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ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

THE PROSPECTOR

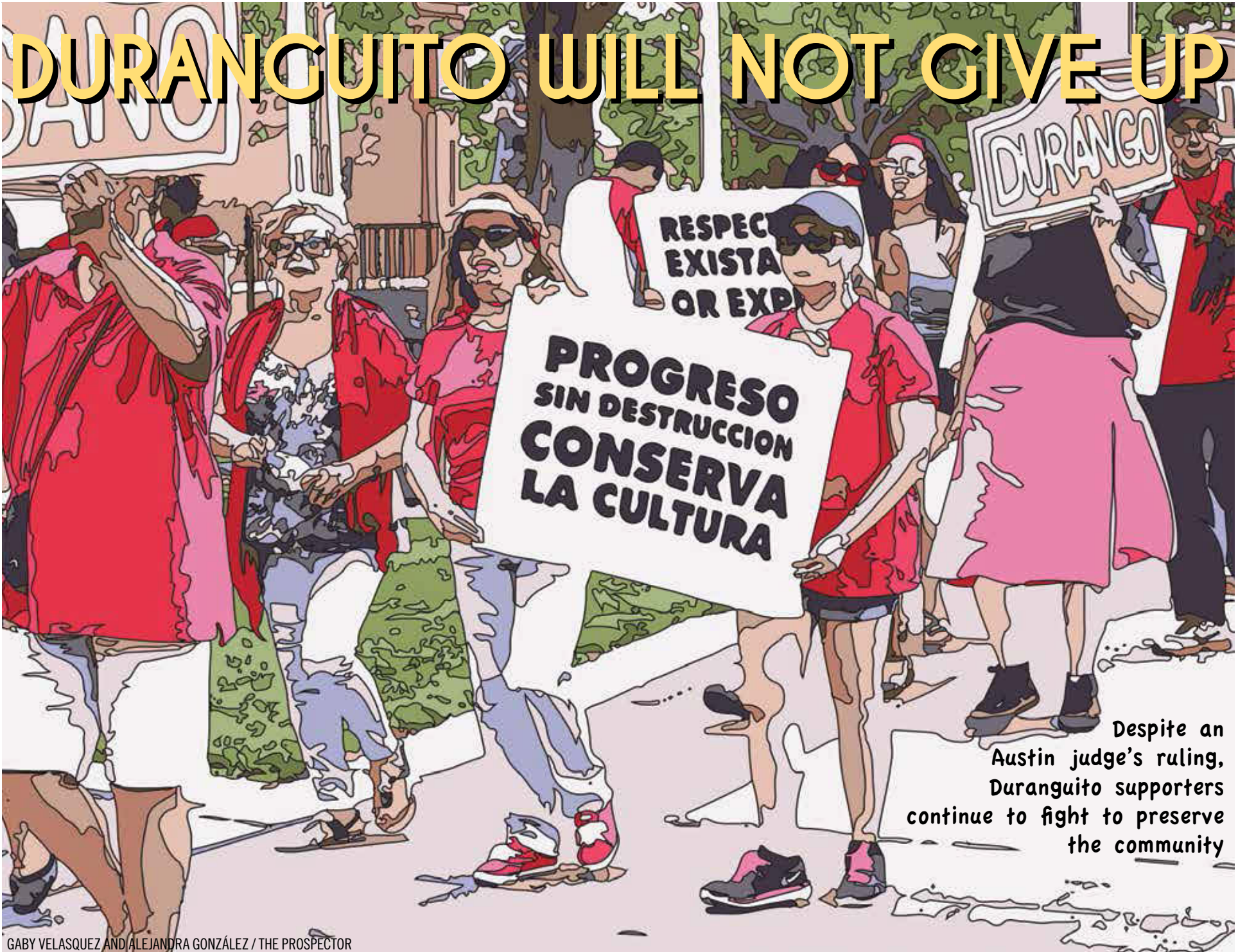
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VOL. 102, NO. 35

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

JULY 25, 2017

DURANGUITO WILL NOT GIVE UP



Despite an Austin judge's ruling, Duranguito supporters continue to fight to preserve the community

GABY VELASQUEZ AND ALEJANDRA GONZÁLEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS

The Prospector

Last week, Austin District Judge Amy Clark Meachum ruled in partial favor of the city's efforts to build a proposed \$180-million arena in the Union Plaza area of Downtown El Paso by ruling that the city can build a multipurpose center, but they may not use voter-approved bonds to build a sports arena.

Due to the restraining order that prohibits the city from purchasing or demolishing any land until Aug. 1, the city cannot start on their project.

Judge Clark Meachum also called for a follow up hearing on Aug. 1 to explain the full details of the ruling to both parties.

While most would believe this ruling is in favor of the city, both parties believe they came out on top.

On one side, the city's attorney Scott Incerto was excited with the ruling, saying that it was "everything we wanted."

Although the grounds were established that a multipurpose center can be developed, those who are against the arena and for the preservation of Duranguito saw that the partial ruling was beneficial to their case because they believe it takes the topic of a sports arena out of the picture. They also believe it exposed transparency issues within the government and that it allows room to file another citywide petition.

What most thought would be the end is just the beginning of a battle that could be prolonged even further.

"This could go on for several years," said historian David Romo, who testified at the hearing on July 18. "The city is going to try to appeal."

Recapping the trial

During the opening statements, both sides gave a preview of their arguments.

The city's attorneys argued that the claims against the stadium are false and only wishing to prolong the project. The attorneys said sports was a form of entertainment and added that the city should be able to include sports in the arena.

They also threw a curveball when they attempted to say that the petition the opposing side originally filed, which contained 2,400 signatures in efforts to make the Duranguito neighborhood a historical district, violated the city ordinances on the regulations because of "zoning" guidelines.

The opposing side argued in their opening statement that nowhere on the 2012 bond passed for a performing arts

center did it mention sports. They asked that the judge rule a sporting arena out of the picture.

They also asked the judge to recognize the fact that if the efforts for a second petition were allowed, the public could vote on the matter.

The City Council did not act on the first petition because they stated that Texas law shows that voters are not allowed to vote on zoning areas.

Some of the key witnesses included Bryan Crowe, the general manager of Destination El Paso, who explained that the venue would be able to host about 62 events per year, including UTEP basketball games, concerts, plays, rodeos, graduations and other entertainment events.

Leonard Goodman, who served on the committee of the 2012 bond, testified how it was unclear whether or

not sporting events would be allowed, but gave evidence to some allusions.

Senator Jose Rodriguez, who had just gotten out of the Texas Legislative session that day, told the court how frustrated he was that the city continues to use taxpayers' dollars for this matter and hopes that it will be resolved so no more taxpayers suffer.

When Romo was cross-examined, he testified how he thought the voters in the 2012 bond were "misled," and that the city's attorneys came across as bullies.

"It felt like two German shepherds fighting me," Romo said. "When they asked me, 'aren't you for the creation of jobs?' I responded with, 'how will it give a job to the 86-year-old Senovia Bustillos, who went to the hospital with a heart attack from being so harassed by the landowners? Now she's living in a trailer out in the colonias.'"

see Duranguito on page 4

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JULY 25, 2017

OPINION

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
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Flush the bathroom bill

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS
The Prospector



Amid one of my travels to my favorite city in the world, Austin, I broke the morning of my day of exploring Austin with a trip to the neighborhood Starbucks to do some work I had to finish that day.

After ordering, I walked over to the restroom, and, to my surprise, the Starbucks had two restrooms that were gender neutral. A smile ran across my face as I thought, “wow, Texas, for once, you got your head out of the 1950s.” It felt like a small societal accomplishment, and as a Texan, I was proud that the bathroom issue seemed to be in a place for anyone to be accepted.

Oh boy, little did I know that the red-beaming Texas would soon snatch that idea away.

Last week, the Texas Senate revisited the bathroom bill issue of restricting bathroom use by transgender individuals in government buildings and schools. By a vote of 8 to 1, a Republican-filled Senate committee ruled in favor of the bill on Friday evening and will propose the bill to the entire Senate for a vote in attempts to get it passed.

If enacted, the bill would require transgender people to use the restroom, locker room or showers that relate to their gender on their birth certificate instead of their preferred gender identity.

The capitol witnessed more than 250 people, who were for and against the bill, testifying before the committee.

Instead of going on and on about why revisiting this bill is outright ridiculous, I will reflect on some of the key testimonies that were spoken before the committee. Loud music and a plethora of concerts have destroyed my sense of hearing, but whatever destroyed the hearing capabilities of these senators, who heard these testimonies, must be horrid.

From a financial standpoint, San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg traveled to the hearing and said that just the fact that the state filed the petition meant that many conventions that were set to be hosted in the city have pulled out. Also, he and some others who testified alluded to the high chance of boycotting among major companies, causing industries, such as those of oil and gas, to possibly form and deprive Texas of necessities.

IBM retracted ads in major Texas newspapers and said that as a company they “firmly oppose” all

discrimination that would hurt the LGBTQ community, and said how businesses will suffer in recruiting and retaining talent.

Joining IBM were chief executives of 14 Dallas-based companies, including American Airlines, AT&T, Southwest Airlines and Texas Instruments. They expressed to the governor in a letter how the bill would really affect the selection process of who they could possibly lose out on.

Now, from a human’s perspective, hearing the testimonies of transgender people and people closely related to transgender individuals were completely heartbreaking. Some said they fear new discriminations that will arise from this, questioning why these Republicans desire to be “bathroom police.” Some parents are scared for their children, who may have to go back to using a restroom in which they do not feel comfortable with.

Testifying for the bill were seemingly radical Republicans, who seemed uneducated or misinformed about the topic. They called it an issue about “safety,” but a simple gender-oriented restroom is not going to hinder mentally unstable people from committing acts of sexual assault.

Again, as recalled by Bishop Michael Curry of the Episcopal Church, who is scheduled to have a convention in Austin, back in 1955, Curry and the church had to move the convention from Houston because Texas prohibited integration of black and white Episcopalians.

This is not a race war, but rather about justice for humanity; one in which the senators need to wake up and realize that toying with gender is a prehistoric misconception.

Take Europe for instance, in some areas it is the normal to have integrated restrooms and it’s not a big deal at all to them. Only in America are labels more important than the bigger picture of humanity.

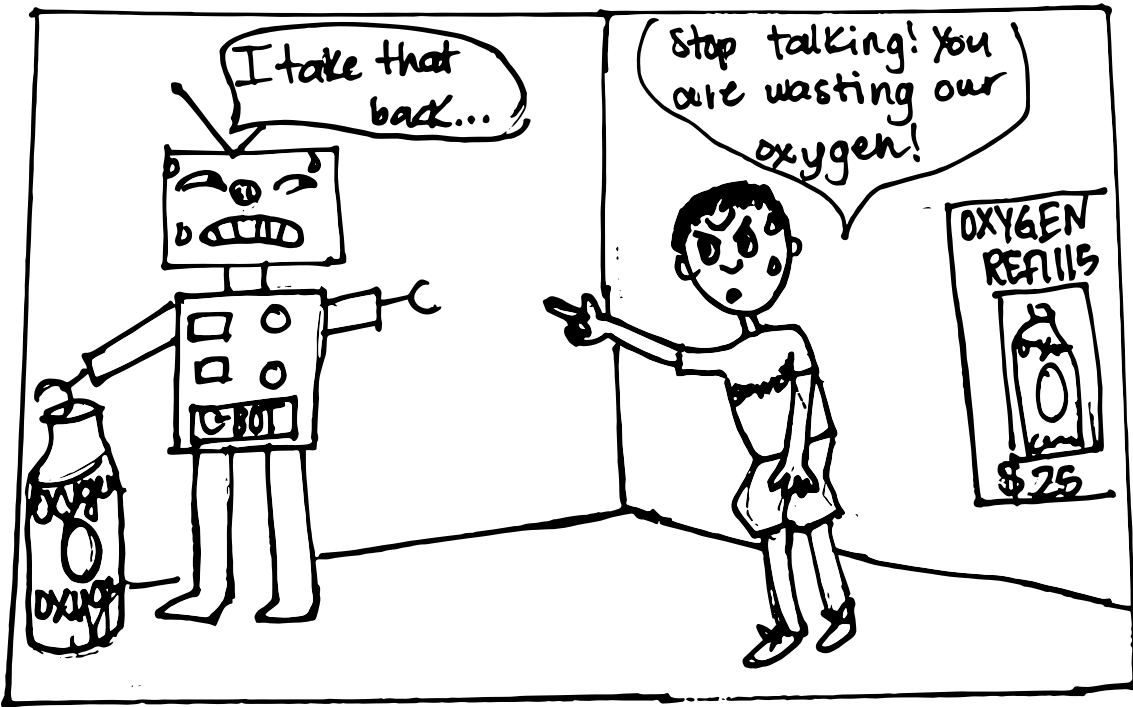
The chances of winning approval for the bill seems pretty likely for a Republican-centered Senate, but chances are not so high when it comes to the House.

So to the House, it is up to you and the full Senate to turn away this far-fetched bill. And to you who care so much about the bill being enacted, please take into consideration the lives of those truly affected—the transgender ones. You will never be able to experience the uncomfortable environment that they experience, and this bill would only

increase that discomfort.

Follow Adrian Broaddus on Twitter @adrian_broaddus

Can you take the heat in El Paso?



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New dean spotlight: William Robertson



GABY VELASQUEZ/ THE PROSPECTOR

William Robertson has been with UTEP's College of Education for 13 years.

BY LESLIE SARIANA
The Prospector

Earlier this summer, the College of Education announced a new interim dean, William Robertson.

Robertson has been a part of UTEP's faculty for 13 years already and joined the staff in 2004. He has served as a professor and a co-chair for the Department of Teacher Education. He brings to the table a doctorate in multicultural teaching and childhood education from the University of New Mexico, and the experience of being a former associate dean and associate provost.

In 2016, Robertson was awarded the Meritorious Service Award for his community engaged scholarship by UTEP President Diana Natalicio.

Robertson has a unique approach to teaching. His students know him as "Dr.Skateboard" for his demonstrations of physics of skateboarding.

Although only the interim dean, Robertson is committed to the school. He began his role on July 1, taking over for Cyndi Giorgis, who represented the College of Education for the past three years.

Robertson answered a few questions about the new position he is taking on.

How do you feel about making the transition from co-chair to dean?

R: Well for me, I think it's a great opportunity to build a little momentum for the college that we have going forward. It's a chance to reinvigorate our mission into the community and it's also a chance for us to grow as a faculty and finish many of the projects that we've been working on.

I've had experience, not only as a co-chair, but as an associate dean. I've been in this office before and I was an associate provost. So I've had a variety of administrative positions and I think also put me in a good position to not only understand how it works well in our college, but also to be effective across the university.

Looking at that, how do you feel overseeing the whole college?

R: For me I think it's just a great opportunity to get in touch with all of the great things we do here in the College of Education. We're known primarily for things in teacher education, in bilingual education, but you know we do so much in leadership, counseling, mental health, early childhood, STEM educations.

That's one of the exciting things, it really gives you a chance to get in touch with every facet of it. Plus, we have over 60 faculty across the departments and probably an equal number of staff. You get to work with a group of motivated people, who are committed to the education of our region and beyond.

Finally, it's the chance to get to interact with students, all the undergrads across all of the programs and the graduate and doctoral students. That's something that you get to do in this role. You really get the chance to see the success of students at all levels. Really, you're in the success business so we want to help students to achieve those dreams and we want to inspire others to do the same.

How did you get the position of interim dean?

R: Within our college we met with the president and the provost. They

said, 'we would be interested as a faculty putting forward a number of people who might be interested in doing this.' So we went through an application process through our college. People were nominated, and if you were nominated you also submit materials for consideration.

I was one of five people who submitted their materials who were nominated and accepted those nominations, and then those materials went forward to the provost, and in conjunction with the president and meeting with the different candidates, then made the selection and I was fortunate enough to be picked.

The one thing was that we as a college were looked upon to bring forward someone to take on this role and we were able to meet that need ourselves. That's one of the reasons we developed a well-participated process. We had over 40-something faculty participate with nominations and an equal number of meetings to discuss what the qualities would be for the individual who would be the interim. I felt it was a pretty democratic process, but I had to apply for it; I had to be interviewed and then hopefully be accepted and willing to take on the job.

As interim dean, you're not officially the dean. You're there temporarily? How long do you see yourself in the position?

R: "As the provost said to me, 'you'll be the interim dean, but just remember that the interim dean is the dean.' So you have to function like the dean while you're in it. Really your goal as an interim is to prepare a path for the incoming dean, but also you have to meet the need of the college as they are. That means growing the program, being

with the students, the community. Sometimes interim positions do last longer than a year, I think you have to be prepared to do that. I'm going into my 14th year with UTEP. I'm committed to the university, to the college.

This, I'll look at not only as an opportunity for me, but what I would consider a strong service to the college and the university. I'm hopeful that we'll find the right person, but I'm also understanding that it's a process that has to be worked through as well. I'm here for the long haul, here in El Paso and UTEP.

Having served at UTEP for so long, can it be seen as an advantage?

R: That's the other thing, you want people who understand us, El Paso, the community and certainly our program. Even after my interim is over, I'm still a faculty member and anticipate being involved in big ways with what we're doing here at UTEP.

Are you worried at all about going into the position, making changes and then having someone else come in as dean and undo all of that change?

R: You run that risk. So I think one of the things you have to do is identify the projects you want to complete. Typically, what people do is they look at things that are unfinished or have stalled. That's a call for us as faculty too, we need to finish many of the projects that we have, in order to present to a new dean or an administration. "These are the things we have agreed on as a faculty." Then we would hope that the dean would work on that and areas that need

to be improved, not things we've already accomplished.

You run that risk of having someone come in and undoing your agenda. If you're careful and you've created this consensus and those items in conjunction with the faculty, it's not only your voice that's bringing it forward, it's the collective voice of the group. That typically carries a lot of weight with a new dean. I think deans are looking for new places where they can achieve success, and if they've already got success they can build off of those instead of trying to recreate them.

Any other words on, not just the position, but the College of Education?

R: Well I think that the message too is that the College of Education is here to serve students who are interested in being teachers, in being counselors, in being mental health workers, educational leaders and also getting their master's and doctoral degrees.

We look forward to serving our students in being highly visible in the community. We really feel we're the heart of the institution, where the university really interfaces with the community and we're deeply committed to that. I look forward to serving our community and our college for this interim period.

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

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How are you staying cool in this El Paso heat?

SERGIO MUNOZ, NINA TITOVETS GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR



ALEXANDRA RODRIGUEZ
Freshman sports marketing major
"I try to stay indoors and when I go outside I make sure I have a drink with me."



CARLOS HERRERA
Senior computer science major
"Drink a lot of water, go swimming in the morning and try to stay in the shade."



DEBBI LEAL
Sophomore org and corp comm. major
"By getting an ice-cool beverage. I also like to sit wherever it has air conditioning."



CHRISTOPHER FAVILA
Junior mechanical engineering major
"I spend most of my time working out so I'm in an enclosed area where it's nice and cool."



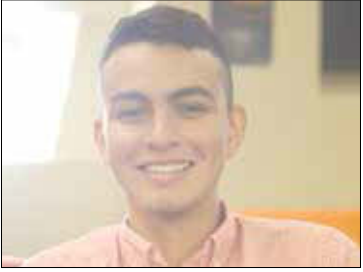
JAZMINE DEL CASTILLO
Sophomore engineering major
"I have an expensive water bottle that I put ice in it all day long, and I just try to keep it filled with water."



JOSHUA ESPARZA
Sophomore kinesiology major
"I've been trying to stay away from the sun, staying inside the facilities as much as I can."



ALEXANDRA ROJAS
Sophomore art history major
"I try to wear looser clothes and hang out in the shade."



ABRAM HERNANDEZ
Sophomore computer science major
"I wear summer clothes; I try to not stay in one place for too long, I try to move around."



ARIANA DALGLEISH
Grad student pre-med major
"I have my iced coffee with me and I try to stay indoors or in the shade."



LUIS ENRIQUEZ
Sophomore psychology major
"I spend most of my time indoors away from the heat."

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DURANGUITO from page 1

The attorneys asked whether or not Romo actually believed that the owners of the buildings in the Duranguito area actually envisioned down the line that the arena would happen, and Romo said he did.

El Paso CFO Mark Sutter testified that to his knowledge 39 of 40 residential tenants and 65 of 66 commercial tenants accepted relocation packages. In efforts to acquire the property, the city has spent \$15 million, and now it has 22 of the 23 buildings that are in the arena's location.

However, Romo said that there are more tenants still in the Duranguito area than most think.

"They are incorrect because during the date of the trial, and I'm saying that because things tend to go so fast, there were still different families living there," Romo said. "They don't want to move."

The judge also denied the city's request to halt the other side's request to rule out the efforts for a petition.

Carmen Rodriguez, an attorney for the Duranguito side, said that although she's partially content with the decision, she hopes this is where it ends.

"It looks like the city wants to appeal it, but I wish they wouldn't," she said. "I'm a taxpayer and we have to pay for it. I wish they'd settle on another location instead."

Romo, who is also a member of Paso Del Sur, a local organization dedicated to preserving the historical areas of El Paso, believes that during the case, the city actually helped the Duranguito side.

"I think (the city) helped us prove our point," he said. "They made a case for us. They tried to bully us and suppress the truth. They tried to quiet me and every three seconds they objected to my answer."

When he spoke with the lawyers after the trial, Romo said the decision was groundbreaking.

"Carmen Rodriguez and former Texas Supreme Court Judge Harriet O'Neal (who is also an attorney for the Duranguito side) both said this was the first time when a community of a taxpayer bonds issue beat the city," Romo said. "We made history."

The aftermath

After the judge's ruling, there were a lot of mixed emotions from both ends. First off, Mayor Dee Margo, who has stated during his election that he is in favor of the arena, was satisfied with the ruling and will wait on the final judgment and move from there.

"We are looking forward to the final judgment," Margo stated in a press release. "The City of El Paso is pleased with the oral ruling that states we can build a new multipurpose performing arts and entertainment center in downtown."

Jose Quintero, a member of Paso del Sur, participated in a meeting for those in support of the Duranguito resistance and residents of the area. In the meeting, the members debriefed the residents of the area about what transpired in Austin as well as advocated for a new petition.

"(The petition) is standing for El Paso's history," he said. "It's standing up for El Paso's most vulnerable neighborhood. It's more than just a fight against a stadium; it's the displacement of residents."

If enacted by the city, the efforts of a petition would call for a voter option in November to make Duranguito a historical district.

However, Carmen Rodriguez foresees an unpredictable outcome when it comes to the petition.

"Unfortunately, it's not clear what will happen," Rodriguez said. "The city is going to fight it and try to make sure it doesn't get implemented using what they call a 'zoning change.'"

After the judge's final judgment, Rodriguez anticipates the city will appeal the decision. It's an appeal that she believes could go different ways, but for now, it's a waiting game for her and the legal team.

"We aren't ready to make our announcement yet. We are in a good position partially because we're waiting for the city to make their next move," she said.

While the sides wait on the decision, Romo believes that the past week's ruling will resonate and set forth the precedent for future Texas cities to avoid the "transparency issues" with voter bonds.

"Huge win for transparency, but we still have to save Duranguito," Romo said.

Follow Adrian Broaddus on Twitter @adrian_broaddus

JULY 25, 2017

Blockbusters are real movies

BY EDDIE VELAZQUEZ

The Prospector

Stop me if you’ve heard this one: Hollywood is nothing but reboots, soft reboots, remakes, adaptations, sequels and prequels. While the majority of the movies that flood your average Texas-chain, middling theater are in fact reiterative, these are essential for the current cinema ecosystem to exist.

Some of these movies ride on the success of their predecessors, or their counterparts on other media because they are a proven formula that is more often than not guaranteed to be economically viable and successful due to the audience’s familiarity.

Because of their often times, massive budgets and their ability to draw and astonish big audiences with their expensive production values, these films are called “blockbusters.”

While there are examples of very poorly made blockbusters that at some point could even be considered cash-grabs (see the second wave of unnecessary Transformer films), others such as “Moana,” “Inside Out,” “The Dark Knight,” among others, feel genuine, show signs of a cohesive script and soul.

According to IMDB, the domestic gross revenue for these movies is \$248,752,120, \$356,454,367 and \$533,316,061, respectively.

All of these movies more than exceeded their projected profits by millions and also received critical acclaim. Reviews aggregator Metacritic gave the movies an 81, 94 and 82 based on reviews.

Thanks to the surge of independent cinema in what many anoint as the “artsier” approach to the seventh art, it is easy to take a stance that discredits the major motion pictures. We have all heard a critic, or even our insufferably hipster friend who thinks a film is automatically more complex, conveys a more esoteric message or is simply more meaningful for being an indie film.

Blockbusters such as director Christopher Nolan’s most recent war epic “Dunkirk” are not only being universally praised for their sublime cinematography, fresh narrative take on a historical event and enthralling score, but are also taking advantage of vintage technology to offer a better presentation.

Dunkirk was shown in both 35-millimeter film and 70-millimeter IMAX presentations, one of them simulating the effect of

watching a vintage film and the other offering a bigger scale presentation.

It also isn’t necessary for blockbusters to amuse crowds with their visual effects or sound quality to be considered compelling films. While those high-priced elements do play a role in the immersion factor of the movie-watching experience, some marquee box office titans such as “Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back” redefined the story and script structure as the film industry knew it back in 1980.

In terms of original blockbusters, the Wachowskis’ “The Matrix” might be one of the most revolutionary original scripts in the history of cinema. The heavy philosophical undertones combined with its at-the-time scandalous \$63-million budget and its revolutionary (for the time) visual effects made it one of the most memorable blockbusters that still keep a stranglehold on the top highest grossing movies of all time.

Directors, audiences and actors alike long for summer blockbuster season to start because it also reminds us that some of those franchises, which spur the sequels, reboots and remakes, were gateways to the world of cinema.

Follow Eddie Velazquez on Twitter @ezvelazquez

Blockbusters aren’t real movies

BY LESLIE SARIÑANA

The Prospector

One of the best and worst things that could happen to me is being born in El Paso.

My downfall is being an indie movie aficionado in a city that won’t indulge my tastes. I cannot even begin to count the times that I have waited months after a film festival to be able to watch a movie online. I have had to resort to scouring the web in hopes of finding them and then having to watch them online on my laptop. These movies are meant to be seen on the big screen, but they rarely get played in theaters locally.

Having Alamo Drafthouse open up recently has been great. They play a wider variety of movies, not just hit blockbusters.

However, it doesn’t cater to all of my indie film needs. They play the widely acclaimed films and pick and choose

what they want to play. Take “Landline” for example—an indie film starring Jenny Slate, which first premiered at the Sundance Film festival in January of this year. It’s a pretty big indie film as far as recognition goes, yet it’s not being shown at Drafthouse.

Does indie refer to a specific style? It’s hard to tell, but there is one thing we can classify as indie—its budget. Low budget doesn’t necessarily mean low quality. Even though their budget limits them, there seems to be more creative room and thought with indie films.

Franchises such as the “Fast and Furious” produce movies for the sake of making money, as producers know they’re a safe bet for revenue. Approaching movies with that focus takes away from the story and the dialogue. Indie films have done the most for cinema’s history, always pushing boundaries and creating stories that

don’t follow a linear plot. Recently we’ve seen a resurgence in indie films as big-name actors have gladly been filling roles in these smaller films.

Indie films have been great for paving a creative path toward bigger films. Standout directors such as Damien Chazelle (“La La Land”) and Michel Gondry (“Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind”) have opened the doors for different cinematic approaches to movies. They have made it possible for lesser-known directors to get backed by bigger production houses to create their movies.

Overall, indie movies stand out above major blockbusters, but don’t get the release and attention they deserve. They truly resonate as films made with more heart, dedication and thought.

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Top 3 critically acclaimed films of the summer according to Metacritic

94		87		86	
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Top 3 highest grossing films of the summer according to Box Office Mojo

 \$729.6 M	 \$732.2 M	 \$577.7 M
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Nolan continues to impress with ‘Dunkirk’



BY ANDRES MARTINEZ
The Prospector

“Dunkirk,” Christopher Nolan’s first historically-based war film, offers the audience everything they’d expect from such an illustrious film director. A stunning IMAX visual format, coupled with action-packed stories and a sonically captivating score from Hans Zimmer all work together in harmony to define this movie as arguably one of Nolan’s best works.

Nolan’s war film is centered on the events that transpired during the battle of Dunkirk in May of 1940. Approximately 200,000 members of the British Expeditionary Force found themselves surrounded by German soldiers with their backs against the ocean and hoping for evacuation.

Dunkirk is by far the one of the best movies I’ve seen hit the theatres in recent years from a technical filmmaking standpoint. Nolan does not only rely on his own filmmaking expertise in Dunkirk, but teams up with the experts he knows can deliver a fantastic movie.

Nolan and Hoyte Van Hotema (Nolan’s go-to cinematographer) shot the movie utilizing large-format film, which is a rarity

in the digital era we live in today. The old-school film format offers viewers exquisite visuals that immediately suck you into the action of the film. This unique platform puts the viewer through a tense experience, and since most of Dunkirk is all about the action, Nolan and Hoyte offer viewers a very exhilarating experience from start to finish.

Audiences will not be disappointed to know that Nolan teams up with the famous film score producer Zimmer. Nolan had previously worked with Zimmer for the score produced in “Interstellar,” and I felt both of them paired together for a film that rewards audiences from a visual and musical perspective.

Zimmer’s musical intelligence charges the film’s action from start to finish, literally. The three different storylines occurring throughout the film are tightly woven together by Zimmer’s suspenseful score. Its underlying drone-like humming never ceases to end, creating a theatrical experience that feels very unique.

Despite the satisfying technical and sonic precision of “Dunkirk,” Nolan’s approach to telling the story of the film is where it begins to become a topic of debate on whether it’s a great or a mediocre film.

“Dunkirk” is told through three separate narrative segments that include different perspectives from the land, sea and air. This non-linear style of storytelling jumps from distinctive times and events throughout the film and it can be unpleasantly disorienting for viewers. Some will catch on to this storytelling style early in the film.

When your perspective is on land, you are in one story, but when your perspective is aerial or maritime, you are in two other different stories. This method of storytelling can be confusing because, as

a whole, all of these stories take place in a very proximal area.

As a viewer, you really have to be paying attention to the different set of characters in order to realize when the time and storyline has changed.

If you are the kind of moviegoer who solely watches films to connect with characters and watch complex character arcs, then this film will disappoint you.

The primary focus in “Dunkirk” is more reliant on the situations and actions of its characters as a whole rather than on character development.

The dialogue in the film is scarce, overshadowed by powerful sound effects and Zimmer’s ceaseless score. Because of this concept, the healthy amount of charismatic characters featured in this film, at first will appear to be one-dimensional performers even though they are not. Nolan makes sure that the characters and the actors perform magnificently to the point where it feels real.

RAF fighter pilot Farrier (Tom Hardy) captivates you with terrified facial expressions and eye movements despite being constricted to the inside of a fighter jet. Tommy’s (Fionn Whitehead) unsettling desire for evacuation from the deadly beaches of Dunkirk will keep you closely observing his every move, hoping that he gets home safe.

Nolan’s “Dunkirk” is a film that is made with very careful precision, another Nolan masterpiece that should be considered as one of his best films thus far. “Dunkirk” needs to be seen at least twice, and it’d be a crime if you missed it on the big screen.

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JULY 25, 2017

SPORTS

First-ever Aaron Jones camp rallies youth



GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

Aaron Jones Youth Skills Camp saw over 1,200 attendees throughout the two days of the camp.

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS

The Prospector

Instead of relaxing his last days in El Paso, former UTEP running back Aaron Jones decided to do something that was personally worthwhile. Jones will be heading back to Green Bay on July 25, for training camp. In his last days in the Sun City, Jones held the first-ever Aaron Jones Youth Skills Camp, which was

a free, two-day football camp for local children at the Sun Bowl. “They’re no different from me,” Jones said. “There’s no reason I made it and they can’t. It’s about seeing someone come out of El Paso and knowing they can do the same.” The camp reached nearly 1,200 attendees throughout the two days and was accompanied by fluctuating weather. On the camp’s opening day, July 21, the camp

opened its doors to children from 5 through 14 years old. Harsh rain was a factor in day one of the camp and resulted in the skills portion being cut short. “It was a bit downside with the weather that wasn’t fully cooperating with us,” said Ryan Metz, UTEP’s starting quarterback who volunteered at the camp. “I think the kids still had fun with the limited time they had. Being able to see

and meet Aaron—that was probably the biggest things for the kids.” As the rain poured down on the first day, Aaron kept the spirits high with an extended autograph session and spent more time with the children. “The kids love him,” said Alvin Jones Sr., who helped his son run the camp. “I felt sorry for Aaron’s hand because he signed so many autographs yesterday. It’s beautiful to have almost 1,200 kids between yesterday and today come here, and seeing the smile on their faces was priceless.” But on the second day clouds cleared for the morning camp and proved to be beautiful weather for all the attendees, this time being high schoolers. The campers were exposed to different drills corresponding to their positions, and they participated in various team drills that had each offense trying to score on the defense from the 50-yard line. “It was just awesome, beautiful weather, the kids getting after it and it was really good competition all around,” Metz said. “I think it was just as much of a blast for the kids as us (the volunteers).” Along with Metz were a batch of UTEP football players, who helped volunteer and run the camp, such as wideout Warren Redix, receiver Terry Juniel, corner Justin Rodgers, running back Quadraiz Wadley, linebacker Johnny Jones, receiver Eddie Sinegal, lineman Will Hernandez and Aaron’s twin brother, linebacker Alvin Jones. Among the volunteers, a surprising visitor came out to support the camp. Former Miner and now Seattle Seahawks linebacker Nick Usher made an appearance and

was able to step foot on UTEP turf once again before heading off to training camp. “It feels good to be back here, El Paso’s my second home. I’ve been here for four years and I fell in love with the place,” Usher said. “I was telling some of the guys here earlier how much I missed it—just all the camaraderie you have with all your teammates, it’s different. I’m really excited for this new step.” The incoming NFL rookie has already been given the chance to work alongside some of the Seahawks players and veterans. He also said he is excited to head back to training camp. Similar to Usher, Aaron has been taking a lot out of the preliminary stages of the Packers’ preseason training and is anxious to get back on the gridiron. “I’m excited to play football,” he said. “I’m on all the special teams and I’m number three as the running back on the depth chart, so hopefully I move up. I’m ready to go to camp and make that happen.” With the popularity of this year’s camp, Aaron has high expectations for next year’s camp. “Hopefully my brother (Alvin) will be in the same spot as me, so it can be both of our camps next year and have a great turnout,” he said. “Hopefully we can also bring back some NFL players here.”

Follow Adrian Broaddus on Twitter @adrian_broaddus

Five football questions going into August

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS

The Prospector

In less than 40 days, the UTEP football team will drive to Norman, Oklahoma, to take on the Sooners, which means that football season is just around the corner. As August creeps in, the Miners will travel to Ruidoso, New Mexico, for their annual camp. In this time the coaches get to tweak final gears, finalize depth charts and prepare for the regular season, whereas months previous were about strength and conditioning. The Miners will head out to Ruidoso on Aug. 7 and start practice on Aug. 8. They will have two scrimmages, Aug. 13 and 20 at 8:45 a.m., and return to El Paso after the last scrimmage. Below are five questions to consider going into August for the Miners: **1. What strides has quarterback Ryan Metz made during the off-season?** For the first time in his collegiate career, Metz earned the starting job at the top of the season, thus allowing him to fully take the reins on the offense without any position battles. Going into August last year, it was a three-way starting position battle between him, Kavika Johnson and Zach Greenlee, which ultimately resulted in Greenlee getting the starting gig right before their opening game.



FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR

Head coach Sean Kugler showed optimism at the C-USA media day and talked about the team’s off-season improvements. Metz being named a starter not only takes a chip off his shoulder, but also relieves the offense from any confusion about who has control of the core. The junior hometown quarterback will have some experience within arm’s reach when it comes to the offense as the Miners return some key talent to the mix. Although the Miners will suffer the departure of tight end Hayden Plinke, Metz will have experienced wideouts to throw to. He will have Warren Redix, Eddie Sinegal, Tyler Batson, Kavika Johnson and junior college transfer David Lucero. Not to mention the fact that they will return four out of five starting offensive lineman, led by All-American Will Hernandez.

Last year the Miners ran a run-first offense, revolving around Aaron Jones and the game on the ground. But under Metz, it will be possible for the offense to lean more toward the balanced attack. Metz, who threw for 1,375 yards in seven starts last year, is able to make plays through the air and also on the ground. One thing to key on is how efficient the quarterback has gotten. He was below the national average in passing efficiency, posting a 141.14 rating. He struggled scoring points through the air and making plays last season, partially because Jones frequently made the explosive plays. Nonetheless, it will be important to see how many opportunities Metz can develop in scrimmages and drills during the next month. “The team rallies around him and he’s got a great demeanor,” said head coach Sean Kugler, who spoke highly of Metz during a C-USA media day. “We’re excited about Ryan Metz and what he can do for the program this season.” **2. How effective will the 3-4 year be in its sophomore season of implementation?** Last year, newly hired defensive coordinator Tom Mason and Kugler switched the defense from a 4-2-5 to a 3-4. The defense was only able to generate 14 sacks and

11 turnovers last year, among the worst in their conference. However, Kugler believes this off-season has brought major improvements on the defensive line. “We’re expecting drastic improvement,” Kugler said. “We saw it in the spring; just from a communication standpoint and guys getting lined up in the right places.” The odds are in favor for this year’s group, however. They return key starters from last year including preseason All C-USA linebacker Alvin Jones. He led the defense last year with 93 tackles and expects to have a monstrous year this season. Also returning for the Miners is safety Devin Cockrell, who led the secondary with 58 tackles, Dante Lovilotte, who was second in tackles with 89, as well as other safety Michael Lewis returning to the field after sitting out due to academic reasons. It will be interesting to see how effectively Kugler and Mason implement the linebacker position to this defense. They currently have 20 linebackers on the roster, according to Kugler, which will also, as he said, help out on special teams. If they truly rectified the defense and can add more pressure to the opposing team’s quarterback, the Miners could indeed have the defense they’ve been hoping for.

OUR VIEW

SCRG battle it out in a double-header at the Coliseum



GABY VELASQUEZ, LESLIE SARIÑANA/ THE PROSPECTOR

On Sunday, July 23, the Viudas took on the Catrinas and won a close 49-36 bout. The SeXicutioners also went up against the Diablas and came out on top with an impressive 112-43 win.

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FOOTBALL from page 7

3. Who will beef up this running back core?

With projected starter Quadraiz Wadley ruled out for the season due to a shoulder injury, the Miners will have to rely on the other backs on the roster to fulfill the role on the ground for the offense.

Lucky for the Miners, they have a handful of young, on-the-rise backs that could serve as suitable replacements for Aaron Jones.

Projected to emerge in the month of August is true freshman Joshua Fields, the Miners' top high school prospect of their 2017 recruiting class. When asked about Fields, who is an Americas High School graduate, Aaron claimed to have seen a lot of himself in the hometown running back. Fields brings to the table an impressive 1,000-plus yards of rushing throughout his high school career.

Contesting Fields for the starting spot will be sophomores TK Powell, who took a redshirt last year due to an injury, and Kevin Dove. TK Powell is very elusive, almost resembling the running style of Wadley, but the only problem is that he has not seen much action on the field. He has only played in three contests for the Miners nearly two years ago.

The self-proclaimed tank Kevin Dove, who weighs a hefty 250 pounds, is definitely going to be a factor for the Miners' offense. Last season he was used as a short-yardage back, trading carries with Wadley as the backup for Jones. On 19 carries he rushed for 101 yards as a freshman. However, in multiple instances last year, Kugler said that Dove will be used more as a short-yardage back, so August will show where the big back stands.

Another component to the rushing core will be Walter Dawn, a 5-foot-6 sophomore quick back. Dawn was utilized effectively on special teams last season and will probably be used on wildcat packages, quick handoffs or in a spread formation when he's placed on offense.

Kugler, and most likely the rest of the Miners' offense, will be hoping to see a starter emerge from the pack by the end of the month.

4. What is the answer to the Miners' special teams situation?

Whenever the Miners set up for a field goal last season, almost everyone watching in favor for the Miners held their breath in anxiety. In fact, there were only two teams in college football who made fewer field goals than UTEP, which barely scraped up five under Jay Mattox.

Now the Miners do not have a kicker who's played a game on their roster. They will likely have to decide between two hometown boys—junior placekicker Jason Filley or sophomore transfer Andrew Zubia.

Zubia, a graduate of Franklin High School, played for Benedictine College and scored 67 points as the starting kicker during his freshman season. Filley has been with the Miners for two seasons, but has never seen action on the field.

On the punting end, Alan Luna will provide some boost for special teams, and could possibly serve as the kicker for the squad if all else fails.

Returning the kicks for the Miners will be receiver Terry Juniel, who improved throughout the season last year, and Dawn, who emerged as an explosive weapon on special teams. If there's a kick returned for a touchdown, put

your money on Dawn returning one for six.

5. Are the Miners currently fine-tuning or already looking forward to week one in Norman?

It doesn't take a fast-forward button to assume the answer this question to probably being that the Miners are still making sure they have all their X's and O's in check.

But, if Metz has truly exceeded all expectations and full-forced the offense into a complete structure, and the defense looks improved the Miners could very well be counting down until Sept. 2.

Taking a glimpse into the season, however, seems overwhelming for a team that barely scraped a 4-8 record last season. Other than taking on powerhouse Oklahoma, who is projected in the top five this year, the Miners will have to travel to West Point to take on Army early on, host a redefining Rice squad, host Pac-12's Arizona and travel to an up-and-coming NMSU squad all in one month.

Nonetheless, the month of September will greatly shape how the rest of the season will turn out. A 1-4 record will leave the Miners shaken up going into October, when they will take on returning C-USA champions Western Kentucky and an emerging threat in Southern Mississippi. However, if the Miners manage to scrap a 3-2 record or even a 2-3 record, they may sit in the best situation they've been in going into the month of October.

August will show whether or not the Miners still have a lot to fix or if they are ready to take on the season with the exception of minor tweaks.

Follow Adrian Broadus on Twitter @adrian_broadus