

1-30-2018

The Prospector, January 30, 2018

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ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

THE

PROSPECTOR

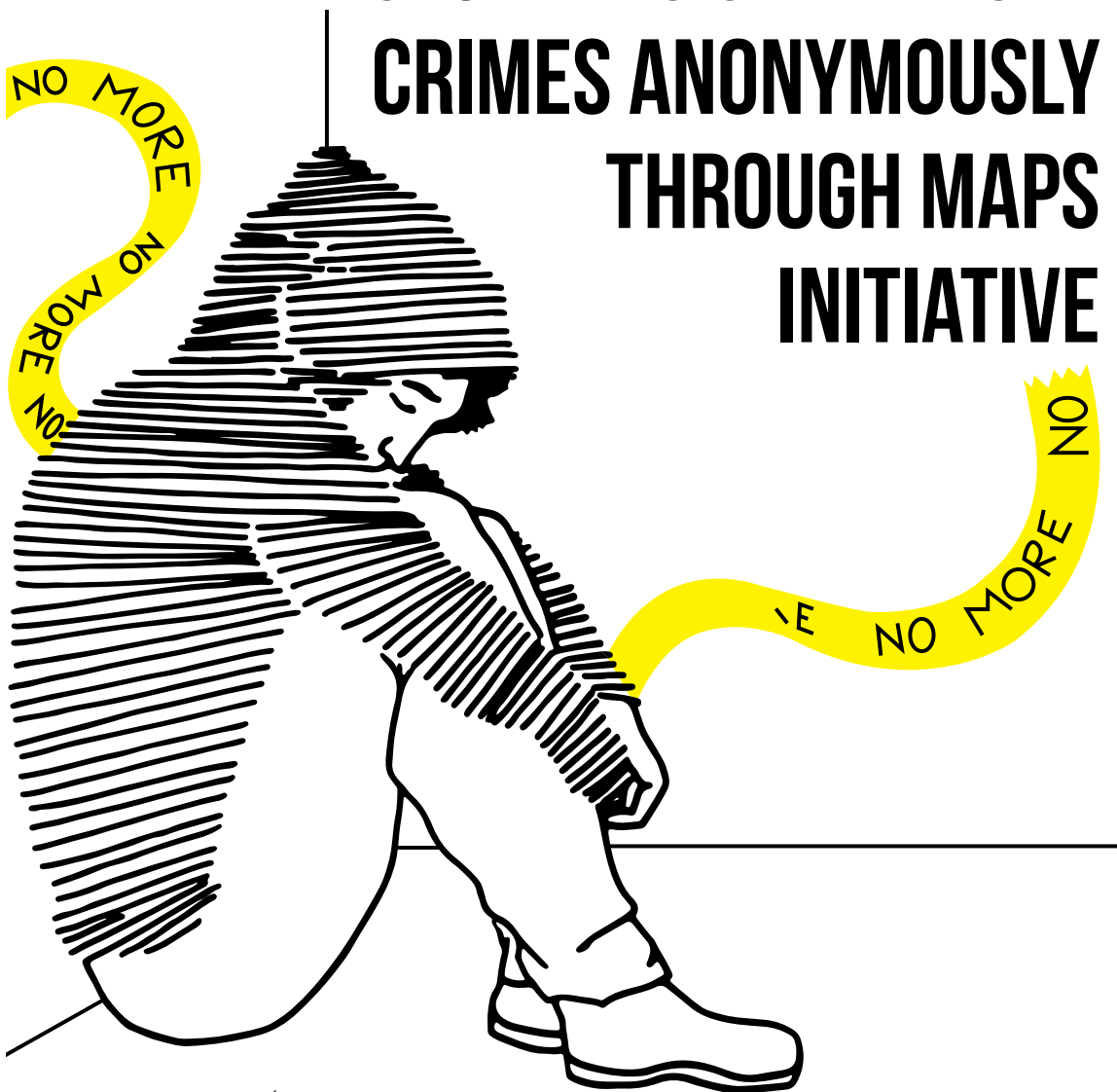
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VOL. 103, NO. 17

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

JANUARY 30, 2018

STUDENTS CAN REPORT CRIMES ANONYMOUSLY THROUGH MAPS INITIATIVE



DESIGNED BY ALEJANDRA GONZÁLEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

BY RENE DELGADILLO

The Prospector

A new UTEP program is trying to break the barriers between student victims of crimes and the available resources they can use to overcome a possible trauma.

In August of last year, Texas Governor Gregg Abbot's Criminal Justice Division awarded a one-year \$364,183 grant to UTEP for the Miners Assistance Pilot for Survivors (MAPS) program. UTEP is one of two institutions that received this Texas grant.

Arely Hernandez, director for the Center for Advocacy Resources and Education at UTEP, said that she and her staff decided to keep the acronym, but decided to change the wording of the program to Miners Advocacy and Prevention Services.

MAPS provides free and confidential services to any UTEP student who is a victim of a crime. Students can report crimes that took place on and off campus.

Mariel, a UTEP student who wished to remain anonymous, experienced a sexual assault incident during her freshman year and said she didn't report the incident the first time because she was afraid of her aggressor.

"I didn't want to give my name when I did the report so I didn't report the first time it happened. I thought maybe if I just left it alone he would stop bothering me," Mariel said. "It was a lot of mixed emotions."

According to Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, an America anti-sexual assault organization, only 20 percent of female student victims, ages 18-24, report to law enforcement.

"When you go through something traumatic, you need someone to talk to and a lot of people don't want to do that with a police officer and that's fine," Mariel said. "So, programs like this one can be very beneficial for those who are still struggling with what they went through."

Hernandez said that students can seek resources with MAPS without having to make a police report or having to contact the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

"There is no investigation. Our staff members are confidential and they cannot report to anyone outside the MAPS team," Hernandez said. "A lot of our students, unfortunately, don't report these incidents because they don't want an investigation to occur that includes their name."

Hernandez said that MAPS recommends that students file a police report because they want an open investigation on the aggressor.

"If a student would want to report, which we encourage and recommend, we can accompany them to the police, to a court, we can go with them to seek medical and legal services," Hernandez said.

She also said that if students need specific arrangements—moving from a classroom, dorm or parking lot—the MAPS staff would intervene to help them feel safer.

"We can just go to the dean of students and request that arrangement without any questions asked and that request will be handled through their office, but again no details about who

see MAPS on page 4

BY ELENIE GONZALEZ

The Prospector

The colorful, diverse cast of "A Chorus Line" is sure to bring audiences to their feet, leaving them wanting more.

The latest production from the UTEP Dinner Theatre, "A Chorus Line," opened on Friday night, Jan. 26, to a full house.

"A Chorus Line" is a musical drama set in the gritty New York City scene in the 1970s, when times were tumultuous and a kind of continuation of the 1960s. Women, African-Americans, Latinos, the LGBTQ community and other marginalized people continued their fight for equality, and many Americans joined the protest against the ongoing war in Vietnam.

The musical gives the audience a peak into the lives of 17 dancers from different backgrounds and upbringings, representing the time period, who are all competing for a spot in the chorus line of a Broadway musical.

The first act is fast-paced. It opens up with a quick scene and the first musical number, "I Hope I Get It," sung by the entire cast as they quickly learn the choreography during the first round of auditions. It's a tough process and soon after the first cuts are made, the musical delves into the true purpose of this story that reveals who these characters really are.

Zach, the director and choreographer, played by Edward Gallardo III, is tough and demands perfection from the dancers, although he wants to know more than just what they have to offer on stage. Ironically, his physical presence throughout the majority of the musical is off stage, though his dominant voice is heard behind the audience making him very present throughout the show.

More musical numbers break out, and one by one, each dancer hesitantly begins to tell their story, many unsure of what to say. This is an uncomfortable moment for each

see CHORUS on page 6



CLAUDIA FLORES / THE PROSPECTOR

The UTEP Cast for 'A Chorus Line' will perform at the UTEP Dinner Theater through Feb. 18.



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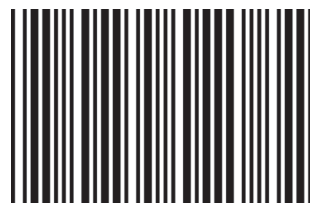
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JANUARY 30, 2018

OPINION

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
MICHAELA ROMÁN, 747-7446

The seven-day vegan

BY MIKE FLORES
The Prospector



I went from eating chicken, hamburgers, wings and all the delicious Mexican food that El Paso has to offer to eating nothing but beans, rice, lentils, tofu and anything green.

Yes, I decided to go vegan for a week. During my small taste of the vegan lifestyle, I experienced the pros and cons of giving up animal products and dairy for plant-based foods.

In just a week, I lost three pounds. Albeit, I did go on runs and went to the gym nearly every day. But still, I've never felt so healthy in just a seven-day period. I don't feel sluggish, I actually feel more energized and lively, which was the opposite to how I thought I would feel without meats, eggs and milk.

Eating nothing but vegetables like carrots, broccoli, tomatoes, spinach, peas and lettuce is much healthier than scarfing down all the animal products.

One of the difficulties I faced was the options vegans have, especially in El Paso. We all love tacos, flautas, enchiladas and other foods the city offers. There are many restaurant options, but the vast majority are either Mexican food or fast food places. Not to mention that many people eat what their family—at least in my family—is cooking or having, which usually doesn't consist of many plant-based meals.

Being vegan can lead to many lonely meals at times. I get it, the meals don't have the appeal other foods do. There were many times I thought about cheating the vegan life to just enjoy what everyone else was having around me. I didn't want to stand out as the only person not having something or make a scene in any way possible. Despite the nonstop questions and having to explain my week of being vegan, I didn't break it and I ate healthier than everyone else in the room. While my friends devoured cake, donuts, ice cream and pies, I ate oranges, smoothies, celery with peanut butter, cucumbers and pineapple.

My last 30 to 50 searches on Google revolved around what vegans eat. If I was about to eat something that I wasn't exactly sure wasn't considered vegan, I would look everything up and make sure I didn't break my vow to being vegan for the week.

To say the least, vegan options are hard to come by. However, I did find restaurants and other options that support the vegan lifestyle.

Savage Goods, Nomu Café, One Grub, Lick it Up, Eloise, Whole Foods Pieology, Pokeworks and even Independent Burger all offer vegan options on their menus.

Vegans have to pack their lunch more often than other people because not every restaurant has vegan options and I felt that the lifestyle was more expensive than a regular diet. For example, at Whole Foods and farmer's markets, it cost extra for organic options and I had to stock up my house for my vegan diet since I had no options prior to my purchases.

Another thing I learned from this week is that the vegan jokes never stop. It didn't bother me, I would laugh it off and even laugh at myself with my friends this past week. But I did realize that no matter how much someone tries to keep quiet about being vegan and not live up the stereotype that vegans can't go a minute without telling someone they are, it'll still pop up constantly and it will always be a big deal.

Since the majority of people aren't vegan, they treat you different or act as if you're judging them when it comes to eating, even though I didn't say a single word that was offending or anything about me being vegan for a week.

All in all, being vegan is definitely not out of the question for me. I felt better overall and I found places that I could possibly be a regular at. I had so many supporters and I received many compliments on getting a little leaner. I also read articles and watched some documentaries—like "What the Health" on Netflix—that educated me on the benefits of living vegan, and it also opened my eyes just as much as being vegan did. Don't knock it until you try it.

Follow Mike Flores on Twitter @mike_flores

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The pros of NAFTA outweigh the cons

BY CLAUDIA FLORES
The Prospector

The North American Free Trade Agreement, better known as NAFTA, has a purpose of removing tariff and tax barriers between Mexico, Canada and the United States. However, as a promise from his presidential campaign, President Donald Trump promised to pull the U.S. out from the 23-year-old deal, which he is trying to renegotiate for the good of the U.S.

But what could happen if the U.S. really withdraws from NAFTA? Besides the economic impact that this could have in the U.S., especially if Canada and Mexico remain in it, there is another point we should touch base on—work visas.

In 1994, the agreement introduced professional visas or work visas so that professionals of all sorts could get a job in Mexico, U.S. or Canada.

My dad is an electrical engineer and a business owner, and thanks to these work visas, we were able to move from Juárez to El Paso. The way these visas work is that as long as you have a bachelor's degree and the capital to invest or you get to work for a company, your family also gets a visa that allows them to live legally in the U.S. They won't get a work permit, but at least they are able to live here.

That's pretty much how we got here. These visas used to be renewed every five years, and then it came down to every three years. Now my dad has to go through the extensive and stressful process of renewing his visa every year.

Since I received my student visa, I was cut off from the entrepreneur visa my dad

owns. However, my dad, my mom and one of my sisters are still renewing their documents. It was thanks to NAFTA that we were able to come to the U.S. and establish a home seven years ago. And now that we have no idea what will happen with NAFTA, we feel just like the DACA students, because we are uncertain of what could happen.

They haven't said anything about removing these visas yet, but if the U.S. is stepping out of the game, it's likely these visas will go down as well, as they are part of the agreement. If this happens, we will have to go back to Juárez. It's not that I don't want to go back because I do love Juárez, but we came here with my dad's effort and that one chance to live the American dream.

Our case is not the only case as there are thousands of immigrants from Canada and Mexico, who come into this country the same way we did. Doctors, artists, chefs, engineers, professors, entrepreneurs—all those people are in a situation similar to ours. There are different types of work visas, but we hang from the same thread.

As of today, we have no idea if President Trump is willing to renegotiate the agreement or if he's simply going to do what he "thinks is best for the country."

Just because NEATA has helped me and my family to move to the U.S. doesn't mean it can't have some negative aspects to it.

When it comes to the agricultural side, it is true that fruits and vegetables and other imported goods are cheaper because of the free tariffs. However due to NAFTA, Mexico lost 1.3 million farm jobs, this was because when the tariffs and taxes were removed, small farms couldn't compete with larger farming industries, and in effect put them out of business.

In the automobile industry, President Trump says he wants to bring large companies back into the U.S. to guarantee people a job. However, some of the most popular cars such as Ram pickup trucks, Ford Fusions, among others, are manufactured in both Canada and Mexico. This means prices are lower and allows customers to have more chances of getting a brand new car.

In Mexico, for example, people get paid \$8 per hour to work automobile manufacturing jobs, while in the U.S., a worker gets paid around \$50 an hour for the same job. These low wages allow companies to set a more accessible price. If these companies are set in the U.S., it will cost a lot more to pay their employees, which will end up raising the prices for new cars.

While making cars cheaper is a positive thing for those who want to buy a new car, it is true that due to NAFTA close to 500,000 U.S. employees lost their jobs because all those jobs ended up being moved to Mexico for the lower manufacturing costs. The states that were affected the most were Texas, New York, Michigan and California.

NAFTA has made it easier to trade imported and exported goods, as well as allowing prepared people, who seek to invest money in this country, to do so. It is just not about my family or the free trade—it's about all the things that can go wrong if President Trump removes the United States from the agreement. All the people who came here like we did will have to go back and take their businesses back with them and we'll no longer be able to buy produce at a reasonable price.

So let's pray for President Trump to not withdraw the United States out of NAFTA for the good of all three countries.

✉ Claudia Flores may be reached at theprospectoraily.ent@gmail.com.

NOW ON SOUNDCLOUD

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The Prospector Daily

The Prospector Sports Weekly Podcast - Former UTEP football Offensive Lineman Derek Elmendorff

18:47

45:14

On this week's episode of the Prospector Sports Weekly Podcast, former UTEP football offensive lineman Derek Elmendorff joins The Prospector sports staff to talk about his journey as a UTEP lineman, playing for former head coach Sean Kugler, the feelings he felt during the 0-12 season and his future plans as a football coach. Listen to the podcast at theprospectoraily.com

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The Prospector is published by the Student Media and Publications Board, 105 Union East, 500 W. University Ave. El Paso, Texas, 79968. The Prospector appears in print once per week on Tuesdays during the fall, spring, and summer semesters. The newspaper is not printed during holidays and when classes are not in session. The Prospector does provide news online at www.theprospectordaily.com.

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Tilghman continues the fight to stay on a ballot

BY CHRISTIAN VASQUEZ

The Prospector

For Jerome Tilghman, winning the election for the 16th Congressional District seat is not as important as educating citizens about the impact the government has on citizens' lives.

But that does not mean that the retired Army major and current middle school teacher does not want to win the election.

This is not the first congressional race Tilghman has campaigned for. In 2012, he ran against incumbent Sylvestre Reyes, alongside Beto O'Rourke—who was then a member of El Paso's city council. Tilghman finished third in the primary, with Reyes losing his seat to O'Rourke.

Tilghman also ran for city council twice as well as county judge, but lost all of his bids for election.

Now, as O'Rourke sets his sights on Senator Ted Cruz's seat and leaves the 16th District seat open, Tilghman is hoping to win this time.

"I was not planning for a run for the 16th Congressional District seat after 2012," Tilghman said. "But then when Congressman O'Rourke decided to make a run for the United States Senate, the seat opened up and there are policy decisions that I thought were left on the table that I still think we need to represent."

After graduating from UTEP with a bachelor's degree in education, Tilghman was an instructor before he realized that students were not prepared for college.

So he went back to UTEP and received his certification for elementary and secondary school, where he was assigned to Basset Middle School.

"We are allowing students to graduate with an empty suitcase. They're all packed up and ready to go, but when you go to the destination, the next classroom, and open up that suitcase and it doesn't have the toiletries, the underwear and socks of academia that they need to do well. And I've



MICHAELA ROMÁN/ THE PROSPECTOR

Jerome Tilghman is running for the 16th Congressional District seat.

been doing that for the past 16 years," Tilghman said.

Tilghman blames the city's poverty rate on the lack of education children are receiving. According to census data, El Paso has a 22.7 percent poverty rate, compared to the national level at 12.7 percent.

The census also showed El Paso has only a 21.7 percent rate of individuals over 25 years of age with a bachelor's degree or higher.

Tilghman is also an advocate for increasing trade and vocational work to decrease the city's unemployment rate, which has improved since the 2008 recession, but is still slightly above the state and national average, according to a recent report released by Workforce Solutions Borderplex earlier this month.

"What we have done by deglamorizing vocational education, is creating a skill-set void," Tilghman said.

He wants to implement more vocational classes in high schools so people who don't want to pursue a college degree can start their own career and

see the benefits earlier than the university pathway.

Tilghman was also the development director and vice president for membership at the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce.

"One of the fallacies in the way we do business here is that we have print and broadcast media, who preordain who we should pay attention to, and the sad news is dollars become the discriminator," he said.

Tilghman has not filed any reports to the Federal Election Commission that would detail any money raised for his campaign. His top opponents Dori Fenenbock has raised nearly \$600,000 and Veronica Escobar has raised around \$332,000.

Escobar was recently endorsed by Democrat Minority Whip Rep. Steve Hoyer, D-Md, and he has promised to campaign for her as well.

"I don't know if there is a way to overcome it, as much as it is trying to match it, with a message that will reach the \$25-\$30 contributor," Tilghman said when asked for comment. "Just because

you got the most dollars does not mean you make the most sense."

Tilghman said that Hoyer's endorsement means that Escobar will not create the kind of change Tilghman is looking for. It ends up being what he calls "a race to the bottom."

Back in the 2012 congressional race, Tilghman said he remembers O'Rourke's campaign promise to improve Veterans Affairs in El Paso.

"We oftentimes focus on those wounds that we can see—the guy who has lacerations, has a broken arm or needs a prosthetic limb," he said. "But where we are seeing the crises is in the absence of psychological services."

Last November, the El Paso VA received one star out of five, with one being the worst, for the second year in a row. While all of the categories fared better than the previous year, mental health continuity continues to mirror the same lack of change.

In 2013, the VA released a report that said between 1999 and 2010, roughly 22 veterans committed suicide per day.

"We still got soldiers coming off the battlefield, without adequate health-

care for them," Tilghman said. "When we make decisions at the national level, I live with them, because those are my services. If (Escobar) stumbles, or if any of them stumble on policy, their healthcare systems are going to stay unchanged."

One of the first things that Tilghman said he wants to do if he wins is advocate for a "common sense immigration policy."

He says that the best way to get Republicans to agree to provide a pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients is to talk in terms of economics.

With the population growth rate slowing down in the United States, Tilghman said that DACA recipients could help alleviate the loss in the labor force.

"Where is that labor force going to come from if we are not having babies at the rate that we used to make?" Tilghman said.

Tilghman said that he appreciated O'Rourke opened trade with Ciudad Juárez, but he did not secure El Paso's ports of entry enough, which allowed for an increase in drug flow to the United States.

"You got to get a system in place to get after that," he said. "Well guess what? (O'Rourke) didn't do it. You know that the leading cause of death in the United States right now for people 50 and below is overdose, those narcotics are coming through the 16th Congressional District and other border districts down here."

Tilghman said that because he doesn't have the same amount of money as his candidates, he is not treated as a viable candidate.

"Democracy guarantees opportunity, not success. Congressional representation, or representation at any level, needs to widen the aperture of opportunity, and when you restrict the menu of candidate choices, you have closed the aperture of opportunity," Tilghman said.

Follow Christian Vasquez on Twitter @chrismvasq

Time's Up exhibit aims to open up a conversation



JEREMY CARRANCO / THE PROSPECTOR

Two attendees of the Student Engagement & Leadership Center's Time's Up event write messages to stand with sexual assault survivors on Friday, Jan. 26, at the Union East gallery.

BY MICHAELA ROMÁN

The Prospector

UTEP staff, students, and faculty wore all black Friday night at the Union East gallery to stand with the nation-wide Time's Up movement and discuss the next step forward.

Time's Up is a movement against sexual harassment founded on Jan. 1, 2018, by Hollywood celebrities in response to reports of sexual assault in Hollywood.

One in five UTEP students reported being sexually harassed by other students at UTEP, according to the Cultivating Learning and Safe Environments survey. National statistics from Know Your IX, Title IX, say more than 90 percent of sexual assault victims on college campuses do not report the assault.

"We want to bring the conversation here to UTEP to know that our students are really able to use their voice and talk about what the Time's Up movement could look like here on campus and really know about resources," said Mallory Garcia, Student Engagement Leadership

Center (SELC) coordinator for campus engagement and organizer of the event.

SELC hosted the event alongside the University Counseling Center, Center for Advocacy Resources and Education, an office that focuses on supporting student victims of crime, the Dean of Students Office, Center against Sexual Violence and the 24-hour crisis hotline.

"We really just want our students to know that we're a community that cares about each other," Garcia said. "We want them to know that we as a university care about them and really help the students figure out, what can we do, what's next?"

The interactive exhibit was covered with black sheets of paper and sticky notes were laid out so visitors could write out ideas on ending sexual assault.

"Everyone can have this collaborative library of what everyone wants to do next, so we can gather ideas and really help each other figure out what we can do as a group," Garcia said.

Crystal Saavedra and Alejandra Lopez are coordinators at the Office of Alumni Relations. They attended the event together to show that they stand

with the Time's Up movement and what it stands for.

"There are women out there willing to empower each other," Lopez said. "People don't necessarily need to be affected by it to be standing behind the Time's Up Movement. I think this is a chance for everybody to take a stand affected or not affected."

Saavedra said its great that UTEP is joining the conversation and involving the student body, faculty and staff.

"It's something that's so refreshing to see, that it's not just staying with celebrities and on TV," Saavedra said. "It's a breath of fresh air."

SELC will use the sticky notes and feedback to work toward activities throughout the year to see how they can help students who have experienced sexual assault and help put a stop to it.

"Now you can actually have a voice and say 'I'm not going to not say anything, I'm actually going to go out there and say something and not just stay quiet behind a door,'" Saavedra said.

Follow Michaela Román on Twitter @michaelaroman_

MAPS from page 1

you are will be given to them,” Hernandez said.

Hernandez said that MAPS, which will be available off-campus at the Campbell Building, 1101 N. Campbell St., and they will make arrangements for students who can’t find transportation.

“We can schedule a meeting for us to go to the main campus and we can reserve a room and have the confidential conversations they are looking for,” Hernandez said. “We want our students to know that we will be there for them.”

Even though students are not required to make a police report, MAPS will be required to report the number of students who sought resources from the program to the university, which will be included in the Annual Security and Fire Safety Report—an annual report from UTEP campus police.

“We have to report because it’s a federal mandate, but we will only be sending a number,” Hernandez said. “There’s nothing that can connect back to this particular individual that sought services with MAPS.”

Hernandez said that the program may not stop crimes from occurring, but it allows students to seek help.

Hernandez also said a counselor will be available to students who seek

MAPS resources and that the counselor is expected to arrive at UTEP by mid-February.

“The reason why we will have a counselor within the MAPS program is in case we have crisis intervention,” Hernandez said. “If we have a student who needs immediate attention, we want to make sure we have someone there rather than having them wait.”

According to the latest data from the Annual Security and Fire Safety Report, five incidents of rape were reported at UTEP during 2016.

“One case is too much,” Hernandez said. “Those numbers are one of the many reasons why programs like these are created. The safety of our students comes first.”

Hernandez said that they will try to hire a second counselor and a project coordinator when her staff is in the process of renewing the MAPS grant for two more years.

“I want to encourage my students, who have suffered a crime, to seek the services we offer,” she said. “Don’t be afraid to report, we are here to help our students.”

If you or anyone you know has been a victim of crime, you may contact MAPS at (915) 747- 8154.

Follow Rene Delgadillo on Twitter @rdelgadillonews

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Are you going to watch the Super Bowl?

See video of the answers at theprospectordaily.com

CLAUDIA HERNANDEZ, SERGIO MUÑOZ / THE PROSPECTOR



ADAM CASTILLO
Sophomore kinesiology major
“Yes, because I want to see the Patriots lose and not win another title. My favorite team is the 49ers.”



ALONDRA ARANGO
Sophomore finances and accounting major
“Yes, I’m going to watch it because I’m so excited to watch the Patriots and the Eagles, which is my parents’ team.”



ANDY ADAME
Sophomore public relations major
“Yes, because for me the Super Bowl is like the World Cup. I’m a real football fan. I’m a Cowboys fan and I’m just hoping the New England Patriots are gonna lose because I don’t like them.”



MICHAEL SEPULVEDA
Junior criminal justice major
“Of course I’m going to watch the Super Bowl because I’m a Eagles fan. It has been a long time since we’ve been there. I have followed the Eagles since I was a kid.”



VALERIE ROJAS
Sophomore civil engineering major
“I am going to watch the Super Bowl because of the new commercials. And because Tom Brady is hot.”



OMAR ALHANFOOSH
Junior finances major
“Yes, it is a family tradition to all get together because everybody likes football. It’s difficult to pick a team this year because I’m not a Pats, nor Eagles fan, so I’m just going to watch it.”

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NICK SANCHEZ
Sophomore communication major
“Yes, my neighborhood has this annual tradition in which everybody gets together and we’ll watch it in someone’s house. I don’t really have a favorite team in this case.”

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JANUARY 30, 2018

Art faculty takes their turn at the Rubin Center

BY AYLIN TAFOYA
The Prospector

The Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts at UTEP has always focused on displaying thought-provoking, international and modern art to the border region.

This Thursday, Feb. 1, the Rubin Center will host the 2018 UTEP Department of Art Biennial Faculty Exhibition, running until Friday, April 6.

Since the center opened in 2004, it has housed more than 75 exhibitions of contemporary art, many of which has been displayed throughout Texas and around the country.

At the Biennial Exhibition, students will be able to see the different artwork pieces done by 25 distinguished faculty members of the art department.

Dr. Heather Kaplan, visiting assistant professor of art education, will have her art displayed for the first time at the show.

“I missed the 2016 one, so I’m actually kind of excited to see what all of my colleagues will be sharing,” she said.

Kaplan’s work deals with colorful and interchangeable ceramic pieces of different textures and sizes.

“Part of my work is about play, and it’s about playing in my studio and so I’m really interested in having other people experience that play,” she said.

Nabil Gonzalez, lecturer for the art department, will also have her artwork featured for the first time in

this event. She is a former UTEP student, whose focus is printmaking.

“Most of my work is political and it deals with social issues and government and the border. So, the work that I’m gonna be showing is mainly about the disappeared women of Juarez,” Gonzalez said. “I want to do something with my art that’s not just a pretty picture on the wall. I want it to have some sort of meaning.”

Her art pieces are also important to her because as a young woman, she experienced the fear of almost being one of those disappeared women.

Gomez went out with her friends one night in Ciudad Juarez. This was also when military and federal agents reached high numbers in the city. As she was on her way back home to El Paso, two trucks full of these Mexican government officials stopped them.

“We were really scared and I was like ‘this is it. I’m gone,’ but I don’t know what happened, and they just let us go,” she said. “We didn’t even have to pay ‘la mordida’(bribe).”

She attributed this to having been so close to the crossing bridge already, but never stopped thinking about what could have happened if they weren’t.

This experience greatly fueled her work and goal of helping society remember the disappeared women.

Their names play a big role in her art, as well as their photographs and silhouettes, which is what students and other faculty members can expect to see at the Biennial Exhibit.



GABY VELASQUEZ/ THE PROSPECTOR

The 2018 Art Biennial Faculty Exhibition will be open to the general public from Feb. 1 through April 6 at the Rubin Center.

Terry Bauer, advisor and senior lecturer, is an experienced faculty artist whose work has been displayed in Biennial Faculty Exhibits since she started teaching at UTEP in 2005.

Bauer’s art expertise falls under mixed media and drawing and her personal work deals with duality and creating images that represent a state of flux.

“Art is the one thing in my life that I get to control, totally,” Bauer said. “Sometimes the influence or the inspiration varies depending on what’s happening to you in your life at that time. Sometimes you don’t really consciously recognize it until

after you made the work.”

Antonio Castro, associate professor in graphic design, has collaborated with former creative writing Professor Benjamin Alire Saenz, by creating his book designs and showcasing them in past exhibits. However, this 18-image project is different.

“I’m pretty excited about this exhibition because I’ve always shown commercial work, and this is a product that is not for a client,” Castro said. “It’s entirely my own and I’m pretty excited about that. I’m excited to see them hanging.”

The exhibit will include a wide range of artistic media such as ce-

ramics, metals, sculptures, painting, printmaking, drawing, graphic design and more.

Every Thursday at noon from Feb. 8 to April 6, students are invited to join faculty artists in the galleries for informal conversations on subjects such as music composition and art, politics and painting, art and motherhood, literary and artistic collaboration, planned and unplanned making and US-Mexico artistic exchanges.

For more information on the exhibit as well as dates and locations of the forthcoming lectures, visit rubin.utep.edu.

✉ Aylin Tafoya can be reach at aylintafoya97@gmail.com

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CLAUDIA FLORES / THE PROSPECTOR

The UTEP Cast for 'A Chorus Line' lines up for the opening music number 'I Hope I Get It'. 'A Chorus Line' will run through Feb. 18 at The UTEP Dinner Theater.

CHORUS from page 1

one of the characters, and the audience can feel their anxiety, as they question who they are as a person, not just as dancers.

The best musical numbers during Act One are hard to choose, as each one reflects great moments. "I Can Do That," performed by Mike, played by UTEP sophomore Jorge Blakely, kicks off the more light-hearted portion of the show, and one of the less intense stories belonging to the dancers.

As Act One progresses, so do the stories. From the sassy Sheila, played by Sarah Pagano, singing about her unhappy childhood, to the other fun, quirky and over-the-top characters singing about being too skinny (Judy, played by Tania Hernandez), being tone-deaf (Kristine, played by Rebecca Vargas), being too short (Connie, played by Jensen Springer), not being good enough (Diana, played by Liz-

beth Sanchez-Pineda), this is only a glimpse into what's to come.

It's not until Act Two that the stories begin to get deeper and inevitably heartbreaking. Life on the stage can be tough, but for most of the dancers, it's the tough times in their life that brought them to the stage, where they can become another person, if only for a moment.

One of the best solos of the entire show came from Josey Pickett, a UDT veteran who plays Cassie, a dancer who hasn't had a performing job in years. She hopes to prove to her former flame that she deserves a spot back in the "chorus line." Her hope and heartbreaking plea during "The Music and The Mirror," will have you on the edge of your seat.

Saving the best for last, there's one more character whose story the audience has yet to hear. Paul, played by Derrick Cintron, does a phenomenal job with his performance, summing

up what the entire musical is about. The gay Puerto Rican, who is ashamed of his identity but comes to grips with the past, will have you near tears if you haven't already shed some by this point in the show.

The sets and costumes are simple, but it doesn't take away from the show. It only showcases the strengths of each character's dancing and singing abilities.

"A Chorus Line" is a must-watch performance, not only because it's an amazing show with spectacular musical numbers that was also a Tony Award winner for Best Musical and has been awarded a Pulitzer Prize for Best Drama, but because it is a story about people whose lives matter and who get a platform to tell their own stories. Simply put, it is funny, heartbreaking and refreshingly honest and will have you wanting to watch it again when it's over.

✉ Elenie Gonzalez may be reached at theprospectordaily@gmail.com



CLAUDIA FLORES / THE PROSPECTOR

Josey Pickett as Cassie during the performance of the music number 'The Music and The Mirror.'



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SPORTS

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Miners open pivotal homestand against WKU and Marshall



GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

The UTEP men’s basketball team will host Western Kentucky and Marshall this week.

BY MIKE FLORES

The Prospector

After the toughest set of Conference USA games yet, which resulted in three straight losses to UTSA, UAB and Middle Tennessee State, the UTEP men’s basketball team is ailing in the worst way.

In their last 10 games, the Miners have come out victorious twice in C-USA play, including a win against 11th ranked Florida International, 72-68, and 13th ranked Rice, 80-62.

The long road trip for UTEP started in San Antonio, where the Miners led

for 34 minutes and eventually lost as big of a 16-point lead in the contest. After San Antonio, the Miners traveled to Birmingham, Ala., where UAB defended their home court, defeating UTEP 85-78, despite the trio of UTEP freshman Trey Wade, Evan Gilyard and Kobe Magee combining for nearly 50 points.

To end the three-game road trip, UTEP had a date with the top team in C-USA against MTSU. The game was lopsided, resulting in a 81-50 victory for MTSU and the Miners struggled to maintain any consistency down low

as both Matt Willms and Tirus Smith were out due to an injury.

Out of the 14 C-USA teams, UTEP (7-14, 2-7 C-USA) sits at the No. 12 spot in the conference, above just Rice (2-7 C-USA) and Charlotte (1-7 C-USA).

On the bright side for the Miners, they will return home to the Don Haskins Center this week, starting Thursday, Feb. 1, against Western Kentucky at 8 p.m. , followed by Marshall on Saturday, Feb. 3 at 7 p.m.

The bad news going into the trio of home games for UTEP is that the competition doesn’t get any easier. Both WKU (15-6, 7-1 C-USA) and Marshall (14-7, 5-3 C-USA) would end up with a first-round bye in the conference tournament if it started today, as they both hold a top-four spot.

Last season, WKU snapped a three-game winning streak for UTEP, beating them 65-62 in Bowling Green, Ky. In that contest, UTEP nearly capped off a 21-point comeback, but Jake Flaggert’s last-second 3-pointer fell just short and WKU escaped with the narrow win.

Against Marshall last year, UTEP came out firing on all cylinders and caught many people off guard, beating the high-flying Herd, 91-68, on the road.

This time, though, the Miners will have the luxury of being at home against both squads and that’s a place the Miners are clearly more comfortable in. This season, UTEP is 7-5 at the Don Haskins Center, but 0-6 on the road.

While UTEP is 2-8 in their last 10 games, the Hilltoppers are the exact opposite at 8-2 in their last 10 matchups. On the road, WKU has won four straight away from the state of Kentucky and are now 4-2. Marshall is 6-4 in their last 10 games.

UTEP is coming off their worst loss of the season to MTSU. The 50 team points the Miners scored in the blowout loss will not cut it against either WKU, who averages 78.4 points per game (3rd best in C-USA), or Marshall, who leads the conference with 86.2 points per game.

UTEP’s offense (68.9 points per game) will need a huge lift to keep up with the Hilltoppers and Thundering Herd this week.

UTEP’s offense has struggled in part due to their senior leader’s struggle in Omega Harris. As a junior last year, Harris scored a team-high of 17 points per game. But this season, his touch hasn’t been as consistent, as the 6-foot-2 guard is down nearly six points (11.4) from a year ago (17.0). Harris’ 11.4 points per game is still good enough to be at the top of UTEP’s roster, but the team needs his scoring touch of last year in hopes of capturing a postseason spot.

The Miners’ other leading scorer Keith Frazier (11.4 points per game) was on fire to start his season at UTEP, but once he missed a few games due to personal problems, he has yet to mimic his play from earlier in the year.

WKU has five players on their roster who are averaging more than UTEP’s leading scorers in Harris and Frazier. The

Hilltoppers’ two leading scorers are Darius Thompson (15 points per game) and Justin Johnson (13.8 points per game).

Marshall has the most electrifying dynamic duo in all of C-USA in Jon Elmor (21.9 points per game) and C.J. Burks (21.8 points per game)—a duo that holds the top spots in scoring in C-USA. Their other threat is Ajdin Penava, who puts up over 16 points per match.

Both teams have a wider variety of scoring options than UTEP has had this season.

Both Harris and Frazier need to recapture their offensive games, and these set of games might be just what they needed since Marshall has shown flaws when it comes to the defensive side of the ball. The Thundering Herd are the worst defensive team in the conference, sitting dead last (81.4 points per game) in C-USA.

WKU, on the other hand, is only giving up 69.6 points per game. But the Miners’ defense isn’t far behind, allowing just 71 points per contest.

The Miners will look to stop the bleeding and get back on track this week. In C-USA, the top 12 teams at the end of the regular season make it to the conference tournament and UTEP is holding that last spot as of now.

Follow Mike Flores on Twitter @mikey_flores

Women’s basketball to host UAB before traveling to UTSA

BY DANIEL MENDEZ

The Prospector

The women’s basketball team returns home this week to face Conference USA co-leader UAB on Feb. 2 before hitting the road to play last place UTSA on Feb. 4.

The Miners (13-7, 4-3 C-USA) return to the comfort of home after splitting a two-game road trip, falling at Rice (56-42) on Jan. 26, but winning a tough defensive battle against North Texas (50-48) on Jan. 28.

This week, the Miners host the UAB Blazers (17-3, 6-1 C-USA) on Friday, Feb. 3, before a quick road turnaround on Sunday, Feb. 4, to play the UTSA Roadrunners (3-17, 1-7 C-USA), which are two vastly different opponents.

UTEP will look to see if it can continue to rely on its steady defense when they host a red-hot UAB offense this Friday night.

“I was really pleased with our defense (against UNT), I like how our team is guarding,” UTEP head coach Kevin Baker said following his team’s win at North Texas. “We even guarded well at Rice, we just couldn’t score and tonight we were able to score a little bit more.”

The Miners held Rice to nearly 11 points under their average (67.2 percent) and North Texas to just a 35.4 percent clip (17-48).

The Blazers come into the Haskins Center as the second-best scoring offense in C-USA (75 points per game) and are the number one team from behind the arc in field goal percentage at a 41.3 percent clip.

UAB also likes to share the wealth, sitting at No. 1 in the conference in assists per game (18.1 per game) with a total of 366 tallied on the campaign thus far. Sophomore Miyah Barnes

leads the team with 97 while eight other Blazers have double-digits in assists.

Fifth year head coach Randy Norton and his Blazers are riding a three-game winning streak and look to remain in prime position for the No. 1 spot behind Western Kentucky.

The Blazers are led by reigning C-USA Freshman of the Year Rachael Childress. Childress, now a sophomore, is the Blazers leading scorer with 14.1 points per game and likes to share the wealth, contributing with a total of 45 assists on the season.

Barnes can also score the ball as she is the team’s third-best scorer (11.5 points per game). Junior guard Deanna Kuzmanic is the team’s second best in that category with an average of 12.8 points per game.

UAB is C-USA’s third-best rebounding team (39) in C-USA, while UTEP sits in the No. 2 spot (40). UAB’s Kara Rawls had recently been placed into the starting lineup after not starting in the first five games this season and has been on a tear ever since. She leads the team in rebounds with 157, with an average of 7.9 a game.

UTEP will be in for a battle against UAB, facing the upper echelon of the conference, whereas on the road they’ll UTSA, who are at the bottom of the C-USA rankings, in the teams’ first of two meetings.

First year head coach Kristen Holt and her Roadrunners are currently on a five-game losing streak. Holt was previously the associate head coach under former UTSA head coach Lubomyr Lichonczak (2013-17).

UTSA is allowing opposing offenses to score 71.4 points per game and average 59.8 points per game, while dishing out the ball for 12.3 assists. They also average 38.6 rebounds per game.

Senior guard Crystal Chidomere is the team’s leading scorer, who aver-



GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

The UTEP women will play at home against UAB on Friday before heading back on the road to face UTSA on Sunday.

ages 13.6 points per game. Right behind her is sophomore forward Marie Benson, who averages 12.2 points per game and is recording an average of 9.8 rebounds per game.

Baker and company are just 4-5 on the road so far this season, but are 7-2 at home with a top five ranking in the conference in field goal percentage efficiency (42.6).

In conference, senior captain Tamara Seda sits just outside the top 10 in scoring, with an average of 14.5 points per game, leading all Miners.

Junior Najala Howell is second on the team with an average scoring total of 13 points per game, with sopho-

more Katarina Zec rounding out the top three (9.1 points per game).

In the last battle against North Texas, all three players (Seda, Howell, Zec) were UTEP’s leading scorers in the win.

Seda carried her team with 13 points, while Zec added 11 and Howell added 10. Junior Jordan Alexander set a new career-high in rebounds, grabbing 13.

Although the defense from inside has helped fuel UTEP recently, the Miners will need to improve their 3-point defense and be able to score the ball more for their matchup against UAB.

The Blazers have made more 3-pointers than any other team in conference (172), while UTEP has allowed their opponents to make more 3-pointers than any other team in conference (157).

In terms of scoring, UTEP will have to keep up if their defense can’t stop UAB. The Miners shot just 33.3 percent (31-93) in their recent two-game road split (Rice, UNT).

Tip-off is slated for 7 p.m. at the Don Haskins Center and 1 p.m. will be the scheduled start for the Miners against the Roadrunners in San Antonio.

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