meet. Amusan's 12.63 also broke Kim Turner's school record of 12.95, which had stood since 1983, a total of 34 years. Amusan has had a strong season all around in the 100-m hurdles, setting a meet record at the 90th Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays with a 12.72. Amusan has been named the C-USA Athlete of the Week multiple times throughout the season. (Top Right) The Miner men's basketball team celebrates the end of a 12-game losing streak. UTEP defeated Florida International 88-87 in double overtime, and from that point on, the team was 12-3 and ended the season with a 15-17 record, securing a fourth seed in the C-USA tournament. The team lost to No. 1 seed Middle Tennessee, 82-56, in the semifinals of the tournament. (Middle Left) The UTEP softball team celebrates a home run by junior Kaitlin Ryder. With the season almost at an end, Ryder is tied for second on the team with four home runs to go along with her .36 batting average. Senior Kiki Pepi also has four home runs and a .333 average. Sophomore Cortney Smith may be the surprise of the season, leading the team in home runs (7) and batting average (.353). The UTEP softball team is currently 11-34 and 5-16 in C-USA play. (Middle Right) UTEP women's basketball endured an unusual down year, going 8-23 overall, after having gone 29-5 just a season before. The team welcomed in seven newcomers and the adjustment was a difficult one. Following the season, head coach Keitha Adams, the winningest coach in UTEP history, left the program for a job as head coach of the Wichita State women's basketball team. The job places her only 40 miles from Oxford, Kansas, where she was born and raised. Kevin Baker was hired on April 24 to replace Adams as women's basketball head coach. (Bottom Left) The Patriot places a hold on Delilah during a Friday night performance of New Era Wrestling. In a few short years, NEW has grown from a family learning to wrestle together, to an organization with their own gym, putting on weekly shows in Northeast El Paso. NEW also trains people of all ages hoping to become professional wrestlers themselves. (Bottom Right) "El Paso's Sweetheart" Jennifer Han defended her IBF women's featherweight world championship against Olivia Gerula on Feb. 17. Han pounded Gerula from start to finish, dropping her in the fifth round to score a 10-8 round. Han won the 10-round fight unanimously as all three judges scored it 100-89, giving Han her third successful title defense and running her professional record to 16-3-1.

ADRIAN BROADDUS, GABY VELASQUEZ/ THE PROSPECTOR

Softball seniors prepare for final games in EP

BY MIKE FLORES
The Prospector

The UTEP softball team will be sending out five seniors come Sunday, March 6, when their final series of the season comes to an end against Florida Atlantic in El Paso. The five seniors are pitchers Erika Harrawood, Kaitlin Fifield and Taylor Grohmann, along with outfielder Miranda Gutierrez and third baseman Kiki Pepi. UTEP (11-34 overall, 5-16 C-USA), a team that is currently riding an eight-game losing streak, will welcome in Florida Atlantic (33-18 overall, 13-8 C-USA), who holds a firm grip on the third spot in C-USA's east division. With both teams playing for something different beginning Saturday, UTEP will not only be

playing for their seniors, but for something to build on for next season. The conference tournament is out of reach for the Miners. Florida Atlantic seeks to gain ground on Florida International for a chance at the second seed in their division. UTEP took a step back from the previous season, the Miners achieved their first-ever winning record in conference play (13-11) and made it to the fourth-ever conference tournament in school history. The 2017 season played as a learning year for both the veterans and young student-athletes, according to Harrawood. "This season definitely hasn't been the easiest, there's nothing we can do about the past, but learn from it and just get better every day we have left. I want to go into

this last series with everything we got and end the season on a positive note," Harrawood said. "It will be my last time stepping on our home field. UTEP softball blessed me with amazing friendships and with amazing coaches that have taught me so much, not just about the game but life too." During Harrawood's career, her senior season stands out most as she picked up three wins and threw her first complete game victory of her career earlier this season against Southern Mississippi—a game the Miners won 12-2. Harrawood also struck out the most opposing batters this season (46 total).

Being an El Paso native, Harrawood is thankful for her time with her hometown Miners. An opportunity she never took for granted, even with school, as she was honored with C-USA's Commissioner's Honor Roll from 2014-2016. "I was extremely blessed to be given the opportunity to play and stay at home. I'm very family oriented so it was a perfect fit from the beginning. There really are no words to explain how amazing that feeling is," said Harrawood. Another El Paso product, Kaitlin Fifield, has been a reliable pitcher since day one. Before this season, Fifield posted 22 wins fourth most in program history, third in school history with complete games (29), had two shutouts in her time with UTEP and has started the fourth most games on the mound (56).



FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR
Erika Harrawood saved her best season for last and has struck out 46 batters so far.

see SENIORS on page B14



PHOTO COURTESY UTEP ATHLETICS
New UTEP women's basketball coach Kevin Baker replaces the winningest coach in UTEP women's basketball history in Keitha Adams.


BAKER from page B11

his first season at UT-Tyler in 2012-13 (18-9). "At the end of the day, this has been a 23-year climb," Baker said. "So when I tell you that this is the happiest day of my life, I can mean it because it took me very, very long to get here. That's why I can stand up here and give you some genuine joy, my climb wasn't easy. I wouldn't recommend it to anybody, but it's made me a better coach and a better person." Baker will now aim at replicating what former head coach Keitha Adams was able to do with women's basketball at UTEP. Adams, the three-time Conference-USA Coach of the Year (2008, 2012, 2016) is UTEP's all-time win leader with 284 victories in 16 seasons. Adams won 20 or more games in six different seasons to go along with four C-USA championships (three regular season titles, one tournament title) and four post-season tournament bids (two NCAA, two WNIT).


Prior to Adams arrival at UTEP in 2001, the women's basketball team had not won more than 18 games in a single season and had only posted a winning record five times in 25 seasons. "It's very well known what she (Adams) did with UTEP women's basketball, she's a legend and that can never be taken for granted or taken away, that's fact," Baker said. "When you come into a situation that I am in, it's pretty simple for me, I just want to build on what she did, I'm not looking on it any other way than that, that's what I want to do here; I think we can and know we can." Baker's first season with his new Miners follows a tough 2017-18 campaign, where the squad went just 8-23 overall and 5-13 in Conference-USA play.

Follow Jeremy Carranco on Twitter @J_Carranco22

UTEP
SOFTBALL
2017



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MAY 6 / 3 PM / 5 PM
YOUTH SOFTBALL DAY



FAU
MAY 7 / 1 PM
SENIOR DAY

SENIORS from page B13

Throughout her senior season, the El Paso-native has pitched the most innings (90 total) and has not allowed many home runs as she has only given up four long balls on the season—a team-best. She’s added two wins to her resume by overcoming two conference foes in UTSA and Western Kentucky.

“I was extremely blessed to be given the opportunity to play and stay at home.”
— Erika Harrawood, UTEP softball senior pitcher

Fifield has also been on the C-USA Commissioner’s Honor Roll from 2014-2016.
Grohmann, UTEP redshirt senior pitcher, appeared in at least 15 games from her freshman year to junior season.
Including this season, Grohmann has a combined record of 8-15.
During her junior season, Grohmann posted a winning record of 5-3, after a 5-1 start. She has been a veteran presence for the two freshman pitchers, Allie Johnson and Devyn Cretz.

Now, with three more games in her career, Grohmann will seek to grab another victory, if given the chance.
Outside of the senior pitchers, Kiki Pepi will also hit the field for her final time. Pepi has spent her final three seasons in El Paso after her freshman year at Oregon State.
With the Miners, Pepi ranks in the top 10 in UTEP’s history with a batting average of over .315. She came into her senior year with the school’s fifth most assists (238) and ninth in double-plays for the defense (15).
After this season, Pepi has made history for the Miners, as she is now top 10 in RBIs, home runs, doubles and hits in total. In her senior showing, Pepi leads the orange and blue in assists with 85, RBI (32) and walks (17). The California-native is tied for second on the team in home runs (4) and runs with 23.
After attending and playing for El Paso Community College, Gutierrez spent two seasons with the Miners. She started in three contests this year and played in 14 games, nine more games than her junior season. Gutierrez has scored twice this year.
The series between UTEP and Florida Atlantic will start on Saturday with a two-game set, beginning at 3 p.m. followed by 5 p.m. On Sunday, the series wraps up at 1 p.m.

Follow Mike Flores on Twitter @MikeyTheReal

Jones lands in perfect spot with Packers

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS
The Prospector



It may have taken a while for the gathering at the Jones house to hear Aaron’s name called, but that does not change anything for the star running back out of UTEP.
Let’s get one thing straight, Aaron Jones has the potential to sustain a great NFL career, and there are numbers to back up his case.
He will go down in UTEP history as one of the best half backs the program has ever seen, as he holds many of the all-time records. But that’s UTEP right? Conference-USA play sometimes isn’t enough validation.
That’s where the NFL Combine and his post-season training come into play. Seems like almost immediately after his announcement, Jones traveled to California to compete in the EXOS football training facility.
He performed alongside big-name players such as Patrick Mahomes, Jabrill Peppers and Jayon Brown, and according to Jones, he was right up there with them through each drill.
Next came the Combine, where Jones was able to showcase his talents at the highest level during the off-season. He

out-performed most of his fellow running back draft class and even earned a second-place spot among all the backs.
If his 1,773 rushing yards, 17 rushing touchdowns and 2,006 all-purpose yards in a single year were not enough, he showed that he could compete at a grand level when it came down to it.
There’s truly not a better landing spot for Jones than Green Bay for two reasons: first, Jones is landing on a team that is in desperate need for backs; and the second reason is the fact that Aaron Rodgers likes to throw to his running backs frequently and Jones is the right guy for that task.
Last season the Packers had to force receiver Ty Montgomery to switch from wideout to tailback. They lost Eddie Lacy and have two other questionable tailbacks on their depth chart. In fact, as of Monday, the Packers had already cut running backs Christine Michael and Don Jackson.
In the fourth round of the draft, Jones’ Green Bay landing hopes seemed diminished when the Packers picked up Jamaal Williams, a power running back out of BYU. However, when Jones was drafted in the next round, the Packers’ method was clear.
Williams would be the hefty, banging back, while Jones would be the smaller, elusive running back, who can be utilized in different areas.
With his multi-talented style of play, there is no doubt in the idea

that Jones could be great, possibly as soon as his rookie year. Rodgers is a fan of dishing the ball to his backs when his play fails, and Jones has hands as good as a receiver. Jones might not take a substantial amount of carries right away, but he will be tasked to be another option in the pass game for Rodgers.
Two of the only things against Jones’ play are his size and that he is injury prone.
His size will not be a factor in the role that Jones is going to play in the NFL. His agile style will be good for him, instead of a burner.
The idea of him being at risk for injuries is probably the lowest it has ever been. At UTEP, Jones would receive anywhere from 20 to 25 carries per game, so there’s no wonder he was under an injury watch. Now, all the carries will not be in his hands immediately, dispelling any injury worries.
Green Bay got not only a hard-working athlete in Aaron Jones, they also got a skillful, good-minded individual, who will end up assisting them in their game. Jones could not have asked for a better landing spot on draft day.

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

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UTEP to host C-USA Track and Field Championships beginning on May 11

The Prospector

Last season at the C-USA Outdoors Championships, held in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, the men's Western Kentucky team was crowned first place with a team score of 148. Middle Tennessee State (123) and UTSA (113) rounded out the top three last year.

UTEP will get a much-needed week off before the conference tournament begins, as they have competed for three straight weeks.



UTEP Track and Field has not won the C-USA men's title since 2013. The women are looking to regain their 2015 championship title, lost to Rice in 2016.

On day two at 10 a.m., the women's hammer throw kicks off the Friday slate. The other competitions set to take place on Friday are the men's hammer throw, both decathlon and heptathlon events, the men's 800-meter heptathlon, 10,000-meter women's competition and the 1,500-meter decathlon, and finally finishing day two with the 10,000-meter men's event at 9 p.m.

At the conclusion of the weekend-long tournament, the top three finishers in each event will earn all-conference honors with first team accolades going to the winners. Also, the runners coming in second place in their respective events will receive second-team honors and the

Additionally, all of the C-USA coaches will get together and reward both a women and men's competitor for Track Athlete of the Year and Field Athlete of the Year.

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Hot-hitting Chihuahuas return home to face rival Isotopes

BY JASON GREEN
The Prospector

The El Paso Chihuahuas have vaulted into second place in the Pacific Coast League's Pacific Southern Division following a double-header sweep of the first-place Salt Lake Bees on Sunday afternoon, April 29, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Bees had been running away with the division, with a 14-7 record prior to the last-place Chihuahuas taking Saturday's game 8-7, and winning the Sunday pair 3-0 and 12-3. The Chihuahuas lost the series opener to the Bees on Thursday, April 27, 13-5, before Friday's game was postponed.

The suddenly hot Chihuahuas will face the Bees one more time before heading back to the friendly confines of Southwest University Park, where the team is 7-6, to take on the Albuquerque Isotopes.

Following the promotion of offensive leader Cory Spangenberg to the Padres, the Chihuahuas' offense could have taken a dip and most observers would have understood. Instead, the remaining Padres have stepped up in his absence, taking it to the best team in the PCL.

Contributing heavily to 28 runs in four games against the Bees have been first baseman Jamie Romak, and outfielders Jose Pirela and Nick Buss. Buss, only added to the Chihuahuas roster on April 24, spent two-thirds of last season with the Salt Lake Bees before joining the team's parent club, the Angels.

Romak has been the PCL's most prolific slugger so far this season and



The El Paso Chihuahuas have vaulted into second place due in large part to their hitting. Prior to the season, hitting was thought to be a weak point for a team with several star pitching prospects.

the chilly Salt Lake City weather did not slow him down at all. Romak has a league-leading 11 home runs and 25 runs batted in, which are good for second in the league. So far in the series, he has seven hits and seven runs batted in.

Pirela has scored five runs in the series, despite sitting out one game. He also launched his second home run of the season in the first inning of Sunday's second game.

Buss is currently on a nine-game hit streak and has only struck out four times in his 28 at-bats with the Chihuahuas. Sunday's second game featured Buss' first multi-RBI game, as his two doubles helped to drive in three runs.

The 2017 version of the Chihuahuas, which many predicted to be anchored by their pitching, has been carried through the first weeks of the season by timely power hitting.

That is not to say that the pitching has not also been stellar at times.

In game one of Sunday's double-header, starting pitcher Matt Magill (2-1) pitched five innings of shutout ball, striking out three and allowing only two hits to the best offense in the PCL. This season, Magill has a 1.55 earned run average and 0.97 walks/hits per innings pitched.

On Monday, Dinelson Lamet (2-0) will close out the Salt Lake series for

El Paso. The 24-year-old Dominican has an unbelievable 0.45 ERA and 28 strikeouts in 20 innings pitched.

Although other starters have struggled somewhat, Magill and Lamet have been bright spots for the Chihuahuas.

The Isotopes (11-12) could arrive in El Paso as the last-place team in the division or tied with the Chihuahuas; such is the nature of the Pacific Southern Division. The team has one more game to play in Las Vegas before the short flight to El Paso.

The Isotopes are led at the plate by Rockies No. 4 prospect Raimel Tapia, who has been on an absolute tear in his last four games. The 6-foot-2-inch left-handed Dominican has 10 hits during the span to go along with a seven-game hit streak.

The Chihuahuas will also have to contend with the Rockies No. 2 prospect in starting pitcher Jeff Hoffman sometime during the series. In his last start on April 28, Hoffman went seven innings, striking out eight Las Vegas 51's batters without allowing any earned runs. Hoffman is holding opposing batters to a .229 batting average this season.

The Chihuahuas open the series with the Isotopes on Tuesday, May 2 at 6:35 p.m. Zach Lee (0-0) will be on the mound for El Paso after returning from a successful stint with the San Diego Padres.

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