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The Prospector, January 21, 2020

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THE **PROSPECTOR**
ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION



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Wars in the Middle East have always been about oil



Rebecca Reza
The Prospector

On the second day of this new decade, we were hit with the alarming news that U.S. President Donald J. Trump had ordered the killing of Qassem Soleimani, Iran's leading military figure. The drone strike that resulted in his assassination plunged the Middle East into crisis. Protests erupted in Tehran, with Iranians shouting, "Down with USA" and burning American flags. National news in the U.S. switched from the impending impeachment trial to the worries that our country was on the brink of war.

According to The Guardian, Trump claimed Soleimani's murder was justified because the Iranian leader had been planning imminent attacks on multiple U.S. embassies. Members of U.S. Intelligence community were quoted shortly after contradicting those claims. After Congress received the intelligence briefing from the White House, Republican Sen. Mike Lee of Utah called it, "the worst briefing I've seen, at least on a military issue in the nine years I've served in the Senate."

To understand the conflict in Iran we would have to go back to the 1950s and the CIA-backed

coup that overthrew a left-wing nationalist, Mohammad Mossadegh, who had nationalized Iran's oil. Operation Ajax was born, one that supported a brutal dictatorship in the country through to the '70s. This would later lead to the siege of our embassy in Tehran in 1979, which took 52 American hostages and held them for 444 days. The details and political unrest that would unfold are far more than one can explain in 800 words, but it's important to recognize that the latest unrest did not happen because of one nuclear deal.

Soleimani's killing did not start this latest conflict, but rather ignited it. Trump's decision to respond to an Iran-backed militia group that attacked a military base in Iraq, killing an American contractor, would begin the week of violence that ensued from both sides, with Trump tweeting, "Iran will be held fully responsible." After Soleimani's death, he further threatened to attack 52 Iran cultural sites in reference to the 52 hostages in 1979, something that is considered a war crime by the International Criminal Court. He later retracted the threat.

The wars in the Middle East have always been about oil. As we face the biggest energy crisis in our nation's history, our dealings during the past few decades with Israel, Syria and to the war in Iraq all lead us back to the flow of the oil fields in the region and who controls them.

I remember watching the "Shock and Awe" footage in 2003, of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. The first-time images from war had been aired live on television, as if the country was watching the latest Hollywood action flick. This was different, true to its title. It was shocking to see the horrors of war in real time. This war was not about imminent threats to our freedom, as the Bush administration claimed to Congress. The true cause of the war was staring at us in the face every night on the evening news. Cameras fixated on oil fields burning, as the sky turned black and soldiers were covered in soot.

Just two months prior to the drone strike a few weeks ago, the New York Times reported oil fields with more than 50 billion barrels of crude oil were discovered in Iran. The country's president, Hassan Rouhani, announced the barrels added to the roughly 150 billion the country has in reserve.

The Trump administration had reinstated economic sanctions in 2018, intended to hit Iran's oil exports especially. The move hit the country's economy hard, further tensioning relations and launching violent protests within the country leading up the current unrest.

Rouhani responded to the assassination with a final answer to kick all U.S. forces out of the region. Iran launched retaliation strikes against U.S. military bases, though no members were

killed, several were injured. Within days of those strikes, a Ukrainian passenger plane was mistakenly shot down by Iranian military forces, killing all 176 on board. After growing evidence from credible news sources, including the New York Times, Iran took responsibility for the horrible mistake and stated it did not seek war.

Meanwhile, back in the States, the House voted on a measure to restrict Trump's war-making powers, and that of any future president. While the measure sits in the Senate, Trump announced he would back away from any further action, as the country and our international allies exhale a sigh of relief.

The nation has since reverted its attention back to the impeachment trial of the president, which begun last week in the Senate. Still, the threat of war with Iran will forever remain until economic sanctions are lifted, our reckless foreign policy is changed, until we recommit to the nuclear deal and return our focus to developing alternative energy resources.

Without any effort to move toward any of those resolutions, violence and power struggles will forever remain in the region with the threat of war hanging by a thread.

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Human rights through the eyes of immigration: A review of FRONTLINE's recent episode



Maria Salette Ontiveros
The Prospector

Numerous international documents firmly establish the principle that no human being can be deprived from their human rights. Even though the act of discrimination and abuse based on im-

migration status are violations of human rights, U.S. government policies continue to perpetuate human rights violations against migrants and immigrants.

A recent episode in FRONTLINE, the PBS news documentary series, looks at how El Paso became a focal point in the Trump administration's immigration policies.

In recent years, the violence has been increasing in Central America. Because of this, its in-

habitants have been looking for asylum in other countries, like the United States. Their arrival has angered many Americans.

The documentary shows at the beginning some explicit content about the hate crime that was committed last August against immigrants. The footage captures the essence of this event fully, achieving to show the deepest emotions from the citizens of El Paso.

Even though many see these kinds of events as separate of themselves, they are actively affecting our society. Lately, when someone mentions immigration, people think automatically about the people coming from Central America. But the truth is that it goes deeper. We are talking about our roots as a society.

To read Ontiveros' full opinion piece, visit TheProspectorDaily.com

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THE PROSPECTOR

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SPEAK YOUR MIND

Wilson applied for presidency of Colorado university system

UTEP president explains her decision to choose the Miners

Bryan Mena

The Prospector

The Colorado Independent reported on a leaked list of mostly Republican candidates who were under consideration to lead the University of Colorado (CU) System as its president, which listed UTEP President Heather Wilson among the 30 candidates — a search conducted around the same time the University of Texas (UT) System conducted its own search to fill UTEP's presidency.

The Prospector inquired on Wilson's decision to lead UTEP instead of CU, to which she provided the following statement:

"Current and former university presidents are contacted very frequently by headhunters to see if they are interested in particular positions or are asked to recommend others who might be. I knew I wanted to return to public higher education in the West when I finished my service with the Air Force, and Colorado met that criteria. However, the chancellorship in Colorado is not on a campus. One of the things I enjoy most about higher education is engagement with students and UTEP was a much better fit for what I love and wanted to do. I'm very happy to be here."

Wilson did not specify roughly how many high-ranking university jobs she was under consideration for before she landed UTEP's top job.

The short list anonymously sent to The Colorado Independent indicates that only 11 candidates among the 30 were recommended for interviews, resulting in the selection of former



Daniel Perez / The Prospector

Since leaving her role as Secretary of the U.S. Air Force, Heather Wilson became the latest president of the University of Texas at El Paso. In a recent Colorado Independent story, she is listed as one of the candidates who were under consideration to become president of the University of Colorado.

Congressman Mark Kennedy as CU's new president.

CU's selection of Kennedy was shrouded in controversy and met with protests because "the secrecy around his hiring by a Republican-controlled board that promised applicants confidentiality led to concern among critics that partisan politics, not just merit, determined the outcome," according to an article in The Colorado Independent.

This same concern over a secretive process that results in the selection of someone controversial with a history of conservative politics was expressed by critics on a local and statewide level when Wilson was selected to succeed UTEP's previous president, Diana Natalicio, even by UTEP faculty.

Guillermina Gina Núñez-Mchiri, UTEP faculty senate vice president, told Inside Higher Ed, an online publication, that the faculty senate "was never consulted during the search — nor

was it told who the semifinalists were" and that "faculty members on the UT search committee, she said, were required to sign a nondisclosure agreement prohibiting them from talking about the process."

However, the report also acknowledges that "presidential searches are often secretive" and according to a study in the Journal of Higher Education, university presidencies are also often political appointments.

"A troubling aspect of most public boards is that people come to the work with a particular ideology based on their political party," an interviewee said in the academic article. "Yet the work of the board needs to be carried out in a nonpartisan way."

Another interviewee said that public higher education boards have to confront the "natural tendency to adopt a political culture" in order to succeed.

The structure of public higher education boards varies by state. In Colorado, the CU regents are elected by voters in partisan elections, while in Texas, the UT regents are selected by the governor. But both governing boards used seemingly partisan and secretive processes to appoint high-ranking administrators.

Unlike the process conducted by CU's governing board that narrowed a pool of 160 applicants down to 30, the UT Board of Regents named Wilson as the sole finalist for UTEP's presidency.

Any other candidates who might have been in the running for UTEP's presidency remain a mystery. Nondisclosure agreements over community members that held advisory roles in the selection process prevent the release of that information.

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Interdisciplinary Research Building expected to open its doors by the summer

Paulina Astrid Spencer

The Prospector

The wait for the University of Texas at El Paso's (UTEP) anticipated Interdisciplinary Research Building (IDRB) is almost over. After nearly five years of planning and construction, the IDRB is beginning to come together and is nearly ready to open its doors.

Work on the landscaping and construction will continue for the months to come. There is no official date for the opening of the building yet, but according to Greg McNicol, UTEP associate vice president for facilities management, the IDRB is looking to be complete by April or the summer of this year.

In December of 2018, the university was awarded an R1 designation by the Carnegie

Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, officially labeling it as a top-tier doctoral university with high research activity.

The new building is located between the Undergraduate Learning Center (UGLC) and El Paso Natural Gas Conference Center (NGCC) and will provide UTEP students and faculty with a series of labs, large meeting rooms, interview rooms and even a coffee shop.

With a spending budget of \$93.5 million, the IDRB is a large, four-floor building, equipped to help student researchers and faculty through interdisciplinary research.

The innovative building comprises of many offices, ranging from small study rooms, to large, open-spaced conference rooms with an occupancy of up to 75 people. With an interior made almost entirely of glass, the IDRB gives

UTEP a modern touch to its Bhutan-inspired architecture.

"We want each building to have its own expression of the Bhutan architecture, so we're not looking for a cookie cutter design, but it has to have the elements," McNicol said.

The Prospector previously reported that the building will be open for collaborative research done by students coming from different colleges. Students looking to move their research into this new building will have to present a case advocating for their projects, mentioning their needs and explaining how they would benefit from it.

Paulina Astrid Spencer may be reached at prospector@utep.edu



Paulina Spencer / The Prospector

The main entrance to UTEP's new Interdisciplinary Research Building will include a lounge room that will house tables, chairs, sofas and more. The lighting in various rooms, such as the one pictured above, are intentional and set to represent molecules of gold, silver and copper.

Howdy's gas stations converted to Speedways

The change comes following a multi-billion-dollar merger

Anahy Diaz

The Prospector

As El Paso residents make their way through town, they may have noticed the change in what used to be Howdy's gas stations, which are now turned into Speedway convenience stores. The change comes after several mergers within the oil business, including a \$23.3 billion dollar deal between Marathon Petroleum Corporation (MPC) and Andeavor that came into effect in October of 2018.

The first set of mergers came in 2017, when the San Antonio-based petroleum company Andeavor purchased Western Refinery from its owner at the time, El Paso billionaire Paul Foster. With the sale of Western Refinery, came all Howdy's gas stations, which the company had been managing since 2011.

Looking to expand to the West Coast in 2018, MPC, who also operates all Speedway gas sta-

tions as one of its primary branches, acquired Andeavor in a \$23.3 billion-dollar merger.

The merger combines all of Andeavor's refineries in the west and retail markets like Shell, Exxon and Mobil.

"This transformative transaction is a significant milestone in our company's more than 130-year history," said MPC Chairman and CEO Gary Heminger back in April 2018, when the deal was first announced to the public. "MPC is now the leading refining, midstream and marketing company in the U.S. and is well-positioned for long-term growth and shareholder value creation."

This merger expands MPC's operations from coast to coast, as Andeavor's refinery presence in the Mid-Continent and Pacific Northwest add to MPC's Gulf Coast and Midwest markets, making the combined company the number one United States refinery with the capacity to produce more than three million barrels of oil per day.

In addition, with the intention of spinning off Speedway into its own company, the store would go from owning and operating approximately 3,000 convenience stores to what would ultimately grow to be 8,800 nationwide stores.

"Today's announcement to separate Speedway will create a new independent company that is well-positioned to achieve sustained growth and create substantial shareholder value," Heminger said in a 2019 statement. "We have built Speedway into an exceptional business."

Through this, MPC would be creating the second largest independent gas station chain in the U.S. after Couche-Tard, the company that owns all Circle K stores. But the new change does not only mean changing the signage outside, Speedway plans to reinvent some of Andeavor's practices, including the food service found inside stores, as Speedway looks to control more of its supply chain.

"We change all the point-of-sale, the back-office systems, we install our loyalty program, there is extensive training of employees on new systems and procedures," Speedway President Tony Kenney told Convenience Store News. "What's really happening inside the store is much more complex than just the appearance



Photo courtesy of Speedway

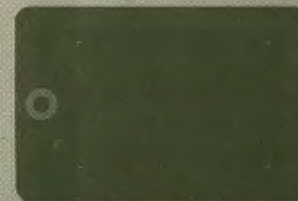
Howdy's gas stations are now turned into Speedway stores.

— the things that you see from the outside perspective, the painting and things like that."

Speedway will focus on continuing the success of old practices done by Andeavor, such as the company's primary focus on fuel, while equally focusing on creating some of its own in order to insure the best transition and service for customers.

"We are able to bring a lot of our knowledge and learnings and relationships that we have with CPG companies and vendor partners," Kenney said. "We have a strong loyalty program. We want to leverage that. There will be some best practices brought from the Speedway side as we continue to integrate the Andeavor stores."

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Forecast for border region predicts impact from USMCA trade deal

Bryan Mena

The Prospector

Recent research from the Border Region Modeling Project (BRMP) through the University of Texas at El Paso reveals that the border region encompassing El Paso, Las Cruces, Ciudad Juárez and the city of Chihuahua, will benefit economically from the new U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) which was decisively approved by the Senate less than a week ago.

The BMRP is a yearly economic study that has been published since 1998 and, according to Steven Fullerton who is a staff economist and associate director at BRMP, is composed of 255 equations containing variables from the housing, labor and commercial markets.

Fullerton said it also contains variables like local restaurant prices gathered by UTEP graduates to conduct price analysis ratios.

Some significant predictions that the BRMP makes for the forecast period from 2019 to 2021 is that "employment growth is projected to slump" this year and that "automobile registrations are expected to accelerate in 2019 and surpass 698,000 by 2021." The report also highlights that "health care services is likely to post the fastest rates of expansion."

Along with the several projections that the report makes, it also addresses the forecast of upside and downside risks like "natural disasters, trade wars and policy inconsistencies."

"Approval of the new USMCA trade agreement has stabilized the regional outlook and reduced threat of continental supply chain ruptures that would have likely resurrected 1970s-style stagflation," the forecast risk section in the report said.

Fullerton said that the new USMCA trade deal will stabilize the region's economic outlook by stimulating commercial activity in the area.

"The USMCA gives our region an advantage by allowing companies to expand into our area. Those new companies produce skilled jobs on both sides of the border. Those skilled jobs enable workers to spend those earnings in our region, which helps retail sales and boosts our border economy," Fullerton told The Prospector. "On top of that, there will be a need for additional industrial space for those IMMEX plants that will be producing each product, which increases the need for construction jobs."

According to Industry Weekly, the Mexican program, Industria Manufacturera, Maquiladora y de Servicios de Exportación, or IMMEX, "is defined as an instrument to temporarily import



Photo courtesy of Flickr

Research from the Border Region Modeling Project through UTEP reveals that the border region will benefit economically from the new U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

goods and services that will be manufactured, transformed or repaired, and then re-exported without payment of taxes, compensatory quotas, and other specific benefits."

Fullerton explains that this back and forth — export and re-export — of electronic and automotive components between Mexico and the U.S. is a huge job creator and is inherently why trade policies like the USMCA play a significant role.

"A lot of these moving pieces, including those electronic products, get built in Juárez that, in

turn, come over here and try to pass inspection," Fullerton said. "Then they send them back to complete the rest of that component."

The USMCA's expected impact on industrial space for IMMEX plants, coupled with its requirement that 75 percent of the content of passenger and light vehicle trucks be made in North America by 2023, is poised to stimulate the border economy once it is fully ratified.

According to the Office of the United States Trade Representative, another advantage of the new USMCA is its new provisions on digital trade, anticorruption and "good regulatory practices" which are expected to affect every region, including the border.

The USMCA is awaiting signature from U.S. President Donald Trump after passing through both chambers of Congress and is likely to pass through Canada's parliament as well, according to a Vox article.

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Candidates for county tax assessor collector race make their case

One candidate touts experience, the other calls for community engagement

Bryan Mena

The Prospector

Voters in El Paso County will cast their ballots to decide the fate of several primary races on Tuesday, March 3, including the contested El Paso County tax assessor-collector race which has drawn two Democratic candidates, incumbent Ruben Gonzalez and challenger Ivan Niño.

According to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, the responsibilities of the county tax assessor-collector include assessing and collecting property taxes, the registration, titling and transfer of all vehicles, the issuance of disabled parking permits, the collection of sales tax on automobiles and collecting fees and distributing beer and liquor permits on behalf of the Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission.

However, both candidates expressed that the office is mostly preoccupied with automobile registration over anything else.

Gonzalez is running for reelection after being elected in May 2016 in his own right. He was

initially appointed to the post by the county commissioners court months before that.

In an interview with The Prospector in his county office, coordinated by his administrative assistant during the workday, Gonzalez highlighted his more than 38 years of experience working for the state in several different capacities.

"I've been focused on customer service since I've been here and that's an important thing that the citizens of this county deserve," Gonzalez said. "I am a responsible person and I've proven it. I have proven leadership, proven experience and I bring proven results to the field in this position. I have a lot of support. I've been endorsed by César Blanco. I've been endorsed by the veteran community. So, there's a lot of people that believe in me."

While the incumbent touts his vast experience as a government employee, Gonzalez also acknowledges that he is "not a politician" and that he is not much of a campaigner either.

"I don't do this all the time," Gonzalez said. "I'm here for the service."

The incumbent also boasted about his ability to manage the financial resources of the office.

"I've accounted for every single penny that belongs to the county ... We contribute over \$150 million to the state. We've collected over \$21 million for the county in registration and total fees," Gonzalez said. "I have passion for this work because I know what to do. My opponent does not have the experience and the caliber of expertise that I bring to the table."

This past November, 28-year-old Niño announced his bid for the position as a Democrat. He previously worked with the county tax assessor-collector's office as a deputy through a contracted title registration firm.

The candidate said he brings new ideas to the table and experience serving on advisory boards for the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Title and Registration and the City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Department, among other advisory groups.

Niño sees a need for the county tax assessor-collector's office to not just "complete duties at the office," but to also "better the community."

"I know Congresswoman Veronica Escobar co-sponsored a bill, I don't remember the exact number, but it's an automatic voter registration

initiative that automatically registers you to vote," Niño said. "I think that is a great idea and I would love to work with the Congresswoman to make sure that this is something that could become national."

U.S. Rep. Veronica Escobar co-sponsored H.R. 645, the Automatic Voter Registration Act, introduced by Democratic U.S. Rep. David Cicilline of Rhode Island.

The bill seeks to ensure every person that provides "identifying information to the State motor vehicle authority is automatically registered to vote."

However, the bill remains pending in the House Administration Committee and has not received any action in over a year.

Niño repeatedly said that it is simply not enough to just get the job done, but to ensure that "we're truly representing our constituents."

The candidate plans to eventually release videos through his campaign to illustrate his ideas and plans to "empower the community."

The last day to register to vote in the March 2020 primary election is Feb. 3. For a complete list of important dates, visit the county's election office website at epcountyvotes.org

Bryan Mena may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

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The most anticipated action movies of 2020

Anahy Diaz

The Prospect

With a new year comes a new wave of entertainment and although award season for 2019 films just began, people are already buzzing about this year's action movie releases which can become next year's potential winners.

The year 2020 is the year of action movies where we'll reunite with the world's favorite Bad Boys, finally get an answer to the classic Hollywood question, "Who would win in a battle between Godzilla and King Kong?" and witness a world of action on the big screen.

The new decade began with what feels like the early 2000s as we are greeted by Detectives Mike Lowrey and Marcus Burnett one more time in the highly anticipated movie "Bad Boys for Life," released Jan. 17.

The film directed by Adil El Arbi and Bilall Fallah, stars Will Smith as Mike and Martin Scorsese as Burnett, where the duo team up to take down the merciless leader of a Miami drug cartel, Armando Armas, played by Jacob Scipio.

The duo confront issues like job changes and midlife crises. Although the audience can expect to see a plot similar to the franchise's last two movies, one can't help but wonder what the talkative pair have been up to since.

The same level of adventure can be expected from "Birds of Prey: (and the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn)" directed by Cathy Yan and starring Margot Robbie as

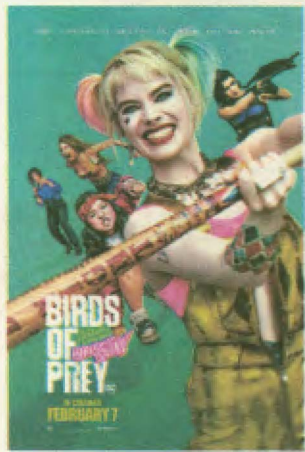


Photo courtesy of IMDb

Birds of Prey: (and the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn) is an upcoming American superhero film based on the DC Comics team, Birds of Prey.

Harley Quinn, a psychotic and fearless supervillain the world met back in 2016 as she battled alongside other supervillains in the film "Suicide Squad."



Photo courtesy of Screengreek

"Godzilla vs. Kong" is an upcoming American film directed by Adam Wingard and written by Terry Rossio.

However, in this film, the audience will see Quinn come into her own as she faces the aftermath of splitting up with the Joker by joining superheroes Black Canary, Huntress and Renee Montoya to save the life of young Cassandra Cain from a crime lord. Audiences can see the battle starring the iconic Quinn on Feb. 7.

Another battle you won't want to miss coming to theatres March 27 is the live action adaptation of the 1998 Disney film, "Mulan."

The film, directed by Niki Caro stars Liu Yifei as Hua Mulan, the eldest daughter of an honored warrior who steps up to take her ill father's place when the emperor of China announces one man per family must serve in the Imperial Chinese Army to defend the country's honor against the Huns.

Disguised as a male warrior, Mulan embraces her true potential alongside Donnie Yen, Gong Li, Jet Li and Utkarsh Ambudkar in a battle to save the country and challenge the status quo.

Others who will be unveiling their true potential include the five mutant heroes who we will meet on April 3 is "The New Mutants," a film directed by Josh Boone, starring Anya Taylor-Joy, Maisie Williams, Charlie Heaton, Blu Hunt and Henry Zaga.

The movie is said to be the final installment of the X-Men film series as it centers around the story of five young mutants who belong to the first group of graduates from Charles Xavier's school.

The team must face their past sins and try to save themselves as they begin to discover their abilities while being held in a secret facility against their will.

The action continues throughout the year as the world joins James Bond, played by Daniel Craig, in the twenty fifth instalment of the James Bond film, "No Time to Die," set to be released on April 10.

After leaving active service, we are rejoined with 007 in Jamaica, where he is enjoying a tranquil life. That is, until his friend Felix Leiter from the CIA turns up asking him for help to rescue a kidnapped scientist. The rescue mission turns out to be more difficult than expected, leading Bond to go on the hunt for a mysterious villain armed with threatening new technology.

Craig is joined on screen by Oscar-winning actor Rami Malek along with talented actors such as Lea Seydoux, Lashana Lynch and Ana de Armas, under the direction of Cary Joji Fukunaga. The action spy movie, contrary to the title, is expected to be a film moviegoers will want to make time for.

A mystery people will also want to uncover is the one Scarlett Johansson is set to bring as she returns to her role as Natasha Romanoff, to tell the superheroine's story in the anticipated Marvel Studios' movie, "Black Widow."

The film, directed by Cate Shortland, is the first full-length film centered around the character. It takes place following the events of "Captain America: Civil War," as Natasha is on the run from the government after having disobeyed the Sokovia Accords and for helping Steve Rogers, also known as Captain America. With supporting actors like Florence Pugh as Crimson Widow and David Harbour as Red Guardian, Marvel fans can expect to learn more about the Avenger's mysterious past starting May 1.

However, Black Widow isn't the only superhero the world will be talking about. Wonder Woman, played by Gal Gadot, is expected to deliver thrilling action on June 4 in DC Extended Universe's "Wonder Woman: 1984."

Director Patty Jenkins rejoins us with Amazon demi-god, Diana Pierce, after having first met her in "Wonder Woman" where she con-

fronted forces of evil in World War I to end human conflict.

Unfortunately, the conflict does not end. This time around the superhero faces problems with the Soviet Union during the Cold War in the 1980s and finds two formidable foes by the names of Maxwell Lord and the Cheetah. Joining the action with Wonder Woman, include Chris Pine, Kristen Wiig, Pedro Pascal, Robin Wright and Connie Nielson in supporting roles.

One who is also up for action is Captain Pete "Maverick" Mitchell, played by Tom Cruise, who will return in "Top Gun: Maverick," the sequel to the 1986 film, "Top Gun."

The film, directed by Joseph Kosinski, is set in the world of drone technology and fifth generation fighters. As one of the Navy's top aviators, Maverick, trains Top Gun graduates for a mission no living pilot has ever seen.

It is then that Maverick encounters Lieutenant Bradley Bradshaw, played by Miles Teller, the son of his late best friend, Lieutenant Nick Bradshaw, also known as Goose. Faced with adversity of a dangerous mission, while confronting the ghosts of his past, Maverick must face his deepest fears and make ultimate sacrifices on June 26.

Other conflicts include the ones Finn Wolfhard, McKenna Grace, Paul Rudd and Carrie Coon will try to face on July 10 as the highly anticipated "Ghostbusters After Life" comes to theatres. The film, directed by Jason Reitman, is set 30 years after Ghostbusters II, as a family moves to a small town and soon discover their connection to the original Ghostbusters and the secret legacy their grandfather left behind.

With the help of friends, the family builds on the legacy by battling supernatural creatures and events happening in the town of Summerville, Oklahoma.

The final top anticipated action film of 2020 brings a battle where no technological weapons can win, as seen in "Bad Boys for Life" or "No Time to Die."

It is a fight between Godzilla and King Kong in a monster film directed by Adam Wingard titled "Godzilla vs. Kong." The two most powerful forces on earth will collide on Nov. 20 in a battle of the ages as humanity fights for its future. The film stars Alexander Skarsgård, Millie Bobby Brown, Kyle Chandler, Rebecca Hall and Brian Tyree Henry as they watch the epic battle unfold before their eyes with the audience.

With action films that reunite old faces and present new ones, 2020 is expected to be a promising year for action movies, it is now up to the audience to decide if they too are up for the adventure.

Anahy Diaz can be reached at anahy@prospect.com

'The Gentlemen' is a quick-witted, action-packed crime thriller

A solid film despite a few culturally insensitive jokes that simply fall flat

Bryan Meno

The Prospector

British filmmaker Guy Ritchie's latest film, "The Gentlemen," is an excellent action-comedy crime thriller with as many twists and turns as a rollercoaster to hell and back.

The film depicts a violent battle of wits between sophisticated British mobsters over the lucrative, yet bloody, marijuana black market in Ritchie's fictional United Kingdom.

Ritchie is known for directing successful comedic crime films like his 1998 "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels" and his 2000 "Snatch" that capture this rugged, working-class Londoner aesthetic — sometimes known as cockney.

"The Gentlemen" is a continuation of this prosperous streak of action-packed, quick-witted crime films, a streak that the director deviated from to produce "Aladdin" for his five children, among other reasons.

Breathing life into this intricately clever screenplay is a star-studded cast featuring Matthew McConaughey as the cunning protagonist, Mickey Pearson. McConaughey's character is a rags-to-riches tough guy that is not only street smart, but also book smart since he went from an unstable home in Tennessee to becoming a Rhodes Scholar at the prestigious University of Oxford, selling weed to the university's rich upper-class student body.

Aside from his superb acting, McConaughey's snazzy outfits and his luxuriant curls are two details that amusingly bring this archetypal mobster character to life.

The same can be said about the entire cast when it comes to wardrobe. From stylish leather jackets and turtlenecks to exuberant tracksuits,



Photo courtesy of IMDb

The Gentlemen is a 2019 action crime comedy film written and directed by Guy Ritchie, from a story by Ivan Atkinson, Marn Davies, and Ritchie.

a major cornerstone of this film is quite simply its wardrobe. McConaughey, however, took it a step further with his dapper-style wavy, curly hair.

The film begins with a scene of Pearson enjoying a tall glass of English Lore beer accompanied with a pickled egg in what seems to be a British pub. This scene is very Ritchie-esque considering Ritchie himself enjoys beer and even owns his own pub in London with footballer David Beckham that has English Lore on tap.

What seems to be a relaxing and elegant scene quickly turns bloody. The film then proceeds to tell the story of all the events leading up to this one particular scene, that actually ends up taking an unexpected twist in the end.

Enter "Sons of Anarchy" actor Charlie Hunnam as Pearson's reliable sidekick, Raymond,

REVIEW

and the iconic Hugh Grant as the whimsical private investigator and hopeful screenwriter, Fletcher, who gives the film its moments of lighthearted comedy.

Fletcher somehow snuck into Raymond's cozy upscale home to negotiate a £20 million deal to sell a screenplay he wrote in exchange for this large sum of money from Raymond.

Fletcher is literally blackmailing Raymond with the actual screenplay because it's not just any piece of writing. The screenplay is an actual account of all the notes Fletcher took as an investigator for the opportunistic British tabloid, The Daily Print, of all the messy dark deeds committed by Raymond and Pearson in the midst of a mobster business deal gone wrong.

The film's plot unfolds as Fletcher explains the content of his screenplay, which again, are events that actually happened and is just Fletcher basically touting his investigation to Raymond in the form of proposing a screenplay.

One thing that must be discussed is Fletcher's sexuality and how it's hilariously expressed in his dialogue with Raymond.

In one scene, Raymond says it's time for him to go to bed, to which Fletcher responds, "Can I come?" which obviously implies that he's either gay or bisexual, but in a witty way.

It's a very simple comedic element and Ritchie did well in strategically placing jokes throughout the entire film — at least most of them.

On the topic of humor, some jokes simply fell flat, like a joke about the appropriateness of saying the term "black cunt."

Pickaxe rating



The Hollywood Reporter criticized this "non-woke" humor in its review of the movie asserting, "The film's undercurrent of knowingly non-woke humor is also slightly grating; weak jokes about Chinese people having comically rude names and mixing up English vowels, for example, or a digression on whether it is racist to call somebody a 'black c—.' These nagging details feel more lazy than willfully offensive, but they are still oddly out of place in a film set in multicultural 21st century London."

Ritchie might have missed the bullseye in that regard, but Fletcher definitely kept the comedic spirit alive throughout the movie.

Other big names in the film include "Downtown Abbey" actress Michelle Dockery playing Pearson's partner-in-crime/wife Rosalind Pearson; "Succession" actor Jeremy Strong as the film's conniving backstabbing antagonist, Matthew Berger; Colin Farrell as the film's track-suited father figure, Coach; and host of BBC's "The Travel Show" Henry Golding as the other brutal antagonist, Dry Eye, who "explodes onto the scene like a firecracker," according to Fletcher.

The business mobster deal that goes wrong in this film is between Pearson and Berger and it has to do with weed — a lot of it.

Pearson plans to retire a bit early after a successful career running a marijuana agribusiness.

To read Meno's full story, visit TheProspectorDaily.com

Bryan Meno may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

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UTEP

Miners dominate Roadrunners with 94-54 rout

UTEP women improve to 4-1 in Conference-USA play

Isaiah Ramirez

The Prospector

It has been a season of significant improvement for the UTEP women's basketball team (11-5, 4-1) and its 94-54 win over UTSA (6-10, 2-3) Saturday afternoon at the Don Haskins Center is one piece of evidence.

UTEP has already surpassed its win total from last season (9-22) and stands amongst the leaders in Conference-USA (C-USA) with a 4-1 record in conference play.

Behind a robust first half in which the Miners scored 55 points, tying the second most first-half points in program history, UTEP never let off the gas pedal and earned its ninth win by double figures.

The Miners' halftime lead of 55-28 is its largest halftime lead in a league game in program history.

"I thought it was really important that we do start well, especially in a Conference-USA game where every possession is important and the way we got out early was important," head coach Kevin Baker said. "We really played some terrific basketball in the second quarter and extended the lead to where we could all take a little bit of a deep breath and play even better in the second half."

Junior transfer forward Michelle Pruitt earned her first career double-double scoring 12 points and grabbing 11 boards. For the second time this season, Pruitt has grabbed 10 or more rebounds.

Freshman guard Katia Gallegos dished out a career-high 10 assists against the Roadrunners. Coming into Saturday's game, Gallegos was second in C-USA in assists per game at 4.7.

"I dished the ball out a lot, found our open players and as a point guard, that's your job. I'm pretty proud of that," Gallegos said.

The dominating win was a total team effort with seven players scoring eight or more points and everyone on the squad chipping in at least two points. UTEP's bench outscored UTSA's bench 48-11. UTEP also won the battle of the boards outrebounding the Roadrunners 53-34.

"We compete in practice and two things that really stand out about to me about this team is sharing the ball and competitiveness. This team is so far my favorite and it's been a great senior year, Katarina Zec said.

Zec had her 13th game scoring in double figures with a 15-point performance against the Roadrunners. Zec grabbed seven rebounds for



Carolina Alvarez / The Prospector

UTEP freshman guard Katia Gallegos fends off defender for ball versus University of Texas at San Antonio's at Don Haskins Center Saturday Jan. 18, 2019.

the Miners and led the squad in minutes with 26.

The Miners now battle the Rice Owls in the second game of UTEP's three-game homestand. Rice (11-6, 6-0) is currently in first place in conference and is coming off a 75-64 win over Southern Miss at home. The Owls are the defending C-USA regular season and tournament champion.

"We don't have to do anything special we just have to play the way we are capable of playing and we'll be fine," Baker said. "We know that Rice is a good team and you know the pressure is really on Rice it's not on us. Rice has not lost a conference game in a while. We don't have anything to lose and we're a team on the rise."

UTEP takes on Rice at 7 p.m. Jan. 23 at the Don Haskins Center.

Isaiah Ramirez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu



Carolina Alvarez / The Prospector

Katerina Zec and Ariona Gill compete for loose ball with University of Texas at San Antonio's defender Saturday Jan. 18, 2019.

UTEP sweeps 3000-meter run, Smith breaks record

Michael CuvIELLO

The Prospector

For the second straight year, the UTEP men's track and field team swept the top three spots in the 3000-meter run at the Corky Classic in Lubbock, Texas.

Freshman sensation Titus Cheruiyot took first place in the long-distance event with a close victory over teammates sophomore Rogers Korir and junior Boaz Ronah.

Cheruiyot, in his first indoor competition for the Miners, ran the 3000-meter distance in a time of 8:42.53, just edging Korir (8:44.44) and Ronah (8:47.70). A star for the cross-country team who won two meets and qualified for the NCAA national championships, Cheruiyot will be an anchor for the long-distance runs.

Ronah won the event last year, followed by teammates Korir and junior Cornelius Kapel, who finished a distant 11th this year. Korir followed up his strong performance by running away from the field, winning the 5000 meters by 16 seconds over teammate Ronah. Korir and Ronah were the only participants to run both

events at the classic. Freshman Kayn Quinones finished fifth in his first meet.

Junior Caroline Chepkosgei dominated the 800-meter run winning with a time of 2:12.22, which was over 9 seconds less than the second-place finisher. Coming close to sweeping her events of the weekend, Chepkosgei came up short in a narrow loss in the 1000 meter run just a little over a second off the first-place finisher.

Winner of last year's 1000 meter, Chepkosgei was a silver and bronze medalist in these events at last year's Conference USA (C-USA) championships.

Senior Shakeem Smith narrowly broke the two decade standing school record in the 60-meter hurdles that were held by Lee Mays (7.91) with a time of 7.90. Previously Smith's fastest time was 7.95 at the C-USA championships in a preliminary race.

Running a personal best time of 1:09.5 senior Sean Bailey came in a close second in the 600-meter run as he did the previous year. Bailey ran a 1:10.07 last year in the event losing by about half a second. A bronze medalist in the 400-meter dash at the conference champion-

ships last season Bailey is the top sprinter for the Miners.

Competing in both the triple jump and long jump sophomore Chantoba Bright finished second and seventh, respectively. Bright jumped a personal best 12.95-meter jump in the triple jump.

In the men's 1000-meter run freshman Kenneth Talavera lost in a photo finish by two-hundredths of a second with a time of 2:31.31. Cheruiyot finished fourth a tenth of a second slower with four runners, all crossing the finish line within a third of a second apart.

Running in their first track events, fellow freshmen Davion Bynaum finished fifth in the 60-yard dash and Yasmin George finished seventh in the 400-meter final just three seconds behind the winner.

Finishing seventh in the 60-meter hurdles was sophomore Maribel Caicedo running her slowest time as a miner in the final.

Sophomore Samantha Cordier finished in the top 10 in both the shot put and weight throw. Joined by fellow sophomore Kayla Larry, who finished eighth in the weight throw, Cordier

edged her teammate's throw by .11 of a meter to finish one spot ahead of her.

In the men's shot-put, junior Benjamin Coronado finished sixth with a distance of 15.46 meters while also finishing eighth in the weight throw.

With a somewhat disappointing eighth-place finish in the women's 3000-meter run senior, Linda Cheruiyot finished almost 41 seconds behind the winner. The C-USA individual champion in the event finished 10th in her first event last season at the New Mexico classic before winning her next two events with her times getting consistently faster.

"Typical opener for the season, mixed bag. We got a little bit of everything," UTEP Head Coach Mika Laaksonen said. "The men's team definitely looked better than a year ago. We even got one school record, which is unusual in the first meet of the year. We're proud of Shakeem Smith, who broke a 20-year old school record in the 60 meter hurdles."

The Miners will next participate at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Collegiate Invitational Jan. 24-25 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Michael CuvIELLO may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

UTEP ATHLETICS

UPCOMING EVENTS

		UTEP BASKETBALL			
MEN			WOMEN		
FEB. 1	UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA BIRMINGHAM @7PM	FEB. 18	MARSHALL @2PM	FEB. 22	MIDDLE TENNESSEE @1PM
FEB. 13	WESTERN KENTUCKY @7PM			FEB. 29	SOUTHERN MISS @1PM
		UTEP SOFTBALL			
FEB. 21	IUPUI @3:30PM DOUBLE HEADER OMAHA @6PM	FEB. 22	IUPUI @4:30PM	FEB. 23	OMAHA @12:30PM
UTEP TOURNAMENT					
		UTEP TENNIS			
FEB. 1	ABILENE CHRISTIAN @12PM	FEB. 2	UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO @12PM	FEB. 20	MONTANA STATE @12PM

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Miners' road woes continue

Michael Cuvillo

The Prospector

The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) got payback against the UTEP Miners last Saturday with a dominating 86-70 victory on its home court.

Leading from start to finish in this matchup, the Roadrunners shot 61 percent in the first half to build a 17-point halftime lead. Early in the second half, UTSA built up the lead to 23 points, much as it did in the previous matchup in El Paso.

After securing a 24-point comeback in the last matchup, the Miners chipped away at the UTSA lead at about the 12-minute mark. This game was at a similar point where UTEP staged its biggest comeback in history a few nights earlier versus the same team. With the lead cut to six points at the seven-minute mark, the Miners were regaining the swagger from its overtime victory over UTSA.

Junior Luka Barasic of UTSA then proceeded to throw cold water on the UTEP comeback with a layup and one to extend the lead to nine points.

Nine points would be the closest that the Miners would get for the rest of the game and UTSA extended the lead into double digits at the 4:30 mark and never looked back. With about 2 minutes left, the Roadrunners led by 15 and the game was never in reach.

Losing its eighth road game of the season and Head Coach Rodney Terry's 21st straight as a Miner coach, UTEP fell to 11-8 on the season and 2-4 in the conference. Currently residing in 11th place in Conference USA, the Miners are a far cry from where they were predicted to be in the preseason.

"We let them go early in transition. We can't let a team like that get transition baskets like that to start the game," Terry said. "We didn't have the urgency to get back and get stops when we needed them on defense."

UTSA's one-two punch of Jhivvan Jackson and Keaton Wallace combined for 44 points doing most of the damage as they had in the previous matchup. Senior Otem Bior putting up a career-high 13 points, was the surprise of the night. After being held scoreless just three nights prior, Bior, who averages about 4 points a game, put up 11 in the first half and missed only two shots out of eight for the game.

Junior Bryson Williams led the way for the Miners as usual with 21 points and seven rebounds. Unfortunately for Williams, he fouled out at the two-minute mark putting on a game effort. Williams has done a much better job recently in staying out of foul trouble and has played well when in danger of fouling out. This was his first foul ejection of the season.

Sophomore guard Souley Boum had 18 points on the night, but had his second straight one of eight-game from the three-point line. For the season, Boum is only shooting 24 percent from the three-point line and the Miners as a team shot 18 percent on the night from the arc.

Rebounding was a major Achilles heel for the Miners against the Roadrunners as they were outrebounded by a 47 to 32 margin. Defensively this may have been the Miners' worst game as they gave up the most points to an opponent by nine more than the previous high of 77.

Junior big man Eric Vila returned to the starting lineup for the first time in four games as Terry stayed with those players who played the most minutes in the last game. Sophomore Jordan Lathon went his fourth straight game without making a field goal since returning to the



Carolina Alvarez / The Prospector

Junior UTSA guard Jhivvan Jackson is defended by senior Darryl Edwards as he shoots Jan. 15, 2019.

team after entering the transfer portal. Lathon has been a combined 0-11 in his last four games and his minutes have dipped below double digits during that time.

Hoping for its first road win, the team next faces conference opponent the Rice University

Owls (9-10; 1-5), which has won the last two home games against the Miners. UTEP plays at 6 p.m. Jan. 23. at Rice in Houston. The game will be televised on ESPN+ and broadcast on AM Radio 600 ESPN El Paso.

Michael Cuvillo may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

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INTRAMURAL SCHEDULE

SPRING

LEAGUES	Registration Deadline	Season Starts
Basketball	01/29	02/03
Indoor Soccer	01/29	02/04
Soccer	03/18	03/23
Volleyball	03/18	03/23

TOURNAMENTS	Registration Deadline	Season Starts
Dodgeball	01/29	02/07
Flag Football	03/18	03/27
Kickball	04/01	04/06

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE PROGRAM

Date of Trip	Trip Name	Member	Non-Member	Deadline to Register	Open Registration	Type of Trip
February 22	Thousand steps	\$15	\$20	February 12	January 22	Day Hike
March 14-19	Inks ST Park & Longhorn Caverns	\$250	\$300	March 4	January 29	Camp/Swim/Hike
March 28	Hueco Tanks SP	\$15	\$20	March 18	February 19	Hike/Climb
April 11	Tin Mine	\$15	\$20	April 1	March 4	Bike Ride
April 24-26	Fort Davis SP	\$50	\$75	April 15	March 11	Hike/Camp
May 22-24	Taos Box White-Water Rafting, NM	\$175	\$225	May 13	April 8	Whitewater Rafting

Upcoming Events

CPR Awareness Day

Monday, February 17, 2020
10a.m. - 2p.m.
Learn how to do Hands Only CPR
Free Giveaways!

Miner Madness Open House

Thursday, February 20, 2020
4p.m. - 8p.m.
Food, Music, Games and Prizes



FITNESS PROGRAMS (JANUARY 27 - MAY 7)

Please register at the Student Recreation Center Membership Office Room 102B
Monday—Thursday 8:00 am-6:00 pm
Friday 8:00-5:00 pm

Registration Fee:

Program rate for the semester

\$15 = 1 hr. weekly program / \$30 = 2 hr. weekly program / \$40 = 3 hr. weekly program

First come, first serve basis

FREE WEEK IS JAN. 27 - FEB. 3

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY

FEE	TIME	PROGRAM	INSTRUCTOR
\$30	06:15-07:15am	BODY SCULPTING, Rm. 120	NORA
\$30	07:30-08:30am	SPINNING®, Rm. 130	PAULA
\$30	09:00-10:00am	GENTLE FLOW YOGA, Rm. 110 A	ELENA
\$30	09:15-10:00am	ABS & GLUTES, Rm. 120	ROSA
\$30	10:30-11:30am	TOTAL BODY WORKOUT, Rm. 120	ROSA
\$30	01:00-02:00pm	BOXING CONDITIONING, Rm. 120	DAVID E.
\$30	03:30-04:30pm	JIU JITSU, Rm. 110 A	JUAN
\$30	04:45-05:45pm	BOXING CONDITIONING, Rm. 110 A	JUAN
\$30	05:15-06:15pm	CARDIO DANCE, Rm. 130	JESSICA
\$30	05:30-06:15pm	ABS & GLUTES, Rm. 120	DAVID
\$15	06:30-07:00pm	TRANSFORM LIVE® 30 mins, Rm. 130	JESSICA
\$40	06:30-08:00pm	STRENGTH & CONDITIONING, Rm. 120	CARLOS/DAVID
\$30	07:30-08:30pm	SPINNING®, Rm. 130	PAULA

TUESDAY & THURSDAY

\$30	06:15-07:15 am	SPINNING™, Rm. 130	MARIEL
\$40	07:00-08:30 am	STRENGTH & CONDITIONING, Rm. 120	DAVID E.
\$30	09:00-10:00 am	BOXING CONDITIONING, Rm. 130	DAVID E.
\$30	09:45-10:45 am	WEIGHT TRAINING & CONDITIONING, Rm. 120	DAVID H.
\$30	11:00-12:00 pm	ABS & GLUTES, Rm. 120	MARIANA
\$30	12:30-01:30pm	HATHA YOGA, Rm. 130	JULIE
\$30	03:00-04:00 pm	TOTAL BODY WORKOUT, Rm. 120	ROSA
\$30	04:00-05:00 pm	KARDIO KICKBOXING, Rm. 130	IRVING
\$30	04:15-05:15 pm	TONING PILATES, Rm. 120	ROSA
\$30	05:30-06:30 pm	H.I.I.T (High Intensity Interval Training), Rm. 120	MARIANA
\$30	04:45-05:45 pm	BOXING CONDITIONING, Rm. 110 A	JUAN
\$30	05:45-06:45 pm	VINYASA YOGA, 110 A	ELENA
\$30	06:00-07:00 pm	SPINNING®, Rm. 130	SEBASTIAN
\$30	07:00-08:00 pm	ZUMBA®, Rm. 120	MARCO

FRIDAY

\$30	10:00-12:00 pm	SELF DEFENSE TECHNIQUES, Rm. 110A	IRVING
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SATURDAY

\$15	09:00-10:00 am	SPIN & TONE, Rm. 130	JOSE
\$15	09:30-10:15 am	ABS & GLUTES, Rm. 120	ROSA
\$15	10:30-11:30 am	BODY SCULPTING, Rm. 120	JOSE
\$15	11:00-12:00 pm	HATHA FLOW, Rm. 110 A	YVONNE

No classes during Spring Break March 16 - 22
Last day of fitness classes May 7



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