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The Prospector, June 27, 2017

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ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

THE PROSPECTOR

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VOL. 102, NO. 32

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

JUNE 27, 2017



ROLLER DERBY: THE GRUNGE AND GRIT OF SPORTS

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS

The Prospector

In central El Paso sits a scanty, shabby warehouse where organized action is practiced on a regular basis.

Elbows are thrown, women are shoved almost constantly and hundreds of fans cheer for each team.

It sounds like some sort of an underground exclusive fight club—one that is seldom talked about.

No, quite the contrary—the sullied building is home for the Sun City Roller Girls roller derby bouts, which attract hordes of fans, who have supported the sport for some time.

On Sunday, June 25, the organization embarked on their first doubleheader of the ninth season, called “Brawlesque,” featuring bouts between the Chuco Town Chulas and the Sexecutioners, and Las Viudas Negras and Las Diablas.

The Sun City Roller Girls opened the doors to the El Paso Coliseum’s judging arena, a dingy building in the backside of the arena and built the roller derby track inside the place for the bouts.

It’s a gritty, grimy, adrenaline-filled sporting event that is nothing but constant action.

“So many people put so much work into this,” said Chuco Town Chulas’ jammer, Lady Latte Pain, who prefers her roller derby name to be used. “This is it—the bruises, the scratches, the falls, the pushing; it’s roller derby.”

Despite two lopsided games as the Sexecutioners defeated the Chuco Town Chulas 108-68 and Las Viudas Negras topped Las Diablas 108-27, the sold-out audience fed off every aspect of the bouts and were lively throughout the evening.

“The crowd absolutely loves it,” said the co-founder of SCRG Teresita Lopez, aka coach Frida Krueger of the Chuco Town Chulas. “When we have doubleheaders, we have four teams selling tickets, so that means we have a better turnout. All our fans come out when we have these doubleheaders and that’s why it sells out.”

Rules Breakdown

An outsider looking in might think roller derby is based off speed or a simple race. However, they are mistaken. Roller derby is an intricate sport with distinctive rules, points and winners and losers.

First off, both teams square off against each other and line up on one side of the bank of the rink. The key components of a roller derby bout are the jammers, who evidently score the points. The jammers start behind the pack, which is composed

of four blockers from each team, and try to get through the pack to gain points for their team. The pack’s job is to try and allow their jammer to get through to get points while simultaneously blocking the opposing team’s jammer from scoring. This is where the pushing, shoving, hitting, scratching and other strategies are used to scrape up points.

Jammers score points each time they pass an opposing player, beginning with their second pass through the pack. The jammer, who is leading in the pack, is known as the lead jammer, who can initially call off the jam session if they choose to do so. If they do not call it off, jams will last one minute.

The referees play a big part in this game too. They award both major and minor penalties to anyone who intentionally trips, leaves the rink

and comes back into play or anything else at their discretion. If a player is called for a penalty, she must spend time in a penalty box until her time-out is done.

“It does take time (to learn the rules), but the first thing you learn is how to fall,” said Lady Latte Pain, who has been in the league for five seasons. “If you can get that part, get good gear, maintain safety, respect the girls out there, you will have fun.”

The girl-power culture

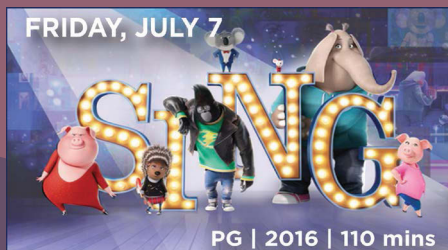
If punk rock could have a local roller derby organization, SCRG would be it. The culture surrounding the experience is like none other. The girls are vicious and they’re willing to throw elbows or push at any given time.

GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

see SCRG on page 7

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JUNE 27, 2017

OPINION

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
ADRIAN BROADDUS, 747-7477

Give artists due credit

BY LESLIE SARIÑANA
The Prospector



Music consumption has evolved in the last 10 years and transitioned to mainly streaming. Cassette tapes and CDs are virtually obsolete. With this change in music comes a change in pay for musicians. The internet has made it possible to access more music at little to no cost at all. While this is great news for the consumers, it isn't necessarily the best of news for the musicians who aren't compensated fairly.

In order to get people to join a streaming service, they'll usually offer a free trial period. During those free trial periods, the artists don't get paid any of the royalties for their music. This might not seem like a big loss for the big-name artists, but it's a huge hit for the smaller, less mainstream artists.

A lot of people don't consider the production that goes into creating even just one song. There are multiple writers, producers, sound engineers, publishers and talent involved. So it's not just the singers that don't get paid; all of those involved do not get compensated for their work during those month-long trials.

Back in 2015, when Apple came out with their music streaming service, Apple Music, they offered all users a three-month free trial. This caused a lot of backlash from independent labels and some big-name artists such as Taylor Swift.

When artists' contracts for Apple Music were given, Taylor Swift pulled all of her music off every music streaming service. She even wrote a letter to Apple expressing

her discontent with the service for not paying artists for their streams during such a long period. She didn't just advocate for the singers and big talents, but for all of the other people involved in production, who would have to go such a long period of time without pay.

Her letter of course was read by many and even convinced Apple Music to compensate the artists during the free trial period and give artists 70 percent of the revenue for music streamed after the free trial period. After doing so, Taylor streamed her music exclusively on Apple Music.

A few weeks ago, Taylor finally returned to all other streaming services. This was due to her success in selling 10 million copies of "1989" and over 100 million songs.

When she left Spotify, Swift said, "I'm not willing to contribute my life's work to an experiment that I don't feel fairly compensates the writers, producers, artists and creators of this music." Her music is back on Spotify despite the low amount of revenue that artists receive.

As consumers, we never stop to think about why we pay for music. Instead of simply downloading free music, why don't we at least set aside money to buy CDs or vinyls to preserve the art? Big-name artists probably don't need the money, but one should consider the lesser known artists, who have barely made it onto Spotify and are struggling to make ends meet as they record in their tiny apartments. Just because music is not longer consumed through physical albums doesn't mean that artists should miss out on the pay.

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

It's a great time to be in EP

BY AUGIE TOURIS
The Prospector



As an outsider living in the Sun City, I've greatly appreciated the complete shift from New York to the desert. Going into my last senior semester this fall, I feel that my time here has flown by, and many of the great experiences here have helped this.

Despite the endless construction and crushing heat, El Paso is a wonderful city. The addition of a streetcar system to help circulate people through the city to events will help El Paso in its push to take that next step nationally.

Although El Paso is one of the safest large cities in the country, and boasts a rich sports legacy, the city is often forgotten by much of the country. After all, El Paso has its own niche; a quiet desert city that is isolated from seemingly everything brings a sort of solace to its inhabitants.

The border culture integrates two nations together in a world that seems separate from the international divisions seen on the news amid discussions of a wall. El Paso blocks all of that out, and is a world of delicious food and friendly people.

UTEP is a historically revered sports school, and the programs are nudging closer and closer to the glory days of the past. The basketball team had flashes of greatness, and recently football has churned out NFL players every year.

The school holds a great standard that benefits commuter students, and has many excellent departments within, all with very qualified teachers.

Although the construction around the school, on the highway and elsewhere seems stagnant, its end results will be awesome for the city. The expansion of I-10 around Sunland Park will help traffic flow better as the city continues to build westward in the direction of the outlet malls and the Franklin Mountains. The prospect of an arena downtown would help to bring more attention to the city and exciting artists, while

freeing up the UTEP facilities such as the Don Haskins Center.

El Paso also has Khalid, who despite not being from El Paso seems to have adopted the city as a home of sorts.

The Chihuahuas are an exciting Triple-A baseball team to watch and they give people the opportunity to see professional players periodically as well. Why, even the UTEP club hockey team, in its second year, won the league and narrowly lost in the regionals.

Cincinnati Avenue has been resurrected with a host of new and exciting bars and restaurants in addition to the longstanding ones such as The Loft or Geogeske's G2.

The Lowbrow Palace often has artists on the rise, who put on moving shows, such as Great Shapes.

As a New Yorker, I've come to embrace the city and look forward to what the future holds.

Follow Augie Touris on Twitter @Atouris85

THE SCALES OF JUSTICE IN EL PASO...



CARTOON BY ALEJANDRA GONZALEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

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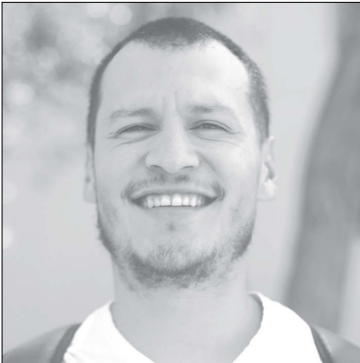
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20% Chance for Rain	0% Chance for Rain	0% Chance for Rain	0% Chance for Rain	0% Chance for Rain	20% Chance for Rain	0% Chance for Rain

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What would you like to see from the newly elected city representatives and mayor?

CLAUDIA HERNANDEZ, SERGIO MUÑOZ , GABY VELASQUEZ/ THE PROSPECTOR



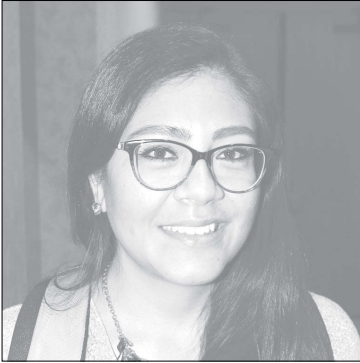
OSCAR GARCIA
Graduate student in curriculum & instruction
“I would want them to make changes to the education system for sure.”



BRITTANY RAMIREZ
Senior biomedical major
“To bring more jobs to El Paso city.”



KRISTIAN VILLANUEVA
Graduate student in software engineering
“I really like that the new mayor wants to focus on El Paso’s infrastructure.”



HELENA MUCINO
Doctoral student in education
“Improve education and health areas is something important.”



JOE MEXICANO
Junior forensic science major
“To hear the voice of El Paso’s people, not to do their own things behind our back and to present new ideas to El Paso.”



ANA JIMENEZ
Senior education major
“I want to see more help to public schools, even more to those that are in poor areas.”



LUIS GUTIERREZ
Freshman mechanical engineering major
“I would like to see the construction done.”



MICHELLE CARRASCO
Junior education major
“I want to see more places for people to go out at night. Although people say El Paso is the safest city, I believe it could be safer.”



MARCUS WHITE
Senior nursing major
“Transparency and better infrastructure, because I feel that they do a lot of stuff behind closed doors and not public on their decisions.”



ILENE SOTO
Sophomore biology major
“I would like for them to fix roads in lower income neighborhoods.”



EDUARDO PARRA
Sophomore kinesiology major
“To be more representative, since El Paso is more of a minority city and to show how El Paso is very diverse.”



SARAH PONCE DE LEON
Senior civil engineering major
“I hope our representative can help the department of transportation, improving the downtown area.”



MARIO PACHECO
Sophomore kinesiology major
“For them to make the best decisions for us and start sending researchers to help college students that need it.”

A LOOK BACK TO THIS LOCAL MAYORAL ELECTION

RUNOFF ANNOUNCED

On May 6, it was announced that David Saucedo and Dee Margo would go head-to-head for a runoff election.

MARGO FOR MAYOR

On June 10, Dee Margo was announced the winner of the mayoral election, winning with 57 percent of the votes

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Texas Legislature back in session

IN BRIEF

BY LESLIE SARIÑANA
The Prospector

Nearly a month after the 85th Texas Legislative Session ended, Governor Greg Abbott has called for a special session. The second session is set to begin on July 18, and last up to 30 days.

This comes to almost no surprise as lawmakers failed to approve a bill that would have prevented the shutdown of critical state agencies. This failure has caused Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick to push for a special session to revisit the bill. He says the House didn't complete its sunset review process in time. "Sunset" is a review process where lawmakers periodically review state agencies and decide to either phase them out or keep them open.

If the sunset bill review does not go through, state agencies would have to close. One of the agencies facing closure is the Texas Medical Board, which licenses all doctors in Texas.

The Texas Legislative Sessions take place every two years and run 140 days long. This year it wrapped up with a lot of loose ends. During the last day of the session, the House saw a lot of opposition and massive protests over Senate Bill 4, known as the "anti-sanctuary cities bill," which allows law enforcement to ask an individual's immigration status. This also caused argument between state representatives. The law was signed by Abbott with

no advance notice Sunday night before the session concluded. Hundreds of protesters had to be escorted out of the House gallery after they disrupted the lower chamber's proceedings.

High tensions and anger got in the way of completing the agenda on the last day of the session. Democrats and Republicans even went as far as to start shoving each other. These disputes left a lot of issues unresolved and only increased the need for a special session.

After it came to an end, Abbott vetoed 50 bills passed during the legislative session. However, Texas legislators have the power to override the vetoes during the special session.

Key issues that are going to be brought up include abortion, the "bathroom bill" and property tax growth. The special session, which could run as long as 30 days, is estimated to cost taxpayers up to \$800,000.

Here are two of the bills sure to be brought up during the special sessions:

HB 3859:

House Bill 3859 is the latest bill signed into law by Abbott and is sure to come up during the special session. This bill has made it legal for child welfare organization to deny welfare to qualified Texans based on their sexuality, gender identity or on the basis of the sexuality or gender identity of someone in their family if the provider cites

religious beliefs as a reason to deny them. Organizations will be able to do the same for same-sex couples who wish to adopt or even a couple from which one partner has been previously divorced as it can be considered a violation of the organization's religious beliefs. HB 3859 is set to go into effect in September.

SB 8:

Senate Bill 8 passed back in March during the legislative session. It is sure to be revisited during the special session as Abbott highlighted abortion as one of the key issues. This bill bans partial-birth abortions and restricts fetal tissue donations. Dilation and evacuation (D&E) is also made illegal through this bill. Doctors have concluded that D&E is the safest and most common type of abortions performed in the first trimester. Additionally, SB 8 bans the donation of fetal remains for medical research and requires that all remains during an abortion be buried or cremated. While it is unknown how the bill will be changed during the special session, all signs point to more restrictions on abortion.

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

DOCTORAL STUDENT DISCOVERS SPECIES

Doctoral candidate, Daniel Hughes, in UTEP's ecology and evolutionary biology program discovered three new species of chameleons. The reptile trio was found in the Albertine Rift in Central Africa and the findings were published in the Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society.

SCIENTISTS UNCOVER DISEASE VACCINE

Researchers Rosa Maldonado, Ph.D., and Igor Almeida, Ph.D., both faculty in the Department of Biological Sciences, were granted a patent for "Mucin-Associated Surface Protein As Vaccine Against Chagas Disease" for uncovering the first ever clinical Chagas disease vaccine. The vaccine might end up in clinical trials soon after the patent was granted.

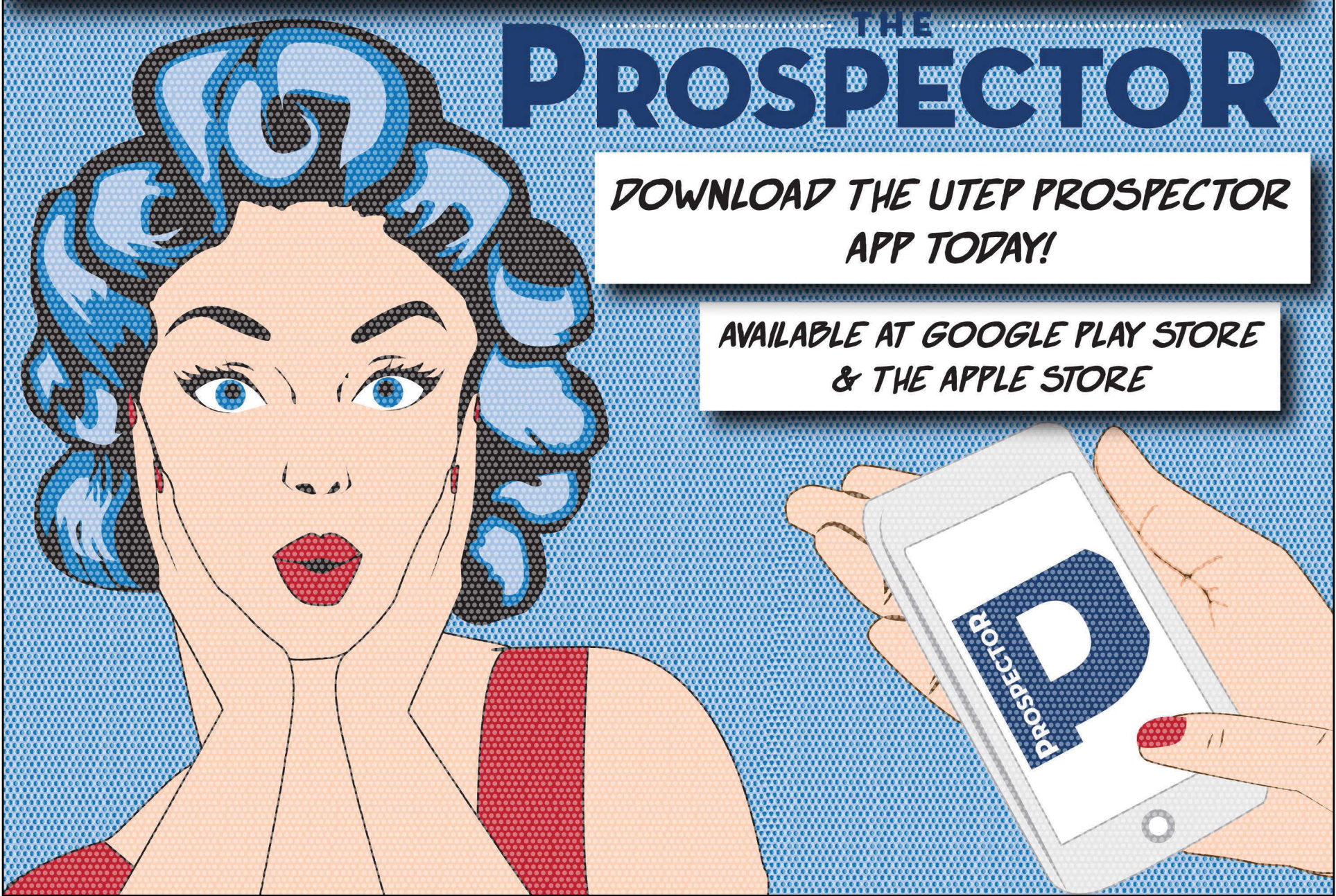
ROBERTSON INTERIM DEAN OF EDUCATION

William Robertson, Ph.D., was named interim dean of the College of Education. He is a professor co-chair in the Department of Teacher Education and specializes in the areas of science education, curriculum development and technology integration in primary and secondary schools.

MAYOR-ELECT MARGO TO BE SWORN IN

Mayor-elect Dee Margo is set to officially take office as the city's 51st mayor when he is sworn in on Tuesday, June 26. He is coming off a runoff election, where he defeated his opponent David Saucedo by 57 percent of the vote.

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JUNE 27, 2017

ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR
EDDIE VELAZQUEZ , 747-7477

MUSIC STREAMING SERVICES COMPARED

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS
The Prospector

SPOTIFY



GRADE: A-

PRICE: \$9.99;
\$14.99 FOR FAMILY;
\$4.99 FOR STUDENTS

Overview:

What started out in Sweden as a small music streaming service has turned into a worldwide phenomenon that holds 140 million users. It streams over 30 million tracks and is really user-friendly. Whether the listener prefers to listen to new mainstream hits or discover new music, Spotify provides a well-rounded service to its users.

Comparison breakdown:

When Apple Music began in June of 2015, the first thing that came to mind was that the layout looked very similar to Spotify's. Price-wise, Spotify is the same as most. However, what makes Spotify truly great is how simple it is to navigate through their app. While Apple Music doesn't offer the same access

to discover new music as Spotify does, Tidal tops Spotify in finding new music.

The odds are truly stacked against Spotify as it doesn't come pre-installed in a particular phone-unlike Apple Music, which comes with the iPhone. They also have trouble paying artists and making a profit off the subscribers. Additionally, importing local files into Spotify is not as intuitive as in the other apps.

Why subscribe:

Despite all of these odds, Spotify still seems to be the most user-friendly, accessible streaming site. When you download albums, playlists, songs or albums to their "offline" feature, the amount of space taken is a fraction of what it is to download music on Apple Music. If you have a phone with a storage space of 16 gigabytes (GB) or less,

Spotify is almost a necessity to truly download a reasonable amount of music.

The layout, design and idea are all factors in which Spotify truly pioneered in the music-streaming business. Look at the way Apple Music and Tidal have their layouts; from discovery pages to downloadable content, most derive inspiration from Spotify's original ideas. Let's be honest, if it weren't for Spotify, services like Apple Music and Tidal might not be what they are today, or might not even be here.

One of the coolest new things Spotify has added is Spotify Codes, where users can share music with each other with the snap of a Spotify Code. It's like a Snapchat code, but instead of adding each other as friends, it shows the user new music.

Why it might not be worth it:

Playback quality, timeliness on releases, lacks exclusivity. Being a music snob, 320kbs, MP3 stream might take some getting used to. It's obvious to the music quality aficionado that FLAC files are the way to go, so Spotify takes the back seat on this one. Even the 256kpbs AAC files that Apple Music have to offer top Spotify's. Also, artists such as Drake, Jay-Z and Taylor Swift, are more inclined to go exclusive with some albums or jumpstart their album release through a music service like Apple Music or Tidal, rather than Spotify. This makes listening to some new albums right when they drop nearly impossible for the Spotify premium user.

APPLE MUSIC



GRADE: B

PRICE: \$9.99;
\$14.99 FOR FAMILY;
\$4.99 FOR STUDENTS

Overview:

In just under two years since its launch in 2015, Apple Music has captivated a plethora of users throughout the globe and especially through iPhone users. The music service offers the first three months free to any new user and it is definitely worth the trial. With just two years under its belt, it is going to be interesting to see where Apple Music goes in the future.

Comparison breakdown:

Since the iPod, the iTunes library was the destination for purchasing and downloading music to devices and being the source for most users. Apple Music took the next step for mobile device users. It offers a way to discover new music and also

download any music you had in storage in your iTunes library.

Why subscribe:

Easily accessible, more than music, broad catalog. Any previous or current iPhone user would agree that Apple Music's simplicity goes a long way. It's easy to download music to the cloud or the phone's library, and fairly easy to get the music to your phone. Also, Apple Music subscribers are among the first to get their hands on some new music. For example, Frank Ocean released his "Endless" audio movie exclusively to Apple Music subscribers, so there are some interesting exclusive perks for subscribers. Apple Music also offers listeners more than just music. There are exclusive videos and iTunes radio stations that make \$9.99 worth it.

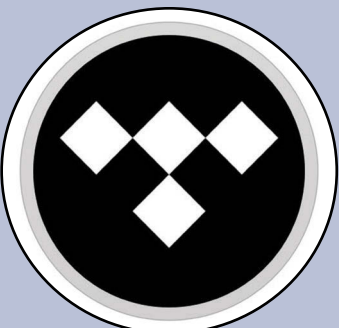
They also offer one of the greatest radio stations of all music streaming services, Beats Radio. Beats Music was bought by Apple Music, and now Beats Radio is one of the most-listened-to stations. In the past, the service has streamed exclusive songs and even released tracks from Drake's "More Life," when the hype was brewing earlier this year.

Why it might not be worth it:

iPhone exclusive, memory hoarder, hard to discover. Anyone without an iPhone is probably going to be turned away from subscribing to Apple Music because it is a little difficult for the non-iPhone user to use. Why waste money on a music subscription that will not be receptive to your Android device?

If you don't have too much memory on your phone, Apple Music might not be the best route. Downloading music takes up a good chunk of memory and makes it pretty difficult to keep a wide variety and quantity of music. Unless you're prone to deleting music ever so often to conserve memory, Apple Music might not be the choice for you. Apple Music does not feature a well-established discovery page such as Spotify or Tidal. Apple Music is good to discover the latest chart toppers, but discovering independent artists is not as accessible as it is on Spotify or Tidal. iTunes' library is already a little outdated and it feels as if they made little to no effort on helping the user find new tracks or tunes to listen to.

TIDAL



GRADE: B-

PRICE: \$9.99 PER MONTH ;
\$19.99 FOR HI-FI LOSSLESS QUALITY;
\$4.99 FOR STUDENTS

Overview:

It's always easy to root for Jay-Z because the man is a legend. But, let's be honest, when Tidal came out in 2014 a lot of negative reception came out of it and most were basically waiting for the fad to die out. However, this October will be the service's three-year anniversary and it seems to continue to attract people.

Comparison breakdown:

While Tidal probably offers the most exclusive content out of the three music services, it seems that big investors, such as Jay-Z, Rihanna, Daft Punk, Beyoncé and Arcade Fire are just counting the days before they are out of business or bought out. Recently, Sprint bought 33 percent of the company for a reported \$200 million, so who knows what

they have in store. However, as far as user-friendly, it doesn't compare to Apple Music or Spotify. The app definitely takes some getting used to.

Why subscribe:

Best quality of music, deep quantity of music and mixtapes. For the music quality fan, Tidal is the perfect way to go. In fact, this January, the company announced they would be partnering with UK company Master Quality Authenticated to improve their audio quality. Tidal is still the highest-quality music streaming site, delivering a variable FLAC quality to users. If you have the money, pay the \$19.99 for incredible music quality and you will not be disappointed. Also, the deep selection of music Tidal has to offer is impressive in itself. They offer a catalog of 46 million songs and exclusively offer new content from artists like Jay-Z and Beyoncé. They plan to release Jay-Z's new project, "4:44," which will ex-

clusively stream through Tidal. For hip-hop fans and indie lovers, Tidal is almost a must. It's so easy and accessible to find new music from independent artists, who release anything from LPs, EPs and even mixtapes. Each week they update their discover playlists, new music to check out and truly help people find new music based on their interests. Tidal is one of the only music streaming services that truly gives the royalties back to the artists. One artist claimed that the royalties per track from Tidal are over three times more than those paid by Spotify.

Why it might not be worth it:

Layout, cost, lack of presence. Honestly, how many people do you know have Tidal? It truly lacks the presence that Spotify and Apple Music have. Even though they are fairly new, it almost seems like the

business is doomed to fail unless they amp up their subscription rate. The layout of Tidal takes some getting used to. In fact, it might take a couple trials of frustration and error to navigate through the app. For anyone not apt for change, they may be turned away from Tidal's confusing layout and may even cancel their subscriptions. Even though it may offer the latest hits, is spending \$19.99 for high-quality music really worth it? The basic version is the same cost as Spotify or Apple Music, but is \$9.99 extra really a bang-for-your-buck? The answer: it depends. If you are one of those who downloads music constantly, listens to music on expensive Bose headphones or a defiant speaker, then maybe it is. But if you listen to music on a day-to-day basis without much contextualizing or care, then Tidal Hi-Fi might not be worth the extra cost.

Follow Adrian Broaddus on Twitter @adrian_broaddus



Odd-Lab brings the heat



PHOTO COURTESY OF ODD-LAB FACEBOOK

BY ANDRES GALLEGOS
The Prospector

Odd-Lab is an experimental place, where innovative props and choreographies are created, and where odd people reside. For seven years, Odd-Lab has taken fire as a dance partner and together they’ve captivated and astonished audiences across the Southwest.

When Georgina Armendariz, Jesse James and C.J. founded Odd-Lab in late 2010, they were hoping to create a professional fire troupe. Now the troupe consists of a dozen performers and their shows have taken them to Los Angeles, Malibu and Albuquerque. Odd-Lab has turned athleticism, artistry and prop manipulation into coveted entertainment.

In their performances, the flame is inches away from their faces, but it is the fascination with fire that feeds their busi-

ness. Audiences are hardly interested in the LED shows that they also provide because no one cares about a light bulb breaking.

“It’s kind of like NASCAR. You’re watching because you think something might go wrong and maybe you’re secretly hoping that something might go wrong,” Armendariz said.

Fear, curiosity and awe are the emotions that jostle through the audience. Armendariz claims that both children and adults admire the extravagance, but one admires it more than the other.

“The kid audience is fascination and curiosity, the adult audience is generally fascination and maybe a little bit frightened for our safety,” she said.

While the spectators may gaze at the flames in awe, it is the adrenaline that pushes Odd-Lab performers into risking their skin for their art. Armendariz

believes that what she does with fire heightens her senses and everything else goes out of her head.

“I feel like every time I start a new choreography, I’m starting all over again, I feel like it’s day one of me interacting with fire,” Armendariz said.

Not only does Odd Lab bring the heat close to the audience, but they also do it with extreme caution. Odd-Lab has had zero incidents in their seven years. This is due to their strict safety precautions such as setting a perimeter around the audience, having security to keep the audience outside of the perimeter and double checking that their equipment is functional.

“We started this group with safety measures and we’ve only been increasing them every time,” Armendariz said.

Odd-Lab has performed at Chalk the Block, Pride Fest, Kidspalooza, the Las Cruces Farmers Market, the Renaissance Fair and the Neon Paint Party. Aside from festivals, they also work private events such as parties.

The performance in both events differs in the scale of the production that is presented. Party shows may run from 20 to 30 minutes with a basic, but still astounding, display of fire manipulation. Festivals are where Odd-Lab brings quality productions with themes and stories.

Fire rushes the artists of Odd Lab with adrenaline as they twirl, spin, toss and swallow it. There isn’t a lack of an audience in the entertainment business especially when there is a hazardous factor in the show.

“Everyone has a fascination for fire, it’s a natural element that all humans are attracted to,” Armendariz said.

✉ Andres Gallegos may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

‘SISTER ACT’

The UTEP Dinner Theater presents “Sister Act.” The musical will open July 7 and run until July 22. Tickets for both dinner matinee and non dinner matinee shows will be available at the UTEP Ticket Center.

EL PASO ICE CREAM FESTIVAL

Cohen stadium will host the second-annual Ice Cream Festival, “Sundae,” July2. Kids 12 and under are free and General Admission tickets are \$12. There will be live music, entertainment and food trucks.

HOMENAJE A FRIDA KAHLO

Alamo Drafthouse will be hosting an event in celebration of Frida Kahlo’s birthday on July 1. The event will include a screening of FRIDA, ballet folklorico, art workshops, music, food and a Frida Kahlo look-a-like contest. The event starts at noon and runs until 8 p.m.

LXSDOS OPENING RECEPTION

LxsDos art duo are having an opening reception to showcase their borderland-inspired works. They will also feature art from the “Move Your Mind!” summer camp. The reception opens at 5 p.m. at the Rubin Center for the Visual Arts.



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JUNE 27, 2017

SPORTS

EDITOR
MIKE FLORES, 747-7477

Fernandez hopes to bring new era to tennis

BY MIKE FLORES

The Prospector

Since 2010, the UTEP tennis program has seen six coaches in the last seven years.

However, the Miners have finally seemed to find the right person for the job with Ivan Fernandez. Fernandez brings great experience, knowledge, a winning attitude and, most importantly, he brings a much-needed stability to the ailing program.

Fernandez, a Puerto Rico native, has been teaching tennis since 1990 when he became a P1 Certified Tennis Professional with the United States Professional Tennis Association (USPTA). A decade later, Fernandez earned his first collegiate coaching job with New Mexico State as an assistant coach, where he stayed from 2000 to 2003.

The following season, Fernandez made his way to FIU (2003-04) as a women's assistant coach and quickly left to East Tennessee State for the 2004-05 season. In his one year with ETSU as a men's assistant coach, Fernandez helped lead the Buccaneers to the 2005 Southern Conference Championship with an undefeated record of 13-0. The Buccaneers earned themselves an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament.

At FIU, Fernandez thrived under Ronni Bernstein, who was the head coach for the Panthers. Now, Bernstein is going into her 11th season as the head coach of a powerhouse school, the University of Michigan.

Being able to learn and take in everything from the coaches above him has led Fernandez to where he is now.

"I did jump around at the beginning of my career because I didn't want to get pigeon-holed into a coaching style or a specific way of dealing with a student-athlete," Fernandez said. "The fact that I got to work under many great coaches, that experience is key for my success."

Fernandez found himself back with the Aggies as their assistant coach from 2005 to 2010. Fernandez worked under his mentor Don Ball at the time, who is from El Paso and was the head pro at the El Paso Tennis Club. Before Ball retired, he taught Fernandez structure, organization



NINA TITOVETS / THE PROSPECTOR

UTEP's new tennis coach Ivan Fernandez began his tenure on June 5.

and how to run a well-oiled team. And the keys to NMSU program were handed over to Fernandez in 2010.

In seven years as the Aggies head coach (2010-17), Fernandez led NMSU to four consecutive berths in the Western Athletic Conference championship match (2014-17), including the program's first-ever WAC title in 2015. And in 2010, NMSU had the first nationally ranked doubles tandem in the school's history under Fernandez.

Fernandez's ability to not only lure in talent to his program but to also develop them to reach their full potential is unquestioned. He groomed two WAC Player of the Year players, Ashvarya Shrivastav (2016) and Rimpledeep Kaur (2017). Also, Fernandez had a total of 18 All-WAC honor players in his time with the Aggies.

But after seven successful years at NMSU, a change of scenery and colors were in store for Fernandez, as it was announced on June 5 that Fernandez will be taking over the

tennis program at UTEP.

"I was kind of shocked to be named head coach after so many years at NMSU. It took a little while for it to sink in, you know having to wear orange and blue instead of crimson and white. But it's a very exciting opportunity and I'm looking forward to the challenge of taking over a program that has had its up and downs the last few years," Fernandez said. "I have a lot of plans for the future here. I'm here for the long haul."

With a world of experience leading into Fernandez's second head coaching job, the ceiling and future of UTEP tennis has not looked as high in quite some time. However, Fernandez knows how much time and patience it will take to build a program from nearly scratch.

"The first thing is bringing some stability and comfort in a coach. I want to have people recognize the UTEP coach for longer than one year," Fernandez said. "The recruits need to know that I am going to be

here for their entire career and that I'm here for a reason—it's to build a program for the long run. This isn't a stepping stone for me."

As soon as Fernandez stepped into his new office at UTEP, his work was cut out for him. He immediately had to get to work on recruiting since only three players (Raven Bennett, Maria Paula and Lois Wagenvoort) from last year's team are returning next season. This left Fernandez with five spots to fill. Fernandez is searching for players who are going to give their all to the team, their teammates and the university, and girls he can improve year-in and year-out.

"Right now I'm not really focused on wins and losses, I hope the UTEP community understands that," Fernandez said. "I don't want to look at that as much as the effort and the family atmosphere I'm trying to create. The better the atmosphere, the better we will do in the future."

Nearly three weeks into the job, Fernandez has done just that by

snatching two incoming student-athletes in Erandi Martinez Hernandez from México City and Alisa Morozova from Russia.

As successful as Fernandez is with coaching, he is just as impressive when it comes to making sure his players are students before athletes. At NMSU, he garnered 42 Academic All-WAC selections and he helped NMSU receive a Public Recognition Award from the NCAA in May for posting a perfect 1,000 multiyear Academic Progress (APR). His Aggies finished with a 3.5 GPA average.

"Their education has to be the most important. Realistically, these girls are not going to go pro. Maybe one out of 50 or 100 will actually be able to make it on the tour, so they have to take advantage of their education," Fernandez said. "Communication and building relationships with my players is key. I want to see how they're feeling in all their classes."

Building relationships with the players began from day one. They know Fernandez runs his programs differently and are stoked for the new start. Fernandez has high praise from the returners of last year's UTEP team and he's looking forward to getting them motivated for a new year.

"Lois is a top player. She can play on top of the lineup. Raven is a total warrior out on the court, she fights and never gives up. Maria Paula is very, very talented; she just hasn't had the mental support from the staff. And that's my main goal to support them physically and psychologically," Fernandez said.

A new era for UTEP tennis is underway, and UTEP got everything they were searching for in Fernandez.

"I really try to be more than a coach," he said. "At times, I'll have to be a dad, a big brother, a counselor. I might have to wear many hats at a time. I want my players to know that I'm leading them in the right direction."

Fernandez's vision for UTEP down the road is to be a consistent team in the top half of the conference, be a top-50 program and ultimately win conference championships.

Follow Mike Flores on Twitter @MikeyTheReal

ROLLER DERBY from page 1

Starting with the team's names, the SCRG shows true grit. According to the ladies, the way they come up with their roller derby names is by word of mouth, earning it or through practice.

Some of the players also go a long ways with their uniforms. Some use dark face paint for a more menacing look, while others go as far as coordinating their outfits with their dyed hair or flamboyant piercings.

Feeding off the grungy energy the women deliver, the crowd gets just as hyped for the bouts as well. Most fans have a specific team or player they cheer for and some even sport their favorites by wearing their team's shirts.

"I was initially attracted to the punk rock-grunge girls, who are all about women empowerment and getting it out there and getting it done," Lady Latte Pain said. "I think it's like fighting back against all those in life who told you that you couldn't

do it. Don't ever let anyone tell you that you can't do it."

Another huge aspect SCRG focuses on is empowering women of all shapes, ages and sizes. That's what truly sparks a deep love for the sport for Willa Meanstreak, a blocker for the Chulas.

"We work with such powerful women and encourage women to do their best," she said. "If you look around, there's larger women, there's older women and they push you to be better. Some of the bigger girls are some of the fiercest competitors. We really work hard to get where we are today."

Meanstreak hopes that if a person comes to see a bout for the first time, they recognize the hard work each individual puts into this sport.

"I want fans to have a lot of fun and appreciate how hard we work to do it," Meanstreak said. "There's a lot of sports that don't get a lot of attention and this is one of them. It's a sport for all different ages, all different sizes."

The Bout

In the matchup between the Chulas and Sexexecutioners, both teams had extremely shifty jammers, who were able to get by the blockers and score points for their respective teams.

Led by standout jammer Trixie Poleverizer, the Sexexecutioners were able to build a commanding lead at the beginning of the bout, leading 27-4, 31-12 and 41-15, and took a dominant 61-28 lead at the half.

In the second half, the Chulas were able to claw their way to some impressive points, but it was no match for the consistent resilience of the Sexexecutioners, who are the reigning SCRG champions from last year. The team held on during the second half, winning 108-68.

Poleverizer was like a running back, easily maneuvering through blockers like none other. She was named the MVP jammer of the bout.

"I've been playing for three years and it never gets old," she said. "It's a great experience and one that feels so exciting."

In the second game of the double-header, Las Viudas Negras and Las Diablas were in a close match for the first couple of minutes, both teams trading off points left and right. However, at the seven-minute mark of the first period, Las Viudas Negras were able to break off and build a lead. They led 52-15 at the half and scored 36 unanswered points in under 10 minutes. The second half wasn't too much different, as Las Viudas Negras built their lead even more and won the bout 108-27.

In most other sports, opposing teams usually have a tough time getting along with one another, but the teams in SCRG are very supportive of one another.

"It's such a friendly learning experience. Even before this, everyone had a get-together and got to hang out with each other," Poleverizer said.

SCRG Takes it on the Road

The SCRG recently began to travel throughout the U.S. to compete against other roller derby teams from across the nation.

Recently, the teams traveled to Phoenix for "Battle on the Bank," which is an annual banked-track bout featuring teams from El Paso, San Diego, Los Angeles, Seattle, Houston, Dallas, Austin, Philadelphia, Florida and Phoenix.

"It was a lot to learn and it was good to venture out of El Paso," Lopez said. "It makes them want to work harder and they learn so much."

Lopez, who helped coordinate the different teams going off to travel, has plans for other teams across the nation to come to El Paso for a big bout. She hopes to invite teams from Austin, Houston and Phoenix for big events the SCRG participates in, such as the annual Rockabilly Riot.

The next bout for the SCRG will be on July 23, with time and location to be announced. For more information on the organization, visit their website at www.suncityrollergirls.com.

Follow Adrian Broadus on Twitter @adrian_broadus

Smith brings strong, physical and mental game to UTEP

BY JEREMY CARRANCO

The Prospector

Forward Tirus Smith, out of Petal High School in Petal, Mississippi, will be suiting up for the Miners for the first time as a freshman this fall. The big 6-foot-9, 230-pound forward will be an important boost to the Miners' interior game both offensively and defensively.

"Whenever I dunked the basketball for the first time, that's when I was like, okay I can do this," Smith said. "I started playing AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) basketball and a bunch of the other guys were dunking and playing hard, and I was like dang, so I dunked it one time and I started getting scholarship offers."

UTEP relied heavily on their guard play last season after Terry Winn announced he was leaving the program and it forced the new guys Paul Thomas and Ivan Venegas to step up inside, even with their lack of experience.

While it was nice to see Thomas develop and Venegas mature, the Miners lacked a consistent and strong attack in the lane. Had the Miners had a better presence inside, the start of the 2016-17 season could have written a better script.

The former Ole Miss commit has the potential to bring a much-needed size

enhancement and aggressiveness for UTEP in seasons to come. Defensively, the ability to block and disrupt shots is another highlight for the freshman.

“Whenever I dunked the basketball for the first time, that’s when I was like ‘okay, I can do this.’”

- Soon-to-be freshman forward Tirus Smith

Smith surpassed the national average with one steal and two blocks per game in his senior season at Petal High. Offensively he put together 10 double-doubles and season-highs of 30 points (versus Neshoba Central

High School) and 19 rebounds (versus South Jones High School).

The freshman averaged 4.2 points and 9.5 rebounds his senior season and scored a total of 1,003 points in just under three seasons of varsity basketball and was appointed to The Clarion-Ledger's "Dandy Dozen" as one of the 12 best players in the state of Mississippi.

Miner fans should be excited about the newcomer since UTEP's rich history has always been driven by stellar defense and hard play since the days of the legendary head coach Don Haskins.

"Getting stronger with the ball and better decision making with the ball in my hand," Smith said when asked what he needs to work on to earn minutes his freshman season. "Being able to look inside for the guys on the inside and being able to get the guys on the wing off the screen, just learning the offense mainly."

Many college players today lack the patience for a quality shot opportunity. In 2015, the total NCAA average field goal percentage sat at 43.49 percent, a drop of 0.75 percent from 2014 (44.24 percent).

Smith has come to realize that in college he will need to play hard on both sides of the ball no matter what, even when his or his



NINA TITOVETS/ THE PROSPECTOR

Incoming freshman Tirus Smith looks to add depth to the Miners interior play.

teammates' shots are not falling.

"The main thing I can control is how hard I defend and how hard I go rebound," Smith said. "Shots may not be falling some nights, games that you may have a rough going in, but you can control how hard you are playing and as long as I am playing hard and defending, then I'll be all right."

The power forward may find himself earning minutes for Floyd in no time, apart from what he can do physically. With an attitude like his, Smith is a prime example of what many collegiate players stepping on the court for the first time should try and emulate.

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