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The Prospector, February 13, 2018

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ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

THE PROSPECTOR

WWW.THEPROSPECTORDAILY.COM

VOL. 103, NO. 19

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

FEBRUARY 13, 2018

VALENTINE'S
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ISSUE

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LAST-MINUTE
GIFTS
PG. 8

DESIGN BY ALEJANDRA GONZÁLEZ/ THE PROSPECTOR



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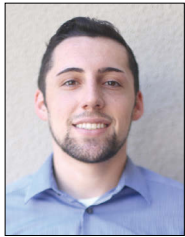
FEBRUARY 13, 2018

OPINION

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
MICHAELA ROMÁN, 747-7446

Remorse from the other guy

BY JEREMY CARRANCO
The Prospector



I've been cheated on and I can say it hurts. However, I've never cheated on anyone, so I have an inexperienced perspective on what goes on inside the cheater's mind.

Growing up, I had my fair share of crushes, but as I got older there was this one girl in my life who was special. We were good friends and I knew she had a boyfriend, but one night we went out and had a great time together and that's when what I assumed was going to be just a hug goodbye somehow turned into a night of consensual sex. Oddly enough, from that moment I thought I could potentially start a new chapter in my life with her, not just "get lucky."

At first, there was a type of thrill to being the other guy. There was a mystery as to why the person I had my eyes on would cheat on their significant other with me.

While that night was exciting, it was crazy for me to have thought a relationship with this girl was even possible. It was more depressing than anything else because I knew that if this girl was going to cheat on her boyfriend, then there was always the possibility she could cheat on me.

Twenty percent of men and 13 percent of women reported that they have had sex with someone other than their spouse while married, according to newly generated data from the recent General Social Survey. While this is looking at marriage, can you imagine how much higher these percentages are with relationships that are outside of marriages?

There's a part of me to this day that does not regret what happened

because my mind tells me that it fell on her for not staying loyal to her boyfriend and it was ultimately her decision in agreeing to have sex with me. Although, it would be unfair to say that I didn't have a part in it too, because by letting the night escalate to where it did, I did condone it.

Lately, I've been thinking more about this, when I find out someone I'm interested in is already taken. I remind myself it's not even worth the momentary satisfaction.

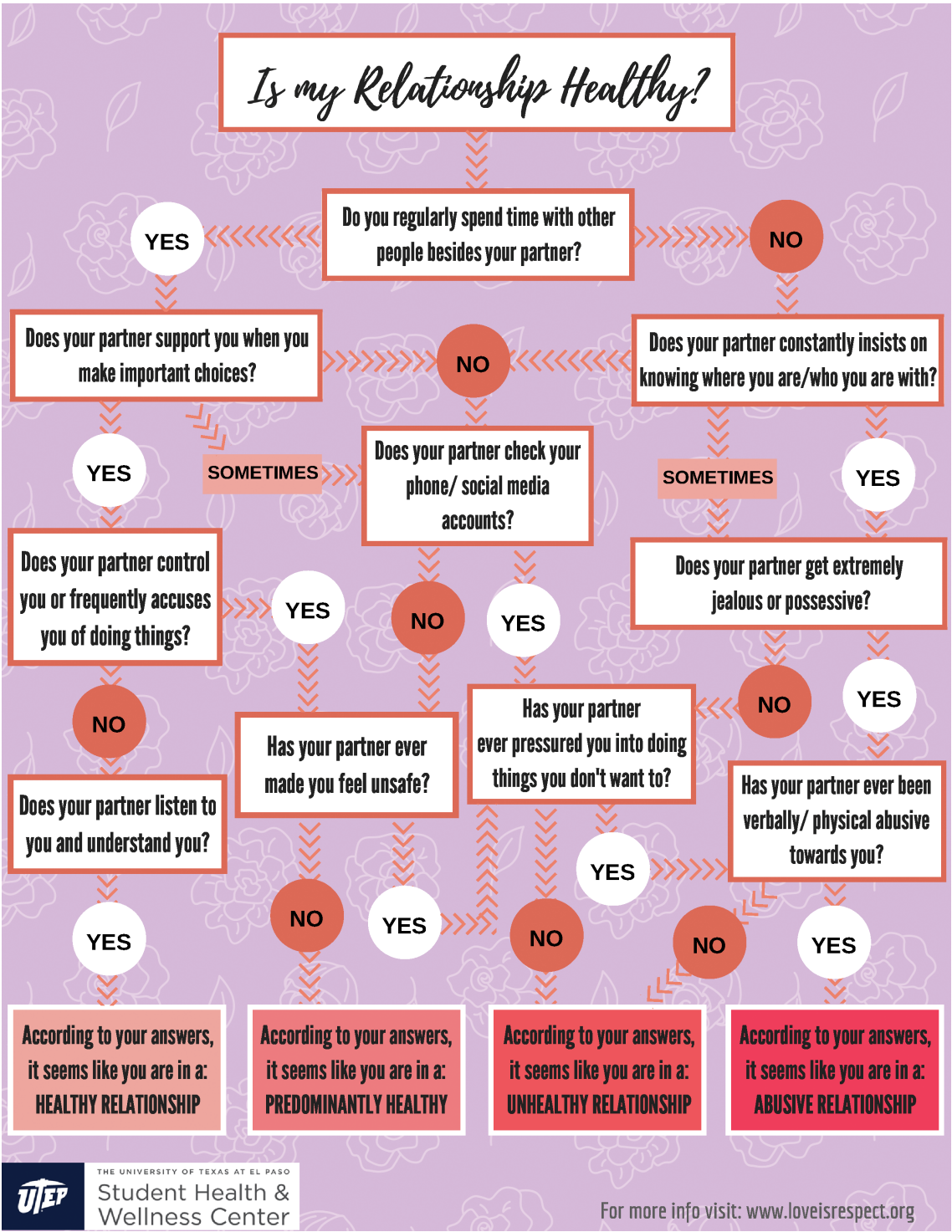
It is not always as simple as right or wrong, whether you are the cheater or the one being cheated on, whether it is a physical or an emotional relationship. It always hurts all parties involved and the pleasure of the moment obscures our consideration of what the consequences will be.

Scarred trust and loss are experiences not easily digested and put away. Relationships are never the same afterwards, regardless of the outcome, and there's also the question of your own integrity, honesty and self-respect as an individual, including your respect for the guy who thinks he is in a committed relationship.

I am all for living in the moment, but the consequences of pleasure seeking for a short amount of time can drag on to cause moments of hurt, loss and regret. These are all afterthoughts that are easy to ignore in the excitement of the moment.

No matter what side you are on when it happens, it sucks, even if you had the thrill of the moment on the other side. If that is you, you may tell yourself to not feel guilty, but from my experience I believe you will.

Follow Jeremy Carranco on Twitter @JACarranco_



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For more info visit: www.loveisrespect.org

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NOW ON SOUNDCLOUD

The SoundCloud player shows the "The Prospector Sports Weekly Podcast - UTEP men's basketball forward Tirus Smith". The player has a progress bar at 11:14 / 22:15 and a "Write a comment" button.

Join The Prospector Sports Weekly Podcast for their newest episode featuring special guest UTEP freshman forward Tirus Smith, as he talks about his journey to becoming a Miner, his upbringing in Mississippi and what he plans to do for the Miners during his time in college.

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Address and phone number will be used for verification only.

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0% Chance for Rain

SUN

High 67
Low 37

Mostly Sunny
0% Chance for Rain

MON

High 65
Low 40

Mostly Sunny
0% Chance for Rain

Early Learning Academy fosters an educational environment for children



GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

Two sisters, Lexie Rangel and Addison Rangel, play at the YWCA's University Heights Early Learning Academy.

BY JAKE DEVEN
The Prospector

While UTEP students, faculty and staff across campus spend their days studying and working, there are more than 70 children finger painting, solving puzzles, being active and eating snacks at the YWCA's University Heights Early Learning Academy.

Conveniently located near campus, at 315 W. Schuster Ave., the University Heights Early Learning Academy is the child care destination committed to serving the UTEP community. Any parent who works at or attends UTEP may enroll their child in the program, similar to that of a preschool, or simply drop by for a day or so if needed.

While care for children is an issue for all parents, it's particularly an issue for student-mothers. With the cost of day-care usually being more than the cost of tuition and fees for public colleges, many students with young children aren't able to go to college because they can't find or afford someone to take care of the kids while they go to class.

One way to help these moms stay in school is to provide on-campus child care services. This solution provides multiple benefits, it allows parents to get an education while also providing care for their children.

Many UTEP students take on the challenge of balancing an already busy parent life with the demanding schedule of earning a college degree, and some even adding a part-time job into the mix.

"It helps a lot being able to bring my daughter here while I'm in class, especially since it's so close to campus," said one UTEP student, whose 4-year-old daughter is enrolled in the program, and chose not to give their name to be published.

The academy is staffed with highly qualified teachers and aides, whose goal is to preserve an educational experience with a curriculum that focuses on experiential-based learning, communication, literacy and problem solving.

The academy's curriculum consists of social and emotional development, language and communication, reading and writing, mathematics, science, social studies, fine arts, physical development and technology.

With more than 35 years of experience in child care, the YWCA partnered with UTEP in 2012 to develop the learning center that employs teachers that are Texas School Ready, the same certification that teachers of EPISD complete.

"We love being able to help the UTEP community and we take pride in our role as educators to the children of students

and faculty," said Lorraine M. Valles, director of the University Heights Early Learning Academy.

Valles said she focuses on creating an environment in the academy, where parents will feel comfortable dropping their children off for the day.

The University Heights Academy prepares children for kindergarten while enhancing their social, emotional, physical and cognitive development. Teachers engage children in an active learning environment that is play and project based, which focuses on making sure children will be elementary school ready. For more information, visit sa.utep.edu/childcare.

Follow Jake Deven on twitter @jakedeven

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ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

THE PROSPECTOR & THE PICK 'N' SHOVEL

WWW.THEPROSPECTORDAILY.COM

Valentine's Day falls on a school day, but why not start the celebration with your special someone early?

Like UTEPProspector on Facebook, tag your special someone and comment with #WeLoveTheProspector to participate in this special giveaway.

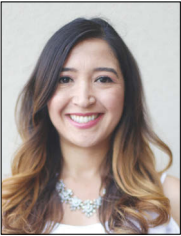
Winner will be chosen at random and notified via Facebook the night of February 13.

Prize: Lunch for two at the Pick 'n' Shovel, (1) Giant chocolate chip cookie and (2) tickets to "Love All Night with Frankie J"

The Prospector loves you! Happy Valentine's Day!

Social media: the relationship killer

BY ELENIE GONZALEZ
The Prospector



Social media has been ingrained in our lives for the past decade and it's not going away anytime soon. There are the few and strong who choose not to get involved with social media, but for the most part everyone else has at least one account with Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, or all four. Each one can be used differently, but mainly we feel the need to share everything that is happening in our lives—the good, the bad and the ugly. As far as our personal relationships go, that is also something that many people love to share. This is where it gets tricky though. Think about all the times social media has created problems in our relationships, whether it's a new one or one you've been in for a while. Let's start with Facebook. On Facebook, you have the option to indicate that you are single, in a relationship, engaged, married, divorced and you even have the option to say "it's complicated." Users also have the choice to hide their relationship status if they choose to. I've seen it all with my friends and I've participated in this as well. We often make a big deal out of all of these options too. How many times have you asked your friends

if they are Facebook official with their new boo? That usually means that it's serious business. What about if someone chooses not to display their relationship status? Does that mean that it's not serious or that they're not happy or that they're wanting to appear like they're single? I think the answers can be yes and no depending on the person. This also comes with problems of its own. If someone appears single because they hide their status, but they're not single, then it's easy for others to hit them up. At the same time, if someone is "in a relationship," it doesn't always prevent others from sliding into the DMs (Direct Messages). There are also couples who love to share pictures of themselves every chance they get, and every profile pic or Instagram post is of them looking cute. Honestly, sometimes this screams insecurities to me, like they're trying to prove something to the world. I'm not trying to hate on those who do this because I'm sure it's not always like that. But what happens when said couple suddenly goes back to putting only themselves in a profile picture? Does that mean the relationship is going south? Not necessarily, but sometimes it is and this is where the complications continue to arise. This is when friends and followers begin to assume things that may or may not be true. This is when social media begins to kill a relationship.

Here's another idea. When it comes to likes, think about how many times this can create issues. If you see your significant other liking another person's posts and tweets and selfies a little too much, don't you assume that something must be going on there even if there's not? Sometimes "liking" someone's post can be a small way of flirtation don't you think? Not always, but some may think so. I've had those thoughts before. The bottom line is that all social media can create many different types of issues. This is why many people I know choose not to have any form of social media. They tell me that it is distracting and don't want to make their life complicated by participating in it. They would rather be low-key in their life and their relationships, which I applaud. I'm not trying to be a negative Nancy here because I love social media myself. I've been the person who shares everything and I've been the person who shares nothing. If you are in love and want to shout it from the rooftops, then go for it. People love happiness and people love love. If you're not in a relationship and want to shout that out too because you're happy and love yourself, then please do it. Healthy love is something to be proud of, whether it's for yourself or another person. Don't let social media kill it for you.

Follow Elenie Gonzalez on Twitter @eleniegonz

UPCOMING EVENTS

PICK TO SAVE A LIFE

UTEP is celebrating CPR awarness day from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 19, at the Union East Breezeway.

JENNIFER HAN VS LISBETH CRESPO

El Paso's boxing champion Jennifer Han will defend her title against her mandatory challenger on Saturday, Feb. 17, at the Don Haskins Center. Tickets start at \$25.

WWE LIVE: ROAD TO WRESTLEMANIA

WWE Champion AJ Styles vs. Kevin Owens and Sami Zayn will enter the ring at the Don Haskins Center on Monday, Feb. 19. Tickets start at \$15.

FRIDAY NIGHT FLICK: 'COCO'

Friday Night Flick is back at the Union Cinema with "Coco." On Thursday, Feb. 15, there will be a Spanish-language version will be shown and on Friday, Feb. 16, the film will be in English. Tickets are \$2 for UTEP students, faculty, staff and alumni. Both showings are at 6:30 p.m.

'PIAZZOLLA DA CAMERA' CONCERT

Steinway artist and UTEP piano professor Oscar Macchioni, Carla Kountoupes and Andrew Nickles concert will celebrate their latest released album "Piazzolla da Camera" at the Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$3 for UTEP students, faculty and staff.

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Love in the arts: How two professors found each other in school



CLAUDIA HERNANDEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

BY PAULETTE VILLA

The Prospector

Not a day goes by in Kim Bauer's print making class where he does not mention his wife, Terri.

The 35-year-old relationship of art lecturers, Kim Brian Bauer, an associate professor in printmaking, and Therese (Terri) Bauer, an advisor and senior professor in drawing, has been witnessed by UTEP's art department for generations since the late 1980s.

"I am only familiar with Terri because she is our counselor," said Lorena Fierro, a senior studio art major, while working in the printmaking studio. "I realized they were dating when I saw them going out for lunch every day."

When it comes to their relationship, the Bauers are often considered role models by students, who ask them for advice on how to maintain a relationship with someone sharing the same passions.

"They see how well we get along and that we enjoy each other's company, and some of them ask us to 'adopt them,'" Terri said while laughing.

Their story began at East Lansing, Michigan, where they both attended Michigan State University for their undergraduate degrees in fine arts. Both had professors and friends in common, but did not cross paths, since Kim graduated in 1978 and Terri in 1980.

"When I was trying to decide where to go to graduate school, a professor at Michigan State goes 'you know, Kim Bauer went to Eastern Michigan and they

treated him really good, they gave him a lot of money,' and I thought, okay, well that's good," Terri said.

Meanwhile, Kim worked as a part-time printmaking teacher at Eastern Michigan University, and met Terri for the first time while offering a tour of the printmaking room for her and his future mother-in-law.

"He was so nice to me and my mom that day, really pleasant and fun and everything. So, it was a good impression," Terri said.

Before meeting for the tour, Terri felt she already knew Kim, since she had positive feedback through her best friend, who knew him since Michigan State.

"I told her when we started going out," Terri said. "She goes, 'oh yeah, I was wondering, (laughs) you know, that's nice that happened.'"

Afterwards, both shared an office when Terri started teaching part time, which let them get to know each other better.

"Quiet, studious, pretty," Kim said of his first impressions of Terri.

For their first date, Kim describes going to K-Mart in his white Firebird and buying five ham and cheese sandwiches for a dollar.

"She only ate two and I was very happy (Terri laughs) because I was very hungry," Kim said. "Our first movie was 'The Rocky Horror Picture Show,' she was cool with that, and I thought 'ah she's a fun kid!'"

After graduation, Terri and Kim worked as gallery directors for five years

in different galleries in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and then got engaged.

"I was working with the Ann Arbor Association and a jeweler was down the street, I had very little money and the diamond was microscopic," Kim said.

Terri disputed his word, saying the ring was beautiful, and that what made it special was that he picked it out himself.

"I always tell my students she likes donuts more than diamonds, I can afford her on an artist's budget," Kim said.

Kim was raised on a navy bean farm, at the outskirts of Michigan, while Terri grew up miles away in Lansing, the capital of Michigan.

"She's got a little bit of the country on her for a city girl, she's got the best of both worlds," said Kim regarding the things he loved most about her. "Very patient, very understanding with my mood swings. As artists, we're always on an emotional rollercoaster."

On the other hand, Terri stated the things she loves the most about Kim.

"He's very loving, very affectionate, super funny, always hugging me and telling me wonderful things. I feel so fortunate, and he's great with my family," Terri said. "He's really good to my dad. I had one brother who had a lot of issues, Kim became like his other brother, that means a lot to me. That shows me a lot about him as a person that is willing to do that."

Two years later, after getting married, the Bauers moved to El Paso. In 1989, Kim was offered a temporary position for a year as sabbatical replacement for a professor at UTEP. Both were later hired—Terri as a part-time instructor and Kim as a tenure-track professor.

"Administration has been good to us, the faculty are excellent to work with, and so are the students," Kim said. "We've been at other institutions that have been less collegial."

In their 29 years working at UTEP together, besides being professors, the Bauers also invite artists to be featured on campus for students and the community.

"We share ideas, talk about assignments that were given and how they might ben-

efit other areas within the department, we really enjoy our job," Kim said.

In 2016, the couple held a joint exhibition at El Paso Museum of Art called "Process and Poetry: The Graphics of Kim and Therese Bauer." Besides giving each other some feedback, both consider giving each other space while making their art as part of a good relationship.

"I don't feel like either of us have huge egos about our work," Terri said. "We're both just making it for ourselves in a way, what it means to us personally, and that's what's important."

The hobbies and activities the couple enjoys most are visiting contemporary museums, from science to history, and going outdoors to lakes and rock climbing. Kim and Terri do not celebrate Valentine's Day often, due to their busy schedules during the semester, but they celebrate their anniversary in June.

Terri says it's always very low-key.

"Yeah, we don't go out to eat, we make something at home," Kim said. "Terri likes pasta, so I make pastas."

As a couple who share similar professions and the same work environment, they consider what makes their relationship strong is to be genuine with each

other and always value their time and their long-term relationship.

"Sometimes you need your space and sometimes you need to cuddle," Kim said. "It's going to be like the stock market, it goes up and down, up and down."

Terri says that no matter what the day brings, to always be kind to each other.

"You just look at the bigger picture and realize it's just a little blip, you know, and all that time together," Terri said.

Even if they don't like to give out a lot of advice to others, because they consider that each couple has a different chemistry and their own way work, they believe being unselfish is the most important value in their relationship.

"He always puts me first and I don't know if I am that way with him," Terri said.

"I think you are," said Kim.

Terri said that what's important to remember is that when you are in a relationship, you can't always have thing your way.

"If I was going to give advice to somebody, remember you're in a relationship, be like Kim, and hug the other person first," she said.

✉ Paulette Villa may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What is your biggest deal breaker in a relationship?

CLAUDIA HERNANDEZ, SERGIO MUÑOZ / THE PROSPECTOR



ADAM PIERCE
Freshman history major
“That’s probably just being inconsiderate. Somebody not willing to take the time or put effort into something. Taking everything for granted, in other words, just not being considerate of the fact that you care about them.”



CLAUDIA CARRILLO
Freshman general studies major
“When they don’t communicate. I think that’s the biggest deal breaker, because it’s like talking to like a wall. I guess when they’re always on their phone. That’s a deal breaker because they’re not paying attention.”



JOEL MEJIA
Sophomore history major
“Not being honest, people not being honest with you. When someone lies to you I think that’s very important. To tell the truth, I don’t know. Like I trusted you and you lied to me so you kind of lose my trust.”



KRISED ARRIOLA
Junior social work major
“I have to have two, which are jealousy and overprotective. I like when a guy is into me and they want to protect me, but not the point that they have to ask me all the time. Those are turn-offs for sure.”



JACOB SALADO
Junior kinesiology major
“Hypocrisy—I hate hypocrisy. Like, let’s say I go out and she gets mad at me and she goes out, that’s definitely a deal breaker. I mean, spying, but spying kind of just like comes with relationships as you go on.”



MARIANA BAYON
Sophomore education major
“Honesty and overall respect. I think everyone should treat each other the way they want to be treated. I would definitely expect the same amount of respect that I give to the other person and get the same respect to me.”



SAMANTHA MUÑOZ
Freshman media advertising major
“If someone is against feminism, or if they are more for traditional women fulfilling domestic roles.”



MALIK DADO
Sophomore undeclared major
“For the end, for me, it’s a girl that doesn’t pay attention cause that’s a common misconception that some girls have, is that we require less attention, but I’m a really affectionate person.”



VALERIE OLIVARES
Sophomore forensic science major
“Cheating would be something that wouldn’t be acceptable in a relationship and if they’re not funny.”





CHRISTOPHER SERRANO
Business management grad student
“A lack of passion for what you love to do and a lack of drive.”

SGA loves UTEP

VALENTINE'S DAY CARNIVAL

February 14th, 2018 @ 11:00-2:00PM, Union Breezeway





Food - Music - Games

STDs, sex myths and facts you need to know

THE PROSPECTOR STAFF
MYTH: You can get herpes from a toilet seat.
Herpes simplex virus (HSV) is spread by direct skin-to-skin contact. So unless you and another person are sharing a toilet seat at the same time, the toilet is not likely the source of the infection. So while you might want to check to see if the seat is clean and dry before sitting, you can leave worries about herpes behind.
FACT: You can get HIV from getting a tattoo or body piercing.
There can be a risk for HIV or another blood-borne infection (like hepatitis B or C) if the instruments used for piercing or tattooing either are not sterilized or disinfected between clients. Any instrument used to pierce or cut the skin should be used once and thrown away.
MYTH: You can get HIV from a mosquito bite.
HIV is not transmitted by mosquitoes. Studies conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and elsewhere have shown no evidence of HIV transmission from mosquitoes or any other insects—even in areas where there are many cases of AIDS and large populations of mosquitoes.
FACT: You can get an STI just through oral sex.
During oral sex, you can give your partner your STI and you can get theirs. Not all STIs are transmitted through oral sex, but some are. For example, if your partner has a cold sore (oral herpes) and performs oral sex on you, you could become infected with herpes in your genital areas.
MYTH: You can use a condom more than once.
A condom should NEVER be used more than once under any circumstances.
FACT: Baby oil and Vaseline are okay to use with latex condoms
No. Oil-based lubricants (such as baby oil, Vaseline®, hand creams, Crisco) can break down latex and allow STDs/STIs to pass through. Instead, water soluble lubricants like K-Y Jelly®, Glide®, Aqualube®, most contraceptive jellies, saliva or even plain ol’ water are good lubricants to use with condoms.
FACT: Most women won’t have an orgasm through vaginal sex only.
Only about 30 percent of women reach orgasm through vaginal sex only. The other 70 percent need more manual or oral stimulation to achieve orgasms.
FACT: The average penis size is about 5 to 6 inches.
According to the Kinsey Institute, the average erect (hard) penis length of U.S. males is between five to six inches, and average flaccid (not erect or soft) penis length ranges between one to four inches.
FACT: Anal sex is not an activity just for gay men.
Anal sex is a sexual act that many people enjoy, both gay and straight, men and women. This activity has nothing to do with sexual orientation.
Information provided by the American Sexual Health Association.

FEBRUARY 13, 2018

ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR
CLAUDIA FLORES , 747-7446

High school sweethearts continue sharing their passion at UTEP



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAMIAN PADILLA
Damian Padilla adjusts his boyfriend Angel Garcia's bow tie. The two met during high school and they have been together since.

BY CLAUDIA FLORES

The Prospector

High school sweethearts usually don't last forever, especially after starting college. However, some couples make an effort to stay together beyond the realms of high school.

"I was supposed to go to Andress High School and he was supposed to go to Jefferson, but we ended up going to Silva," said Damian Padilla, a 20-year-old sophomore communication studies major. "I became a cheerleader and he was in the march-

ing band. At the time I had no idea who he was, but he told me he would look at me from far away and that I caught his attention."

His boyfriend, Angel Garcia, a 19-year-old freshman majoring in speech pathology, and member of the UTEP symphony orchestra, said that they met about four years ago.

"I believe in love at first sight because that's what happened to me," Padilla said. "I fell in love with him right away, so love at first sight really happens and so do high school sweethearts because he is my high school sweetheart."

Back in high school, Padilla and Garcia had the same interests as today. Padilla is a member of the UTEP Gold-diggers and Garcia is a percussionist with the symphony orchestra. Garcia said that part of what brought them together are the similarities they both share for the arts.

"In high school, before every game, we would give each other a type of good luck hug or kiss, and even now he would always tell me things I need to improve and vice-versa. We are the number one supporters of each other," Padilla said.

As in any other relationship, Garcia and Padilla have had their ups and downs—from fights to going their separate ways for a period of time, to get-

ting back together. Still, however, they hold onto a dream to eventually open up a studio and teach dance and music.

"I always try to teach him some dance. This has always been a curiosity he has had in the back of his head and the same for me because he is a percussionist," Padilla said. "It's sort of like a plan we have and that's also what keeps us together."

Knowing each other for almost five years, Padilla said that as a couple, they realize that now that they are in college, they are now getting older and they need to make good decisions to realize those dreams in the future.

"A relationship takes time and patience. It's a 50-50 thing and you need to be willing to work things out," Padilla said. "When you love somebody, you have to look past all disagreements and each other's flaws to make something beautiful happen."

Beyond the adversities they face as any other couple, they are aware that as a gay couple there might be some challenges when it comes to society.

Garcia said that although they never faced any struggles in school or public areas for being a gay couple, it's at his home where obstacles come.

"My parents are pastors, very religious and they're against the homosexual point of view," Garcia said.

"I used to have problems when we were dating because they found out and they restricted me from going out with anyone, thinking I would go out with him, and to this moment it's still very hard."

Garcia shared that although his family does not accept his homosexuality, it is at Padilla's home where he feels most welcomed.

"When I spend time with his family, I wished my family was like that, but it is sad things can't be like that," Garcia said.

Even as they face the disapproval of Garcia's family, he said that being happy with one another is what keeps them going.

"We don't let other things or people get in the way," Garcia said. "It's kind of sad on the inside that they don't accept us, but when I'm with him I'm really happy."

As a gay person and young adult, Padilla said that it's fine to be who you are, and that there is a more progressive society that accepts people as who they are.

"And for people who have parents like him, just take it day by day and don't let that be the thing that shakes or breaks you," he said.

✉ Claudia Flores may be reached at gigibertaflores43@gmail.com.

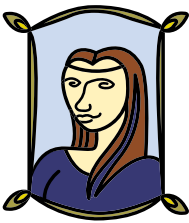
Unforgettable Valentine's date ideas: something for everyone

BY ELENIE GONZALEZ

The Prospector

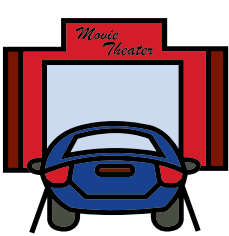
Valentine's Day may bring a lot of stress to couples, from what flowers to buy to planning a fancy date, the pressure is always on for it to be perfect and filled with romance. If you're pressed for ideas or want to do something a little more out of the ordinary, we've compiled a list of ideas to fit the interests of the different types of couples out there.

THE ART LOVERS

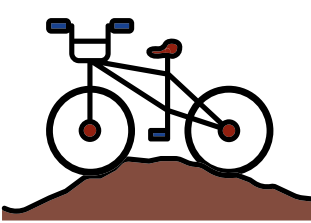


El Paso has emerged as an artsy city with murals popping up all over downtown and popular monthly art crawls. If you're that couple who enjoys the art scene, why don't you take some time to visit a local museum or paint a masterpiece of your own at I Painted That. <http://ipaintedthat.com>

THE MOVIEGOERS



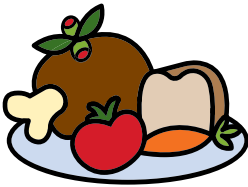
Movie dates are always a go-to dates, even on Valentine's Day. This year, for one night only, think about taking part in a drive-in movie theater. It's being hosted by El Paso County and Special Events and it's absolutely free. Drive-In Movie Theater at Ascarate Park: "50 First Dates" Gates Open at 5 p.m., movie begins at about 6:45 p.m. Free.



THE THRILL SEEKERS

Valentine's Day doesn't always have to be a low-key occasion. It's good to get an adrenaline rush once in a while. Operation Outbreak is a fun alternative to getting the blood pumping. These escape rooms have grown in popularity and are a fun way to establish teamwork in order to win the game. For more information, visit <https://escapegameep.com/>

THE FOODIES

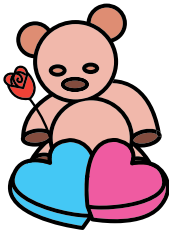


Don't think that you have to go all out and spend a fortune on a fancy dinner because there are plenty of options when it comes to dinner or even lunch spots. Salt & Honey is usually only a lunch or breakfast spot, but this year they are featuring a dinner menu on Valentine's Day. St. Augustine Artisan Pizza and Craft Beer is the new kid on the block. This quaint restaurant specializes in brick oven pizza and craft beer. Because it will be a popular dining day, reservations are highly recommended for both.



THE COFFEE DRINKERS

Who doesn't love a good café? Fahrenheit 180 is the newest spot in town and offers tasty desserts along with their simple menu of caffeinated and non-caffeinated drinks. Eloise also offers a delicious menu with great cocktails. Sometimes it's nice just to sit and have a deep conversation with your date and these two would make great options for the night.



SINGLE AND READY TO MINGLE

Don't worry, if you're not in a relationship, there's a spot for you too. Not everyone cares for Valentine's Day and some may find themselves single and happy on this day. Others might take this as an opportunity to connect with others who may be feeling the same. Night spots such as Later, Later and Born TX Raised are hosting Valentine's Day parties at their bars with drink specials all night.

DESIGN BY ALEJANDRA GONZALEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

Follow Elenie Gonzalez on Twitter @eleniegonz

To: The Prospector From: Kathy

Celebrating my last Love Issue with you guys. Thanks for all the laughs!

To: Olga From: Vladik, Misha & Thuy

We love you very much

To: Briana From: Manny

Winter couldn't freeze your heart, you are summer in November. Thank you for everything you do for me. I can count on you all the time because I know you have my back. I love you.

To: Annabelle Sahr From: Ruben Soto

Wanna go out sometime?

The perfect last-minute gift ideas for procrastinators

BY AYLIN TAFOYA
The Prospector

Maybe you were waiting for payday, maybe you completely spaced out, or maybe you were purposely waiting for this list to come out. But with Valentine's Day less than 24 hours away, here are some ideas for the procrastinators of the world who have yet to buy gifts for their significant others:

1. Chocolate

Whether it's Hershey's Kisses, or if you want to get a bit more creative, chocolate-covered strawberries, this is a no brainer and fail-proof gift for Valentine's Day. What could be more romantic than finding your significant other with melted chocolate on the sides of their mouth the following days? So, stop by a Dollar Tree and get a bailout when on a budget.

2. Flowers

Unless they're allergic to pollen, flowers are the way to go. You can find these colorful gems at your local grocery stores or farmer's markets for less than \$10. To spice things up, it is recommend-

ed not to go with the basic red roses, but with their favorite type of flowers.

3. Succulents

If flowers aren't their thing, but you still want to go the plant route, a cute potted succulent is a great alternative. They're easy to take care of and won't dry out in a couple of days. These guys can bring your significant other's workspace to life in an instant, or could flourish on a windowsill as a decoration. Walmart is always stocked with succulents, which makes it hard to choose from one another.

4. Candles

Imagine this: every time your significant other lights this candle, it will remind them of you and the burning flame of your love—cheesy, but it works. Stop by Bath and Body Works because they always have deals on candles and pick out a sweet-smelling scent. After a long day at school or work, lighting a candle and reading a good book can solve anything.

5. Book/Journal

There are plenty of books and journals out there, but here are two special and romantic options to spice things up. The first is "Shakespeare's Love Sonnets." There's no doubt that Shakespeare was the man when it came to romance. So, who better to set the mood for a relaxing evening than him? This book features 29 of the most romantic sonnets, accompanied by contemporary illustrations that tastefully accentuate the depth of sentiment in each one, and is available on Amazon.

Another option is "One Line A Day." This classic memory-keeping journal is the perfect way to track all the moments shared with each other for years to come. It only takes a minute to fill out, and when you look back at it, whether it's good or bad, it shows you what you've overcome and created together, and is also available on Amazon.

6. Personalized

Whether it's an inside joke or a reminder of how much you care, a personalized message on

a coffee mug can make anyone's morning. All you have to do is stop by at Joann's, buy a blank mug, some sharpies and get to work. Even if you're artistically challenged, it's the thought that counts. This is a super easy DIY because after your masterpiece is done, all that is left to do is bake the mug in the oven for 30 minutes at 350 degrees Fahrenheit and voila!

7. Matching keychains

With matching keychains, you'll have a piece of your significant other wherever you go. Get on Amazon and search for the perfect design. It can be the classic heart halves, maybe a cloud to represent how you're on cloud nine every time you're with your SO, or even a sun and moon to show how they always brighten up your day in the darkest times.

8. Photo album/cork board

Collecting all your favorite pictures, printing them out at Walgreens for less than \$10 and pinning them to a cork board or placing them in a photo album is such a sweet gesture. Memories are forever, but tangible ev-

idence of a special day is always appreciated.

9. Unique card or love letter

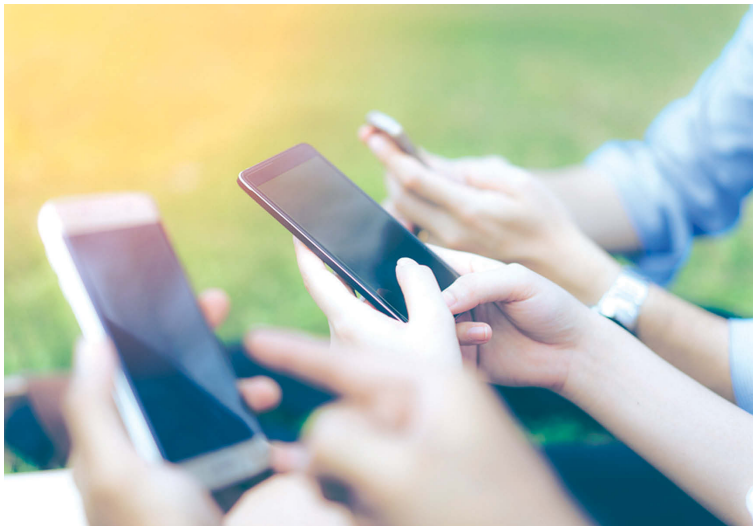
This is probably the least expensive gift on the list. All you have to do is get a cute card, which you can find literally anywhere and fill it out with your thoughts and feelings. Chivalry isn't dead with this no-brainer gesture. And if you want to kick it up a notch, read it to them in person. It shows you took the time out of your day to put your emotions into words for them, and will probably bring a tear or two of happiness to their eyes.

10. Dinner

It doesn't take much to whip up some spaghetti at home, or maybe order some takeout and watch Netflix in fuzzy socks and pajamas for those who don't feel like dressing up and eating out. If you go the cooking route, it can be a bonding or pampering experience. If you go for the takeout route, remember to compromise and relax. The way to anyone's heart is through their stomach.

✉ Aylin Tafoya may be reached at aylinvtafoya97@gmail.com.

Five apps to find your perfect match based on your dating preferences



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

BY BRIANNA CHAVEZ
The Prospector

Valentine's Day is a time full of roses, chocolates and pink-and-red hearts everywhere you go, which

could make the single people out there feel #Foreveralone. Let's be real, dating sounds terrible, but it doesn't have to be. While dating apps may not be for everyone, there's nothing wrong with trying them out, despite the many dating horror

stories out there. If you're looking for love or just someone to hang out with, there are dating apps out there that can help.

'Bumble'

"Bumble" is a relatively new app that was created by the co-founder of "Tinder," Whitney Wolfe Herd. On "Bumble," women always make the first move. Like "Tinder," a match is created after two users swipe right. However, only women have the option to start a chat or continue swiping. Men can only show their interest by swiping. In same-sex matches, either person has the option to initiate the conversation. Matches expire every 24 hours.

Another cool thing about "Bumble" is that it doesn't just focus on dating. The app has features like Bumble Bizz and Bumble BFF. These extensions of the app focus on networking and even making new friends in the area. "Bumble" is valued at more than \$1 billion and has over 22 million users, according to Forbes.

'Coffee Meets Bagel'

If you're tired of "swiping" for someone you find attractive, this app is for you. "Coffee Meets Bagel" was created by three sisters from San Francisco, who noticed that women and men have different styles of dating. They wanted to create something that encouraged singles to feel good about dating again. After some research, they learned that more men use dating apps than women in a ratio of 65 males to 35 females on average.

This app sends women about six curated matches or "bagels" every day at noon. The app coins the term #LadiesChoice because they say women get the final say in who they want to get to know better. Their algorithm takes into consideration things like age, height, religion, ethnicity, social networks and interests, just to name a few. "Coffee Meets Bagel" focuses more on creating long-term relationships instead of quick flings.

'Tinder'

"Tinder" is famous for its swiping. Users can swipe right if they are interested in the person's photo and profile, or swipe left if they aren't interested. It is also a location-based app.

Users can tailor how many miles away they'd like your potential matches to be away from them. According to the app's description, they "spark more than 26 million matches per day." "Tinder" was launched in 2012 and has about 50 million users. It's also currently Apple's number one app in the lifestyle section of the App Store. If you just want to casually date, "Tinder" is the app for you.

'Happn'

"Happn" is mostly based on location. It tracks your GPS data on your phone and tries to match you with people you've crossed paths with. More specifically, it looks for people that are on the same daily commute as you and your area in general. It may sound a bit creepy, but the concept is quite interesting.

"We wanted to bring back reality into the dating world. We think that every day you cross paths with people, and most of them, you miss them, because you do not have the time to talk with them or because there was some missed connection," said the app's CEO Didier Rappaport in an interview with Business Insider.

If you see someone you like on your feed, you can "heart" them. Like other dating apps, if the person you're interested in also decides to "heart" you, then it's a match.

'Match'

Match.com is considered the original dating site. Gary Kremen originally launched it in 1995. While the website has been around for over 20 years, the app launched in 2010. "Match" allows users to create a profile stating their interests and who and what they're looking for in a partner. After that, users can search other users' profiles and receive personalized matches. "Match" does charge a monthly subscription fee starting at \$21.99.

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SPORTS

EDITOR

JEREMY CARRANCO, 747-7446

The inspiration behind the game for Omega Harris



GABY VELASQUEZ, PHOTOS COURTESY OF OMEGA HARRIS / THE PROSPECTOR

(Top) Omega Harris will graduate within the top-15 in school history for steals and points scored. (Bottom) Omega Harris's daughter Khylynn will turn 3 years old in March.

BY MIKE FLORES

The Prospector

Omega Harris is going to be in UTEP's record book forever. He ranks in the program's top-15 in both points scored and steals collected, and he's nearing a top five spot in program history in 3-pointers made since joining the program as a freshman in 2013.

Out of all the things in his life that keep him going and push him to become a better person and player every day, there's one person in Harris' life that he does it all for—his 2-year-old daughter, Khylynn, who is about to celebrate her third birthday in March.

"Khylynn and my mom are my inspiration every day. My mom is the one that kept my head on straight and taught me how to play basketball. I want to do the same for my daughter for what my mom has always done for me—which is a lot," Harris said.

While in the midst of a tough senior season with the Miners, where he is still battling with his team for one final shot at ending UTEP's eight-year drought of not making the NCAA tournament, his daughter lives with her mother and calls Mississippi home.

The distance is the most difficult part for Harris and his daughter, but he makes time to talk to Khylynn every day and makes sure to be always there for her either through phone calls or Facetime.

"It's very tough being away from her. It's been like that since the end of my freshman year and now it's going on three years, but I've adapted to it, to where I could see her on the times that

I can. That's my baby girl, I miss her all the time," he said. "Khylynn's mom says that she always asks, 'Where's my daddy?' and they just pick up the phone and call me whenever she misses me."

Harris always puts his family first and never forgets who helped him get to where he is right now. He comes from a family full of support. On Harris' Instagram page, he makes it known to his 6,000 followers who shaped him—his mother, Yolanda. Harris has posted pictures with her with captions saying he was going to miss her the most when he first moved to El Paso, how he's determined to work so hard that she doesn't ever need to again

I want to be able to provide for my daughter to go to school later on, and I want to be that parent that makes sure she gets the best education and opportunities.

- Omega Harris,
Senior point guard

and how his mom is his favorite person in this world and that she's an angel sent from above.

Not only has his mother shaped who Harris is today, but so has his grandma and father. They all combined to set the bar high on

how to be a parent, and Harris is determined to meet that bar.

"Every day I wake up, I know I have my daughter, my mom and my grandma behind me," he said. "I want Khylynn to know that I'm always going to be there for her. She's going to know that anything she needs, I'm going to be there. She can come to me for anything at any time. That's what my dad did for me. Everything that my parents do for me—I want to do that for my kid, but two times that."

With the busy schedule of a student-athlete, sometimes Harris can only get a couple of minutes throughout the day to talk to his daughter on Facetime. But he does say that those are the moments he looks forward to the most.

However, one could argue that Harris does have more to play for on a nightly basis than a majority of student-athletes around the nation. After Harris hangs up his UTEP jersey for good after this season, he plans on making a living and career out of basketball. Although he doesn't know or worry about where he'll play after college—because his mind is completely focused on closing out the season strong for the

Miners—he does plan on taking his talents to a professional basketball league.

"With someone like me trying to make basketball my career, I have a reason to continue to make this my career with Khylynn. School-wise, I don't take for granted the opportunity UTEP has given me for bettering my education," he said. "I want to be able to provide for my daughter to go to school later on, and I want to be that parent that makes sure she gets the best education and opportunities."

What Harris wants his daughter Khylynn to know about his time at UTEP is that with all the ups and downs that he's experienced in his college career, he's always gotten up, fought through anything and learned from everything.

Overall, he's become a stronger person and has slowly become the person he's always wanted to be.

However, on the court this year, Harris' senior season has not gone as expected. The senior has seen a six point drop in his scoring average (11 points per game) since last season (17 points per game) and while it could be as a result of a lower back injury that limited his minutes at the start of the season, it has not been the storybook ending the star player was hoping for thus far.

As a team, the Miners are currently riding a six-game losing streak that has plummeted their record to 7-17 overall and 2-10 in Conference USA play. As of now, UTEP is holding the 12th and final playoff spot needed to make the Conference USA tournament in March.

Despite his struggles this season, once his college career comes to an end, one silver lining at the end of it all is that he will have more time to see Khylynn.

"After I'm done with school, I'm going to be able to see my daughter a lot more. I'm going to be with her more. It should all work out perfectly to be with her more," Harris said. "Khylynn is going to be right by my side the entire time, there's no question about that."

Follow Mike Flores on Twitter @mikey_flores.



Men’s hockey club wraps up third season of play



SERGIO MUÑOZ / THE PROSPECTOR
The UTEP hockey club finishes the season with an overall record of 19-11 and 13-4 in the Texas Collegiate Hockey Conference.

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS
The Prospector

The 2017-18 campaign for the UTEP men’s hockey club came to an end on Friday night, Feb. 9, as the Miners fell to North Texas 2-1 in the semi-final round of the Texas Collegiate Hockey Conference Championship (TCHC) playoffs. Through the first and second period, the Mean Green earned two goals in consecutive periods, while the Miners’ Noah Vanderzwan found the back of the net late at the 19:42 minute mark of the third period, but the attempt at a comeback was too little, too late.

Nonetheless, it was still a positive season for the Miners’ hockey club overall, who finished with a final record of 19-11 overall and 13-5 in TCHC play. Coming off a 2016-17 season, where they won the TCHC championship, the Miners had a heavy load to follow up at the start of the season. They started their season in late September, losing five of their first seven games, including losses to Texas A&M on the road and a sweep at the hands of Northern Arizona at home. The Miners were able to steal two wins against Texas Tech. However,

the problem with the Miners at the beginning is they were getting heavily outscored by their opponents. The opposing teams beat them at a 33-16 rate through their first seven games. Then the Miners started getting into their groove, winning their next five games, followed by a two-game skid. They beat out the likes of Texas A&M, Dallas Baptist and SMU by a combined score of 29-11. During this win streak, the Miners squeezed by Texas A&M, 5-4, and by Dallas Baptist, 4-3. Their luck on the road against Arizona teams continued to trouble them as

they fell twice to Northern Arizona and lost against Arizona State at the top of November. Northern Arizona handled the Miners well, beating them out 5-0 in the first and 8-2 in the second match-up. Arizona State followed with a shut-out victory, beating the Miners, 7-0. Finding luck at home in the El Paso County Coliseum’s Events Center, the Miners hit their highest peak of the season, winning 10 games in a row. Their hard-fought streak started against TCU, as they beat the Horned Frogs 3-1 and then 3-2 in their two-game series. The team beat out the likes of North Texas at the start of December, beating them 6-4, and then 8-1 in the second game. Keeping their streak alive, the Miners saw success against the University of Texas’ hockey club, as they beat them out 8-4 and 4-2 in their home series. After gaining huge wins against Texas State at home with a combined score of 26-0, the club went on the road to Austin to face Texas State and the Longhorns. The Miners again outlasted the Bobcats, this time 12-5 on the road, and split the away series against the Longhorns, winning the first, 4-1, but being shut out in the second, 3-0. They closed out their season against East Texas Baptist University at home, splitting the series as they lost the first, 4-3, but won the second, 4-2. Leading up to the playoffs, the Miners would have to face a Texas A&M team that they were 2-2 against this season. After a Jorge Duenas Abin goal early in the first period for the Miners off a Dominic Foggia assist, Texas A&M scored three consecutive goals spanning from the first period to the top of the second. Then, Matt Sanca

scored on a power play for the Miners, inching closer to A&M’s lead, trailing 3-2. At the top of the third period, the Aggies scored on a power play, making the score seem out of reach at 4-2. However, Joshua Baeza scored on a power play nine minutes after the Aggies’ score from a pass from Nicholas Howell to put the Miners in a better situation nearing the end. Then, just 30 seconds later, the Miners scored off a Matt Sanca power play. He then capped off the lead again with a repeat goal at the 15-minute mark to give the Miners the 5-4 advantage, which would then give them the win. Through the second half of their season, the Miners became one of the best offensive teams in the league. They outscored their opponents 134-99 overall and averaged nearly five goals per game at the end of the season. Leading the way for the Miners this season was Dominik Taras, who finished with 28 goals and 24 assists. Vanderzwan followed Taras with 18 goals and 18 assists. Sanca led the team in assists, totaling 28 this year and also contributed with 14 goals. Seven Miners scored more than 10 goals this season. Aleksander Lazarski finished the season with the highest win percentage as a goalie in the TCHC, winning 14 games this season. He had a 90 percent save percentage for the Miners this year as well. The Miners hockey club will be back in action for its next season in the fall of 2018.

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WING-STOP

UTEP women seek key road wins at Marshall and ODU

BY DANIEL MENDEZ

The Prospector

With just six regular season games remaining, the UTEP women's basketball team is battling for a bye in the Conference USA tournament.

While the Miners are in seventh place, just two games separate five teams from securing the coveted fourth-place spot needed for the bye.

UTEP (14-9, 5-5 C-USA) will head back on the road this week to face two teams that are struggling in Conference USA, last place Marshall on Feb. 15 and Old Dominion on Feb. 17.

The Miners return to the hardwood after a loss in their last game against LA Tech (62-65) at home this past Saturday, where UTEP's second-leading scorer Najala Howell was held scoreless.

The first matchup for the Miners on their two-game road trip is a visit to Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia. The Thundering Herd (7-17, 1-10 C-USA) are currently on a four-game losing streak, but first-year head coach Tony Kemper has his team in the top five in scoring in C-USA (66.9 points per game).

The Herd are led by Conference USA's second-leading scorer Shayna Gore. The 5-foot-8 forward has been a on a tear this season, averaging 19.7 points per game and is third in 3-point shooting percentage, with an average of 40.8 percent of 3's made per game. Gore is coming off a successful month so far in her team's past 10 games. Gore has scored 20-plus points in

six games, with her highest mark coming against Charlotte on Feb. 2, when she tallied 32.

Graduate student Talequia Hamilton is also a top-10 scoring threat in conference for Marshall. She averages 14.6 points per game and will also be a problem for the Miners defensively. The 6-footer is the third-best defender in conference in terms of blocked shots, with an average of 1.6 per game.

In the second matchup for UTEP on their two-game swing will be a contest against the Old Dominion Monarchs in Norfolk, Virginia. ODU (6-19, 4-7 C-USA) will look to see if they can build on their momentum as they secured their biggest win of the season thus far in their last game against Southern Miss (74-55) on Feb. 10.

ODU's first-year head coach is Nikki McCray-Penson. Penson served as an assistant at South Carolina, helping the program get to the their first-ever national championship.

The Monarchs are led by their dynamic freshman guard Victoria Morris, who is the fifth-best in 3-point field goal percentage in C-USA, averaging 33 percent per game. Morris averages 11.9 points per game as she is the team's leading scorer.

The Miners main strength is attacking the glass. UTEP is the second-best rebounding team in conference, averaging 39.7 rebounds per game and is first in rebounding margin, securing 7.3 more rebounds than their opponents per game.



GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

The UTEP women's basketball team leads Conference USA in rebounding margin with a 7.3 advantage on the boards per game.

Senior captain Tamara Seda has easily secured her spot as UTEP's main force. She is currently the ninth-best scorer in C-USA, averaging 14.5 points per game and is second in rebounding (9.9), while also leading the conference in field goal percentage (52.7 percent).

Despite the loss to Louisiana Tech and the surprise of Howell's scoreless effort,

Baker is optimistic about the rest of the season for his team.

"I'm really excited about future of our team this season," Baker said postgame after the loss to LA Tech.

Baker was proud of the play from Seda, who notched 23 points in the loss on Saturday and will look to keep motivating her the rest of the season.

"I told Tamara (Seda) in the locker room after the game, 'if you play like that the rest of the season, we may not lose another one,'" he said.

Tip-off against Marshall is set for 4 p.m. MT in Huntington,, and noon will be the scheduled tip-off against ODU.

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