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THE PROSPECTOR

ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
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Border Tuner

Divided by a wall of metal, united by a bridge of light

Sven Kline

The Prospector

The connection between the bordering cities of El Paso and Ciudad Juárez will be showcased visually and audibly through microphones and beams of light.

Border Tuner is an interactive art installation which aims to visually represent the deep connection El Paso and Ciudad Juárez have through the concept created by Rafael Lozano-Hemmer.

Six stations are set, with three on each side of the U.S.-Mexico border. Curators and individuals are allowed access to point a beam of light toward another beam whether on the same side or across the border. The individual then uses a microphone and speaker to transmit their speech or conversation onto the other station and vice versa. At the start of each nightly event, all beams of light will intersect at one fixed point for all stations to hear at the same time.

see BORDER on page 3

INTERNATIONAL ISSUE



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'Oh my God, Karen, you can't just ask people why they're white'



Claudia Hernandez
The Prospector

I was asked if I have ever had identity problems while living on the border and what you are about to read is my problem with that. I'm conscious that I

am talking from a privileged place, but I want to use that to speak out as an ally.

Growing up in Mexico, I was always told I was "too white" for everything. I remember I didn't used to like reggaeton and my friends were always making fun of how I didn't like it because I was "too white" for that type of music.

Then, after a few years, I actually started liking that genre, but then again, I was told I was "too white" to listen to it – that I looked ridiculous. It was almost as if it bothered them if I did so. Meaning that people weren't okay with me listening to Latin music, but they also weren't okay if I didn't like to listen to it.

This was a lose-lose situation for me.

I know it sounds ridiculous to complain about that, but I was a teenager and those things mattered a lot to me. I don't care about it anymore, but that situation made me realize all of the things I couldn't talk about because I am too white or too privileged to give an opinion about it.

In certain ways, I have been treated kindly in Mexico because of my skin color, but my family isn't white and it's unfair how different my sister and I are treated when we go somewhere together. It is frustrating to witness that and not know what to do. Also, it is annoying being seen as a brat because I complain about how I am being treated better than other people.

Even in my family, my grandmother always emphasizes how "beautiful" my skin color is in front of my cousins and siblings, and it pisses me off.

I think that is why my mom would always try to put me down and tell me that if I was going to be special, it would be for something I did and not because of how I looked. She told me that being praised because of that was a sign

“

I know that my worth is not based on my skin color.

”

of ignorance. Thanks to her, I know that my worth is not based on my skin color. No one's worth should be based on that.

On the other hand, the first time I had to fill out paperwork in the U.S., I was asked to check boxes asking me if I was white, Hispanic or Latina, black, etc.

I never knew what to put, because I know I am Latina, but I have always been told that I'm white. In Mexico you don't get asked that question and when I moved to the U.S., I felt like I could fit in as long as I didn't speak.

It was weird how people treated me nicely at first but once they heard my accent or found out

I was Mexican, their behavior would drastically change.

People would say things such as "you don't look Mexican" or "I didn't think you would be Mexican because you look so white." Some would even tell me their input was a compliment when they realized I wasn't happy with their comments.

How do Mexicans look to you, then? People have a lot of misconceptions about how Mexicans look.

Those questions are something you get used to sadly, but it never stops being annoying.

I believe all of this is a cultural problem engraved in people's minds, but it doesn't have to be permanent. These misconceptions and prejudices can be removed.

As it happens with social change, it takes time and people who advocate for such changes.

Maybe if someone, who unconsciously treats someone different because of their skin color, reads this and will realize their ways and change for the better. If so, then my opinion piece will be successful.

Claudia Hernandez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

No, you probably won't get murdered while staying at a hostel abroad



Valeria Olivares
The Prospector

Almost everyone has heard horror stories about the dangers of staying at a hostel while traveling abroad.

Eli Roth, writer, film director, producer and actor, even directed a thriller titled "Hostel" that was released more than a decade ago. The film follows two friends who go backpacking to Europe before running into peril.

As long as travelers do their research, though, it is very unlikely that travelers will run into so much as a dirty bed.

Nowadays, social media, apps and online reviewing forums have made it easier than ever to learn about the quality of restaurants, schools, thrift stores and even hostels.

I was able to backpack solo in Italy, Denmark and the Netherlands during the summer of 2018.

While I admit that I was very nervous before heading over to Europe, I made sure to use an app called Hostelworld. In the app, people can look up cities around the world and scroll through the available hostels, which the app's

website boasts to having "more than 36,000 properties in over 170 countries."

After staying at a property, Hostelworld sends an email to the customer, prompting them to review its location, cleanliness, staff, facilities, atmosphere, security and value for money to add into the overall rating. People are also able to leave comments, which generally give you a good idea on their overall experience at that particular place.

Every hostel I stayed in was incredibly safe, clean and beautiful. The first one I stayed in was at Copenhagen and I shared the room with 11 different people.

Although it was slightly terrifying to sleep in bunk beds in which the only privacy I got was thanks to a thin curtain, no one ever bothered me.

At each hostel, I met some of the most interesting people that I still talk to through Instagram.

Although I was traveling alone, there would always be someone willing to get lost in the city with me.

I encourage people to go out into the world and stay in hostels to collect some of the most unforgettable memories. Trust me, you will not regret it and your bank account will thank you.

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THE PROSPECTOR

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UTEP students use social media to connect with the world

Exodis Ward

The Prospector

A Pew Research Center survey found that smartphone users are more often exposed to people who have different backgrounds and are more connected to friends they don't see in person.

Students on campus were asked how they used their smartphones and how that has influenced their relationships.

"My mom met her friend through Facebook. She is from the Philippines and came to El Paso to visit us," said Tracy Martinez, a senior studying organizational and corporate communications.

With social media outlets like Facebook, the more than 7,000-mile difference between the Philippines and Texas is easily erased.

"I know there's a time difference, but it's easy to keep in touch with her," Martinez said. "The good thing is that Facebook offers FaceTime. I know FaceTime is usually for iPhone, but this works for people who have other phones that are not Apple. Whatever it is that they've got, it works perfectly."

The study found that 46% of Facebook users report seeing few or none of their friends in person regularly. With social media apps becoming more inclusive, however, it is easier for people around the world to engage.

Katya Gutierrez, a senior studying political science, has many social media platforms, including Instagram, Facebook and Snapchat, and uses them to learn about foreign people.

"I met this guy from Turkey. He travels to Texas often," Gutierrez said. "When he posts videos or pictures about his everyday life, it doesn't seem that different from the one that we have here in the States. That's how Instagram helps

me. It makes me see the everyday life of a Turkish person through their social media."

While some students use their phones for meeting people, many use their phones to stay connected.

The study also found that 93% of smartphone users used their phones to link with friends and family who live far away.

"It's really cool that we still write old-fashioned back and forth, but mostly it's off of social media," said Veronica "Ron" Armendariz, a senior majoring in philosophy and psychology.

Armendariz has traveled to many places around the world, including most of Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. She not only uses her phone for fun, but for professional work as well.

"I do (self-promotion) on LinkedIn. That's where you can network more and it's people looking at other people professionally," Armendariz said. "I'm not sure how much I would want to promote myself on my other accounts other than my LinkedIn."

The research found that 39% of people used their phones to apply for a job and 32% of people used them to buy and sell goods.

For Martinez, social media is a means to network to an audience further than El Paso.

"I do photography on the side, so if I had a little business and I felt that I needed to reach my target audience, that would be a great way of doing it," Martinez said. "I could do my own business page and tag it onto my actual page and, since I've got a big following, I could tell my friends, 'Share this with someone.' That will open windows for some people outside of El Paso."

With phones and social media becoming more expansive, the global community is sure to grow as networks expand and increase.

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Claudia Hernandez / The Prospector

A Pew Research Center survey found that 46% of Facebook users report seeing few or none of their friends in person regularly. With social media apps becoming more inclusive, however, it is easier for people around the world to engage.

Census workshops encourage participation

Exodis Ward

The Prospector

UTEP is hosting 2020 Census workshops to inform the community about the decennial survey of the U.S. population.

Paulina Lopez and Richard Cerros, two partnership specialists with the U.S. Census Bureau, led the first event Thursday, Nov. 7, with information on what the census is, what it does for the community and the goal to get 100 percent of the people to participate next year.

"The census is more than a head count. By responding to the census, you can shape the future of the community and your life for the next 10 years," Lopez said.

The census is a data survey sent out every 10 years that takes information about the country's population and its economy.

The information received is protected under Title XIII and Title XXVI of the U.S. code, which states information will never be shared with any other local, state or federal agency and is used strictly for statistical purposes.

With the next census coming up in 2020, there is a chance to get funding for those who need it most.

Two informational workshops will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 19, at River View Room 102H, and from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21, at the Desert Canyon Room 102D in UTEP's Union East Building.

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BORDER from front page

"Magnifying existing relationships, conversations and culture. The piece is intended as a visible 'switchboard' of communication where people can self-represent," the project's website, bordertuner.net, reads. "Draw international attention to the co-existence and interdependence between the sister cities that create the largest binational metropolitan area in the western hemisphere."

The installation will run from Wednesday, Nov. 13, and open at 6 p.m. each night through Nov. 24. Every evening will kickstart with a different guest for 30 minutes, after which the installation will be open for the public to use.

With light pollution in mind, Hemmer was concerned with the carbon footprint the event would have on the environment and made sure the installation only uses up to 126 kilowatts of power.

Hemmer also disclosed his concerns on preserving dark skies in the website, to which he

states the project will not have any lasting impact on light pollution.

"For me, light pollution is a serious issue and I am aware of the inconvenience that the project will cause," Hemmer wrote in the website. "Our lights do diverge with distance and lose intensity by the square of their target's distance."

Every night, there will be different forums and tents from local organizations, vendors and significant individuals from the surrounding region for people to visit.

Hemmer will hold a conference Wednesday, Nov. 20, on Mexican technology and its past titled "Techs-Mechs: A Run Through the History of Mexican Technological Culture." The following day will have an activation opening performance and conversation by the local LGBTQ+ community from both sides of the border.

The Border Tuner's closing night will feature local performers and will hold a final forum presenting the "legacy" of the project.

Sven Kline may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

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UTEP biology professor leads study on Congolese giant toad

Margaret Cataldi

The Prospector

Eli Greenbaum, associate professor of biological sciences at UTEP, led a study that was recently published in the Journal of Natural History. The study focused on the suspected mimicry of Gaboon vipers by the rare Congolese giant toad.

The research was aided by graduate researchers Eugene Vaughan, Mark Teshera, and recent graduate Theresa Edmonston, in collaboration with Chifundera Kusamba from the Centre De Recherche En Sciences Naturelles in Lwiro, Congo.

The vipers and the toads are both species of the African rainforests. It is thought that the co-evolution of the two animals is a strong basis to support the theory that, in order to avoid predators, the Congolese giant toad is able to contort its external appearance in a way that mimics the highly venomous Gaboon viper.

The idea for the project came about during the fall of 2018, after coauthor Teresa Edmondston noticed a resemblance between one of the toad specimens discussed in a class she was taking at the time and the Gaboon viper.

Greenbaum happened to be taking the same class and, after hearing Edmonston's observation, he recruited two of his doctoral students, Vaughan and Teshera. Together, they began to develop a hypothesis.

"That's really where it started," Vaughan said. "Somebody noticed the possible mimicry and we looked into it."

Kusamba provided a valuable firsthand witness of the Congolese giant toad's mimicry in action.

"(Kusamba) said that when you get near them, they let out a hiss, like air being let out of a balloon," Teshera recalled. "He also said they kind of arc their bodies in a way that might mimic a viper's head when they get ready to strike."

This description was an important element in the research and indicated exactly what Greenbaum and his team should look for.

After obtaining the lab specimens from museums and other sources in Congo, the team took precise measurements of each animal's shape and color pattern.

"I measured the viper heads," said Teshera, "Gene, the other Ph.D. student and coauthor, measured the toads."

Teshera went on to explain how, after comparing measurements, they were able to determine

that the color patterns and shape of the toad matched well with the viper's dorsal surface, or the top of its head.

Despite the overwhelming support for the team's hypothesis, proper testing has yet to be done.

"This isn't like a slam dunk," Teshera said. "The problem is, you would have to test it and verify it experimentally over there, which would be very difficult to do."

Experimental testing would require the research team to travel to Congo and observe the Congolese giant toad for long periods of time — time that is unavailable to Vaughan and Teshera at this point in their academic career.

"I think it's unlikely that I would get out there and test it," Vaughan said. "My research is primarily evolutionary research and, while the hypothesis is largely an evolutionary question, testing it is mostly in the wheelhouse of ecology and that's not what I do."

Likewise, Teshera's dissertation focuses on the behavior of rattlesnakes, not toads.

"I think I can speak for all of us by saying that we did as much as we could without conducting behavioral experiments," Teshera said. "I think we did everything we could to show that this phenomenon is probably occurring."

Still, publication of the research Greenbaum and his students conducted means a great deal within the scientific community.

"As scientists, that's kind of the name of the game," Teshera said. "We need to publish our research so that we can share it with the scientific community."

To Vaughan, seeing his name in an academic journal was surreal.

"I've been reading scientific papers probably since I was 11 or 12," Vaughan said. "It's definitely cool to see and it's an important step for me."

Margaret Cataldi may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

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Filipino and Persian restaurants bring exotic twist to El Paso's culinary scene

Anahy Diaz

The Prospector

With Latinos comprising more than 80% of El Paso's population, Mexican restaurants are a staple in the city's gastronomy, but restaurants like Halo Halo Filipino Food and Tasty Kabob are challenging that status quo with exotic and authentic cuisine.

Located at 12135 Montwood Drive, Halo Halo Filipino Food opened its doors to the public in June of this year, joining the handful of Philippine food vendors currently operating in the city. The family-run business hopes its food can bring more diversity to the local culinary scene and a piece of home to the local Filipino community.

"I want them to leave with a full belly, of course, but also that they feel like they went home," said Angelica Cruz, co-owner of Halo Halo. "We want to bring everyone close to home and for people who haven't been to the Philippines, we want them to have a taste of how the Philippines is."

Back home in the Philippines, Cruz's sister and brother-in-law own a dessert cafe which inspired Cruz to open a restaurant of her own in the United States. Cruz originally planned to only offer desserts, naming it "Halo Halo" after a popular Philippine dessert, however it was through her mother's advice that she decided to expand the menu.

Halo Halo Filipino Food, as its name implies, offers an array of authentic Philippine food options like pancit, which are noodles with mixed veggies; pork slices marinated in a combination of a sweet, salty and slightly spicy barbecue sauce; chicken adobo, a juicy chicken seasoned in soy sauce; and lumpia, a spring roll filled with meat and served with sweet and sour sauce.

For Iris Monte, it is her first time having Philippine food since she moved from the Philippines five weeks ago.

"I am so happy I found this place," said Monte. "I love their barbecue because Philippine barbecue is different. It is on the sweeter side, so I like it."



Anahy Diaz / The Prospector

Halo Halo Filipino Food serves the authentic Halo Halo, a popular Philippine cold dessert with ingredients that include crushed ice, sweet beans, gelatin, corn flakes, ube, flan and ice cream.

On the dessert side, they stay true to their name by selling Halo Halo, a popular cold Philippine dessert. Halo Halo, literally meaning "mix-mix," is a combination of crushed ice, sweet beans, gelatin, corn flakes, Halayang Ube, flan and ice cream.

Although the dessert is cold, its ingredients are full of familiar rich flavors that give the dessert a warm feeling.

"We want to take people back home," Cruz said. "Like our atmosphere. You go inside and it makes you feel like you are in the Philippines. The smell of the food and the way we cook it in the back. It's like home."

On the other side of town, another authentic restaurant offers exotic cuisine to the city's residents. Tasty Kabob is an authentic Persian-cuisine restaurant at 6110 N. Mesa.

"The concept is all kabob," said owner Eshi Hendny, who decided to open the family-run business in 2017. "All our chicken, meat, everything is on a skewer over an open flame. It is authentic Persian food."

Items on their menu include chicken or beef Koobideh, which are two skewers of seasoned ground chicken served with rice and grilled to-

matões, comprising the authentic way of serving a Persian kabob meal.

Other items on the menu include marinated and grilled lamb chops served with Baghali rice and a choice of salad or vegetables; and ghormeh sabzi, which are fresh green herbs sautéed and stewed with kidney beans, sun-dried lime and chunks of tender beef, accompanied with Basmati rice.

"It is not very common in a city like El Paso, where I don't think there is a large Iranian population, to have a (Persian) restaurant," said Nasser

Malek, 70, who is an Iranian engineer living in Ciudad Juárez. "I've come various times and they have really good food; I would say even better than cities that have larger Iranian populations."

Tasty Kabob has gained national attention in just two years after opening its doors, featured in the popular Food Network Show, "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives" back in July of this year.

As the description of the title says, Tasty Kabob's food items are all prepared fresh, such as its tender and juicy meat that makes customers crave for more.

"We don't have frozen or processed food here," Hendny said.

With El Paso being the 20th largest city in the United States according to PolitiFact, the diversification of the city's restaurants comes as no surprise.

"It's important for there to be different cultures and gastronomy," Malek said. "It's good that there's (food) from Iran, it's another type of food that people should enjoy."

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Classical composer explains future funk

Margaret Cataldi

The Prospector

Staff reporter Margaret Cataldi interviewed Hayley Mendoza, a member of the marching band at New Mexico State University and applied business major minoring in music theory, on future funk, a microgenre that has garnered attention in the online music community within the last decade.

Cataldi: What is future funk?

Mendoza: Future funk is a genre of music that uses elements of funk, disco and Japanese music with nostalgic influences. It's very upbeat, funky and is usually associated with the aesthetic of '90s anime or consumer culture. It is usually a disco-like electronic remix of an older, obscure Japanese pop song set to 128BPM (beats per minute).

Cataldi: When did you first discover the genre and how?

Mendoza: I've always been fascinated with the '80s decade, specifically in Japan. It's like a certain feeling of longing for a time you've never experienced. I would listen to Japanese city pop, a very significant style of pop that emerged in Japan in the '80s. There was this one popular song in particular called "Plastic Love" by Mariya Takeuchi and I happened to stumble upon a future funk remix of the song by an artist called Night Tempo. I loved it and from there I came across a whole bunch of other future funk remixes and future funk artists.

Cataldi: What appeals to you about the genre?

Mendoza: The appeal to me is the overall feeling of the music. It's nostalgic, fun to listen to, upbeat and it makes you happy. It makes you feel like you're dancing in a '90s anime and for people who are suckers for nostalgia, that kind of feeling is priceless. A lot of people would say that future funk just rips off the original song, but I disagree. It brings a new meaning and feeling to it.

To read Cataldi's full story, visit [The Prospector](http://TheProspector.com) online at theprospectordaily.com

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Vext talks 'Zombie,' addiction at Five Finger Death Punch show

'I want to encourage that dialogue with our audience,' the lead singer of Bad Wolves told The Prospector

Jaqueline Martinez

The Prospector

Staff Reporter Jaqueline Martinez caught up with Tommy Vext, lead singer of Bad Wolves, at the electrifying Five Finger Death Punch (FFDP) showcase featuring Three Days Grace, Bad Wolves and Fire from the Gods, Thursday, Nov. 7 at the Don Haskins.

FFDP's last performance in the city was at Speaking Rock in October 2011. The band's North American fall tour kicked off with two hometown shows in Las Vegas, making El Paso the third stop of the tour.

Rock fans waited outside UTEP's Don Haskins Center as early as 4 p.m. until doors opened at 6 p.m. The concert opened with the Austin-based rock band, Fire from the Gods, known for blending hip-hop and metal in their music.

Following Fire from the God's performance, the heavy metal band, Bad Wolves, rocked the stage at 7 p.m. with hits "Killing Me Slowly," "Remember When" and its 2018 breakout single "Zombie."

Vext explained in an exclusive interview with The Prospector that the band recorded "Zom-



Anette Baca / The Prospector

Chris Kael on the bass guitar performs before a roaring audience at the Five Finger Death Punch show Thursday, Nov. 7 at UTEP's Don Haskins Center.

bie" as a tribute to the iconic Irish rock band, The Cranberries, when Dolores O'Riordan was still alive.

The band sent the recording to the singer with no intention of releasing it to the public, but rather for her to listen.

"She loved it so much that she wanted to sing on it. There was this emotional roller coaster

when she passed away, so we decided to donate the money to her kids by releasing it and to also do something nice. Then it went viral," Vext said.

Now a global hit, the band's tribute has been certified platinum in the both the United States and Canada, certified gold in Australia and is also accompanied by a music video.

Bad Wolves consists of five members: singer Vext, drummer John Boecklin, guitarists Doc Coyle and Chris Can, and bassist Kyle Konkiel.

"A lot of bands throughout our history, especially the grunge or metal scene, talk about their addiction and how much they are suffer-

ing. No one really talks about how addiction affects everybody in your family, your friends, coworkers, employees or employers," Vext said on the meaning of the song "Sober."

"It's really a bigger issue than just the person that is going through it. It's a disease. It is fucked up because everyone can understand and feel

bad, but if you have alcoholism, people are just pissed off at you," he said.

The singer then reflected on his own addiction and the struggle to overcome it.

"It's a disease (and part of that is) understanding what it means to love someone who is an addict and (to) set healthy boundaries," Vext said. "It's a really important conversation that I think people are starting to have more and I want to encourage that dialogue with our audience and just anyone in general."

The audience raised their phones as the stage lights dimmed. Cell phone flashlights lit the Don Haskins during Bad Wolves' closing song, "Zombie." The crowd continued to cheer excitedly as the curtains dropped and the backstage crew began to set up for the next performance: Three Days Grace.

The Canadian alternative metal band formed in 1997 consisting of lead singer Adam Gontier, drummer Neil Sanderson, lead guitarist Barry Stock and bassist Brad Walst.

To read Martinez's full story, visit theprospectordaily.com.

Jaqueline Martinez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

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Miners squander 14-point lead in loss to Charlotte

Michael Cuvillo

The Prospector

Leading 21-7 at halftime over the Charlotte 49ers, the UTEP Miners were shutout in the second half allowing 21 unanswered points to its conference rival in a 28-21 loss. This loss was the eighth consecutive loss for the Miners.

It was a tale of two halves for the Miners, one where the team dominated the game and the other where it could not put any points up while the defense could not stop the 49ers.

On the first possession of the game, the Miners set the tone unexpectedly coming out and passing on its first two plays en route to scoring a touchdown on a 10-play drive that culminated with senior quarterback Kai Locksley running the ball in from the 19-yard line. Locksley was 4 for 4 passing on this drive as the Miners took a 7-0 lead early.

Charlotte on its first drive was in Miner territory when senior defensive back Michael Lewis made a huge interception on a tipped pass. On the first play of the drive, Locksley threw a bullet to freshman receiver Jacob Cowling for a 38-yard gain. Cowling would go on to have a career-best day, setting a UTEP freshman record with 145 yards receiving on 6 catches. The Miners would end up scoring on a Locksley touchdown pass to



Michael Cuvillo / The Prospector

Charlotte Linebacker Henry Segura intercepts UTEP quarterback Kai Locksley sealing another Miner loss 28-21 Saturday, Nov. 9.

junior receiver Justin Garret of 15 yards, giving them a 14-0 lead.

Top recruit and freshman running back Deion Hankins made his UTEP debut with a 5-yard run on the second possession of the game. Fans

were quite excited to see the Parkland graduate take the field exhibiting the loudest cheers of the season for the home team. Hankins followed up with a 14-yard gain on the same series and ended the game with six carries for 22 yards. Han-

kins would only get a single carry in the second half of the game.

With 42 seconds left in the first half, senior halfback Treyvon Hughes would take a wildcat snap for a 3-yard touchdown run to take a 21-7 lead at halftime. The 14-point halftime lead was UTEP's largest since last year's 27-3 lead over Rice in the one Miner victory of last season.

Offensively and defensively the Miners had none of the same success in the third quarter as Charlotte scored 18 unanswered points.

The Miners would now embark on the most impactful drive of the game. Locksley came up big with crucial plays, including a 38-yard run to take the Miners to the 13-yard line of the 49ers.

On the biggest play of the current season, the Miners faced fourth down with one yard to go at the Charlotte 4-yard line. Dimel called a time out and sent in his wildcat package with Hughes at QB. The 49ers, with the extra time to prepare, stuffed the running play for a one-yard loss and a turnover on downs.

The most critical play of the season and UTEP's most dangerous weapon was not even on the field. The advantage with the wildcat is that you have an extra blocker for your running

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Women's basketball wins opener

Isaiah Ramirez

The Prospector

The UTEP women's basketball team provided tough defensive pressure all night forcing UC Riverside to 28 turnovers en route to a 63-50 win in the Miner's season opener.

Behind an aggressive full court press the Miners held the Highlanders to 14 points in the first half and 26 percent from the field. UC Riverside committed 18 turnovers in the first half.

"I just think with the depth that we have that we have the ability to press for 40 minutes and that doesn't mean that every game this year that we're going to press but we are going to do things that cause problems in the full court or half court," said Kevin Baker, head coach.

Coming off two solid performances in their exhibition games that momentum carried over into this season opener against UC Riverside.

Senior guard/forward Katarina Zec led the Miners in points with 18, shooting a perfect 100 percent (4-4) from three-point land. Zec is now one three-pointer away from tying former miner Ana Valtierra becoming ninth all-time in career three-pointers made (97) in program history.

"I've been shooting the ball a lot after practice and before practice and this was just my teammates finding me and I like to shoot from inside out and that's what we practice," Zec said.

Junior forward Michelle Pruitt provided a strong force on the boards finishing with a team high 10 for the night and was just two points short off a double-double with eight.

The Miners were outrebounded against the Highlanders (40-35) and won for just the fourth time in the Kevin Baker era (4-17) when they did not outrebound their opponent.

UTEP did not trail against the Highlanders all night and had its largest lead was 21 with 3:43 remaining in the second quarter.

Freshman guard Katia Gallegos finished with a solid all-around performance with nine points, four rebounds, and five assists. Gallegos did not commit a turnover and her five assists was a team and game high.

"It's just the talk between all of us and everyone was locked in and it's easy for me to give them the ball and pass it around," Gallegos said.

Besides the constant defensive pressure, the Miners hustle and grit was evident with constant charges being taken and players diving on the court for steals.



Carolina Alvarez / The Prospector

Freshman guard Avery Crouse drives to the basket Nov. 9.

"I think it's just the mark of what our team is about, they're fighters' man and they're going to fight for every loose ball take every charge," Baker said. "We're going to fight for everything that's what we are going to be about this year."

UTEP is now 3-0 in season openers under Baker.

UC Riverside only made one three pointer out of 13 the whole game, late in the fourth quarter.

The Miners take on New Mexico State at 7 p.m. Nov. 13 in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Isaiah Ramirez can be reached at prospector@utep.edu

Battle of I-10

Prospector Staff Report

The UTEP Miner men take on longtime rival New Mexico State Aggies in the 218th meeting between the two basketball schools. The Aggies hold a 114-103 series advantage having won the last nine games in a row.

Last year's game at the Don Haskins was a close affair with the Miners losing by a 62-58 score.

This year's Miners are quite a departure from the shorthanded team that took on the Aggies last season. Sophomore guard Nigel Hawkins is now fully recovered from injury for the Miners and joins the talented group of transfers and returning players from last season.

Fellow sophomores Jordan Lathon and Efe Odigie were key parts of the team that gave the Aggies all it could handle in last year's game Odigie had 12 points while Lathon had 8 points and 3 steals. Junior Bryson Williams is expected to be a key component for this year's team.

The Aggies went 30-4 last season and were the 12th seed in the NCAA tournament.

UTEP plays the Aggies 7 p.m. Tuesday Nov. 12.

The Prospector may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

UTEP soccer eliminated

Michael CuvIELLO

The Prospector

All good things must come to an end.

Katheryn Balogun's first season as the Miners' head coach has been a successful one by all accounts. The Miners have won three more games than the previous year and had its first conference winning record in five seasons. Losing 3-1 to Conference-USA champion, North Texas put an end to the team's championship hopes. This roster is UTEP's youngest since the year 2000 and has had a better season than the 2000 unit.

The match versus North Texas was delayed for more than an hour because of weather with UTEP trailed by one goal during the pause. When play resumed, UTEP was unable to score while North Texas added to its lead with a second goal by Berklee Peters. Junior midfielder Jackie Soto scored the only goal for the Miners, her second of the season, at the 24-minute mark.

UTEP was outshot 22-6 and shots on goal 10 to 3. Freshman goalkeeper Emily Parrot had a career-best 7 saves in the effort. Parrot has 61 saves for the season, which is sixth-best all-time for a Miner freshman.

"I can't ask for any more from this group," Balogun said. "They gave us everything they had and left it all on the field. We will be back here. Don't count us out!"

Predicted in preseason to finish 13th in the conference, the Miners exceeded all expectations with a seventh-place finish in the conference.

Recognized standouts for the season include senior defender Lauren Crenshaw named second-team All-conference and freshman midfielder Tessa Carlin named to the all-freshman team. Crenshaw finishes her Miner career with 16 goals and nine assists. Carlin tied for the Miner lead with five goals this season with Crenshaw and her seven assists ties for seventh-best all-time for a UTEP freshman.

Two other seniors are departing the soccer program: defender Kori Lewis and El Paso's own midfielder Danielle Carreon. Carreon had three goals in her first season as a full-time starter and finished with seven for her career. Lewis has started all but three games her entire career with 64 games total.

The Miners have a lot of talent to build on from this season's success.

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Alejandra Molina Baca / The Prospector

Freshman Jacob Cowing pulls down his sixth reception of the day versus Charlotte Saturday, Nov. 9.

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back as well as an unbalanced line but with that advantage comes a massive flaw in that it limits any ability to throw the ball.

"They had no answer to that play, we ran it, and every time it was efficient (for game) ... we just didn't execute," Head Coach Dana Dimel said. "If I had to do it all over again, I would make that call 100 percent of the time."

Following this stop, the 49ers would then take the ball 95 yards to take the lead on the back.

The Locksley-Cowing Combo took the Miners into the Charlotte RedZone with a little over a minute remaining. Faced with an intense pass rush from Charlotte, Locksley, with a player draped on his arm, threw an interception that sealed the Miners' fate in the loss.

Falling to 1-8 and winless in the conference, the Miners go on the road to play the University of Alabama at Birmingham 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 16.

Michael CuvIELLO may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

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