2-4-2020

The Prospector, February 4, 2020

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Mike Bloomberg visits El Paso

More than 100 people were in attendance to greet Democratic Presidential Candidate Michael Bloomberg Wednesday, Jan. 29, during his stop at Downtown El Paso. See story on page 3.

University of Alabama at Birmingham blazes by the Miners

Throughout the first half, both teams played evenly matched with neither being able to assert any type of momentum to take over the game. Both teams shot effectively in the first half with the Blazers shooting 48% and the Miners a solid 42%. The Miners stayed in the game by forcing 10 turnovers in the first half and shooting 33%, only trailing in the rebound battle by one.

About three minutes into the second half, the Blazers took charge after shutting down the Miners scoring for four minutes and taking a 13-point lead with about eight minutes left in the game. The Miners were trailing by 16 points. UTEP cut the lead in half with about six minutes left in the game off a 3-pointer by sophomore Soul Bown. Unfortunately, over the next three minutes of the half, the Blazers went on an 8-point run to shut the door on the Miners. UAB pushed the lead back to 16 points. Junior Eric Villa's 3-pointer with 27 seconds left would make the final margin of loss 14 points.

In the second half, UAB shot a blazing 60% from the field. For the game, the Blazers dominated in the paint, outscoring the Miners 36-16, including 20 points off turnovers. The Blazers' ball movement continually set up easy baskets inside to which the UTEP defense had no answer.

see BLAZERS on page 7

See Microgenres: Vaporwave on page 6

Vaporwave

Vaporwave is an internet-based microgenre that is characterized by its distinct low-fidelity, or lo-fi, beats skillfully paired with heavy sampling of existing media to produce music that sounds refurbished, post-modernized, retro and futuristic— all at the same time.

Dummy Mag defines the genre as "wholly synthesised or heavily processed chunk of corporate mood music, bright and earnest or slow and sultry, often beautiful, either looped out of sync and beyond the point of functionality or standing alone, and sometimes with a smattering of miasma about it."

Producing vaporwave music is entirely based on being resourceful because it is mixing and mashing songs from different generations, like the '80s and '90s, to create a sound that's brilliantly paradoxical— both retro and futuristic.

The whole appeal of vaporwave is its use of remaining unknown, that in a world where nothing is private, it is refreshing to find something that feels like it was found in the dumpster of a thrift shop, where it does not matter who it came from or who made it, only that it takes you elsewhere, somewhere distant from reality. vaporwave artist Eco Virtual told music writer Ben Heels in an article titled "History of Vaporwave."

This notion of "remaining unknown" is driven even deeper due to vaporwave artists using pseudonyms like "Blank Banshee" and "Macintosh Plus" to remain anonymous while professionally putting out their work, adding a degree of amorphousness that reinforces the enigmatic quality of the genre.

Chuck Person's 2010 album "Eccojams Vol 1.1" is thought to be one of the earliest vaporwave albums and is essentially a compilation of sampled '80s tracks with a breath of new life yet still leaving intact the tinge of familiarity that evokes nostalgia.

See VAPORWAVE on page 6
Un Super Bowl bien Latino

La segunda participación relevante fue la de Pitbull. El cantante y rapero de Miami se presentó al estadio para las asistentes antes del partido. El ganador de diversos premios Grammy, Latino Grammy y Billboard ha sido muy influyente en la cultura Latina en la última década. Ahora, la estrella de la noche, sin duda que el mismo partido, fue el Shakira y Jennifer Lopez. Lopez literalmente brilló en su presentación del espectáculo de medio tiempo.

Invitar a dos artistas de talla mundial en un escenario que muy pocas veces ha sido pisado por latinos fue una experiencia muy sucedida, ambos con un talento sobrenatural de cantar y entregar a la audiencia con sus movimientos.

Su participación fue muy vitale y de no-negociables. Cada artista tuvo aproximadamente cinco minutos en los que cada una logró una actuación emocionante y encantadora de sus propios éxitos.

Ambas recurrieron a ritmos Latino incluyendo durante su desfile de medio tiempo. Ambas actuaciones fueron recordadas como momentos inolvidables de la competencia. Sin duda, Pitbull y Shakira demostraron ser los artistas que aman el mundo de la música Latina en el escenario internacional.

Un Super Bowl bien Latino

College and long-distance relationships

La opinión de Valeria Olivares

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Presidential Democratic hopeful Michael Bloomberg made his first stop Jan. 29 in the Sun City, unveiling a new plan to empower Latinos should he win in November. While many other top candidates, including Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, are concentrating in early states like Iowa, Bloomberg chose to be the second candidate to open a field office in El Paso, after Beto O’Rourke stepped down from the race. The former New York City mayor also opened offices around the state including San Antonio and Austin.

More than 100 people were in attendance to welcome Bloomberg to the border region and listen to his plans for the country, should he win the race. The evening opened with a look back to the August mass shooting in El Paso that took the lives of 22 people.

“This is not just a case of those 22 people being in the wrong place at the wrong time,” Texas Rep. Cesar Blanco said, before introducing Bloomberg. “This is a case of an unstable president spewing hateful words and giving cover to angry people all the time.”

The alleged shooter at Walmart referenced President Donald J. Trump’s rhetoric in a manifesto he had published online prior to his killing spree. Bloomberg is hoping to help combat the rise of hate crimes, by using his three-term experience as mayor of one of the most diverse cities in the country, in order to help unite the country once again.

Besides being a focal point in regard to immigration, Bloomberg is aware of Texas and the fast approaching vote on March 3, otherwise known as Super Tuesday. Sixteen states will go to the polls that day to help determine a candidate’s national electability and also win over delegates. Eleven Democratic candidates remain as of Jan. 31. The state of Texas holds 238 of the 270 delegates needed to win the Democratic nomination.

In 2018, Bloomberg supported several Democratic candidates throughout the country that won elections to help turn the non-voting state to a blue state by making new voter registration a priority of his campaign. Newly eligible voters will be a big part of that focus. The surface, it is difficult to see how a self-made billionaire would appeal to millennials. Not long after announcing his candidacy, Forbes listed Bloomberg as one of the richest men in the world with a net worth of more than $54 billion. He has completely self-funded his campaign, spending more than $200 million in the first two months since launching it last November. He is a philanthropist donating billions to causes, including climate change, scholarships at top institutions and gun control.

Bloomberg has stated he is willing to spend more than a billion to defeat Trump, whether as a Democratic nominee or otherwise.

The state has been voting Republican for more than two decades and, until recently, consistently listed as the lowest in voter participation nationwide. Bloomberg is hoping to build upon Beto O’Rourke’s initiative of turning the non-voting state to a blue state by making new voter registration a priority of his campaign.

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To read Reza’s full story, visit TheProspectorDaily.com.

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"Dr. Skateboard' teaches physical sciences through comics

Alcie X. Novo Carmona

William Robinson, professor at UTEP's Department of Education, who usually goes by Dr. Skateboard, turned himself into a character in his graphic novel, "Dr. Skateboard's Action Science," first published August 2019. The comic aims to explain physical sciences to all audiences in a format they can enjoy.

"I had this idea of doing something that would be more interesting to young people and that's where the graphic novel came in," Robinson said. "And what I found is that it's really interesting for everybody — young people and older people alike. I think it's just a medium that really speaks to people.''

Robinson has practiced skateboarding since he was 13 years old, when he lived in Richmond, Virginia, and has participated in competitions, which took place in a beach that was a couple hours from the town he lived. Skateboarding also allowed him to travel throughout the East Coast and California during his early teens. He was even even elected into the Freestyle Hall of Fame in 2010, according to his website.

"It was just something I wanted to do with my friends," Robinson said. "It was just fun, we started doing it and then skateboarding got real big at that point." Even though Robinson has broken his wrist and ruptured the ligaments of his knee before, he never gave up on skateboarding, which he still does to this day after more than 40 years.

"I had more injuries as a wrestler than I did in skateboarding. I think I've stayed pretty resilient in it," Robinson said. "I think the main thing too is in getting older in the sport. I've had to do things like wear my helmet and things like that now, but I continue to do it."

Using his longtime experience with skateboarding, Robinson has crafted presentations for middle and high schools since he graduated from college, including motivational presentations and action science demonstrations, according to the Dr. Skateboard website.

"As a young person, I did a lot of demonstrations in fairs and street shows," Robinson said. "I was interested in being a teacher one day and I was thinking of things that could be interesting to do in schools. I thought of this idea of presenting sort of a motivational program using skateboarding."

Another element that he incorporates in his graphic novel and presentations is bicycle motocross (BMX), which is a sport Robinson only knows through second-hand experience since he does not practice it himself.

I'm not really a BMX rider. I have a bike, but I don't do tricks on it. I'm a skateboarder," Robinson said. "As part of my team under the banner of action science, our demonstration team, we use skateboards and athletes, both on skateboards and BMX bikes. We have people who ride ramps, who do dirtland tricks, who ride rails ... for both skateboards and bikes.''

In order to create the comic book, Tania Sanchez, a UTEP mathematics alumna who Robinson met while skateboarding, contributed her drawing skills and, with the help of Creative Studios, Robinson was able to publish the first two volumes of "Dr. Skateboard's Action Science," "Simple Machines" and "Forces," in both English and Spanish. The team first made an electronic version which they later printed in different places with money that came out of pocket.

"I think the bottom line is, really, to help people who may not be reached by education in traditional ways; to give them opportunities that would interest them. In middle school, it's really important that students are engaged in things that they'd like to do and they're motivated about their learning," Robinson said. "My hope is always that students are engaged in things that they'd like to do and they're motivated about their learning."

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Dr. Skateboard is William Robinson, an educator for more than 20 years that has taught at the middle school, high school and university levels and published a comic book series on physical sciences with the help of Tania Sanchez, a UTEP mathematics alumna, back in August 2019.

"We self published it ... We took our file and we had them printed at different print shops around town," Robinson said. "The main thing was to try to print them so that people could have this physical media ... We've also made it available through a creative commons license so people can use it and share it electronically.''

Robinson teamed up with educational organizations, such as the Great-Up Program, which helps distribute the comics to area middle schoolers in different places, such as the Ysleta Independent School District.

Robinson plans to finish the last two issues of "Dr. Skateboard's Action Science" in both English and Spanish as he works on ways to further incorporate the comics as a tool for educating people on physical sciences at different levels, especially those who learn in different ways from others.

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Jacqueline Martinez

Jaqueline Martinez

Galería Lincoln is a homegrown art exhibit at 3915 Rosa St., near Lincoln Park, created by local artists Tino Ortega and Diego Martinez to showcase talent from various artists, both locally and outside of El Paso. Martinez grew up in a family of artists and he was always surrounded by art, so he inevitably developed a burning passion for it. Martinez was born and raised in El Paso and graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso, where he majored in education. Then we were able to put a lot of love and tears into it; Martinez said. "We painted the ceiling, we painted the floors, the inside, and we installed the windows." He realized back then that his passion would establish some life. "The duo took the old, abandoned property, built on Concordia in 1943, and gave it a complete makeover with two major renovations in a three-month time frame. "It's happening and it's surreal, being inspired by other people and inspiring each other and the community; that's what it's all about," Martinez said. "This place, this location and this area is the heart of El Paso. It's really a beautiful area that a lot of people forgot about. It's a real lower-income part of the town, so we are trying to establish some life." The artist said he plans to expand his exhibit by collaborating with the nearby Old Sheep Dog Brewery across the street from the gallery. The brewery plans to convert the second floor into rentable open space studios. "There is a lot of potential in this area and it's going to be nice to have block parties here soon," Martinez said. The artists hosted a soft opening exhibition dubbed "20 artists for 2020" on Dec. 31, which featured 25 artists from the local art scene, including UTEP student Matthew McIntyre who is exploring both in painting and ceramics. "Working with them was great. They're all about supporting local artists and giving artists more opportunities here in El Paso," said McIntyre, who submitted two pieces into the show, including a slip-casted, ceramic button-up shirt and an oil-based painting. The soft opening also included local riders and lego sponsored by DeadBeach Brewery, using a total of 150 guests. Booked artists for this year include "PILO" from the Jellyfish Collective, El Paso native Erik Pera, Laura Toro, who is widely recognized for her "Paradox" traveling art school bus, Diego Medina and Gabriel Gaytan. The gallery will also host workshops this year run by local artists. "The exhibit's official grand opening will be at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 8, featuring emerging artist Eugenia "NO" Carmona in "NO Rituales."
Vaporwave from front page

Nelson's pioneering lead was James Ferraro who drew inspiration from the concept of 21st century consumerism to create the album "Far Side Ritual," released in 2011. Then came the release of the successful vaporwave album "Floral Shoppe" in late 2011 by Macintosh Plus, which currently has more than a million views on YouTube. With such momentum, the album made the microgenre more approachable to new audiences with its most recognizable track "Lisa Frank 420," a slowed down rework of Diana Ross' "It's Your Move," which went viral, racking up more than nine million views on YouTube.

Vaporwave has an extremely distinguishable aesthetic characterized by its use of vintage computer imagery and its satirical appropriation of old media and the romanticizing of '80s and '90s consumerist culture. Common composer imagery reflective of the time and desired design include Arizona Ice Tea, Fiji Water and video game cover arts, an example being Persico's "Ecojams Vol. 1" album cover featuring box art from the Sega Mega Drive game "Ecco the Dolphin." The videos are recognizable by their production and editing vintage VHS video quality, superimposed static lines with the music synced over a despondent backdrop. Greek imagery such as the use of Greek-Roman statues, columns and pillars are wildly prevalent, one of the most notable uses of them being their depiction on the cover of Macintosh Plus "Floral Shoppe." Some have speculated and attributed the use of the architecture to be a nod to the garishness of the interior design of the '80s and '90s.

Vaporwave also experimented somewhat of a cyber revival in the form of memes and parodies, succumbing to the irony-driven attitudes saturating the internet.

On Feb. 9, 2016, YouTuber Lucien Hughes uploaded "SUNDAY SCHOOL," a video of gloriously glitched Simpsons clips synced to "Teen Pregnancy" by vaporwave artist Blank Bandito. The spaced out, all caps typography is also another example of yet another staple of this microgenre. The video went viral, giving prominence to what would later be known as Simpsonsware. By marrying popular culture and the vaporwave aesthetic, Simpsonsware magnified a whole new dimension of the genre, counteracting old nostalgia with the new.

"Listening to vaporwave reminds me of going to Taco Bell as a kid and seeing its interior design of the '90s," said vaporwave enthusiast Jesus Delgado. "It reminds me of watching VHS for like the hundreds of times and noticing how the image quality gets worn down, but you keep re-watching it. It makes you want to go back." With its overtones of nostalgia, vaporwave has lent itself to be established and remembered as a microgenre that uses the past to give to the future.

There is an array of adaptations of poke that have emerged throughout the years, but most notably to the "bowl; the more traditional form found in Hawaii. And all poke locations you visit will most likely serve it this way. In Chico Town, as any local resident will probably know, food always comes served "Choco style." The burrito, a staple food for many Latinos, has made its influence on poke.

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With popularity — fads and globalization — poke has been altered from its original native form to meet a local custom and preference of taste, such as El Poke, which alters the original taste to "Chuco style," the burrito form to meet a local customs preference of taste, for better or for worse. But let's be clear, poke is not new. It's been around longer than anyone alive today, but only recently discovered by pop culture.
Miners’ tennis drops two matchups at home over weekend

Michael Cuviello

Playing on back to back days, the UTEP tennis team lost matches to the Abilene Christian University (ACU) Wildcats and the New Mexico Lobos. Neither match turned out to be close as they only scored one point in each.

On Saturday, UTEP stretched out a trio of singles matches to three sets while coming up short in all of them versus the Wildcats. In the doubles opening matches, the Miners lost all three sets and started off in a 1-0 hole as singles play began.

The No. 1 doubles team of senior Vanessa Valdez and junior Maria Aviega were very competitive in their set 7-6, but the rest of doubles matches were one-sided affairs.

Valdez as the No. 1 came out strong in her first set winning 6-2 but faltered in the second set 6-3. The third and deciding set was a hard fought 7-5 loss to ACU’s Sarah Adams. Junior Enandi Martinez, after losing her opening set, stretched her opponent to three sets, winning the second set 6-4, but came up short in the final set losing 6-4 in the battle of No. 2 singles.

UTEPS lone victory of the day was accomplished by junior Lina Sachica in straight sets 6-1,6-3 in the No. 3 singles. No. 4 sophomore Kathleen Perceguna pushed her match to a seventh point in both sets but fell 7-5 in each.

No. 5 singles player freshman Eve Daniels forced a tiebreaker in the first set but lost 7-6.

Daniels never recovered from that close set and lost the second frame 6-2. Aviega the No. 6 was the third UTEP player to go to three sets and come away with a setback. After winning the first set 6-2, Aviega lost the final two sets 6-2,6-3.

“We knew that it was going to be a tough battle coming into this match,” UTEP Coach Ivan Fernandez said. “Abilene Christian has already played a few matches this semester, so they’re coming in a little bit more seasoned than we are. But I really enjoyed watching our girls compete. This is probably the closest 6-1 score that you’ve ever going to see. So many matches went to three sets. I’m really proud of how the girls fought. If this is a sign of how we’re going to compete this season, I think there are a lot of good things ahead for us in the future."

On Sunday, UTEP stretched out a trio of singles matches to three sets and started off in a 1-0 hole as singles play began.

Valdez the No. 1, was blitzed in the first set 6-1 but came back to force the second set to 7 points losing by two. Martinez lost her match in straight sets 6-1,6-3 setting the Miners back to an 0-3 deficit.

Sachica came through with her second match win of the weekend and is currently 5-0 as the No. 3 singles player. With a dominant 6-2,6-0 victory, Sachica is untouchable as a Miners in singles play.

Daniels came out strong forcing her opponent to a seventh point in the first set of her match but failed to score a single point in the second set, losing 6-0.

“It was another tough day,” Fernandez said. “We are fighting on every court and we’re up on many courts and just couldn’t close it out. We are young and learning with every match. I’m extremely proud of Lina (Sachica), who was able to close out her matches both days. She is showing great energy, and I hope the rest of the team can match that in the matches to come.”

The Miners go on the road next weekend to play two matches in Logan, Utah. UTEP plays at noon Feb. 6 versus Idaho State and noon Feb. 7 against Utah State.

“Those guys out willed us and we were more physical in the paint. Players got to play, they have to compete, and we did not compete for whatever reason tonight and that is the disappointing and embarrassing part of it,” Terry said.

The Miners go on the road Feb. 6 to play against the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (12-9, 6-4).
Women's basketball facing tough road trip

Isaiah Ramirez
The Prospector

Facing two of the top five teams in Conference-USA (C-USA) was a tough task for the UTEP women's basketball team this past weekend.

The Miners failed to muster a comeback win against Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) and a rough shooting outing doomed the squad against the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Blazers.

Now the Miners look to rebound during a two-game homestand against Charlotte and second-place Old Dominion. After the road trip, the Miners are tied for sixth place in conference.

After falling 31-10 against MTSU, the Miners battled to get within seven points (65-58) in the fourth quarter but couldn't rally past the final stretch to pull off the win. Senior forward Ariona Gill put up a solid double-double performance, posting 20 points and 12 rebounds.

"We were playing our 'B-level game' instead of an 'A-level game,'" Head Coach Kevin Baker said. "There's a lot of reasons for me to be frustrated right now because we didn't play well, but more reasons for us to be excited with the kind of character we have shown."

Three players posted double-digit scoring performances for UTEP in the Miners' second game of its road trip against UAB, but the Blazers lived up to its alias as a great three-point shooting team, going 45% from downtown. The Miners were cold from the field, shooting 29% and 20% from the three. Over its last two games, the Miners averaged shooting 33% from the field.

The first matchup in the Miners' two game homestand features the team it is tied for sixth place in C-USA with the Charlotte 49ers. The 49ers are on a three-game winning streak and have one of the best defenses in Conference-USA, allowing a third-best 60 points per game. Charlotte is led by redshirt senior guard Jade Phillips' 15 points per game, which is eighth best in Conference-USA. The 49ers also have two more reliable playmakers in junior guards Marsh Linney and Christian Hithe, with both players averaging nine points per game.

Last season the Miners fell to the 49ers by 23 points in Charlotte where UTEP had only six active players due to injuries. UTEP finishes off its homestand against second-place Old Dominion, a team that is on a seven-game winning streak and is talented on defense. Old Dominion can provide pressure on its opponent throughout the game.

The Monarchs rank first in Conference-USA in scoring defense, field goal defensive percentage and three-point field goal defensive percentage. Old Dominion also ranks the league in scoring margin, winning its games by an average of 13 points.

Old Dominion has a balanced scoring attack with four players averaging double digits in points led by sophomore guard Ajah Wayne's and senior guard Taylor Edwards' 11 points per game.

For the Miners, the hot hand on the offensive end is Gill, who has posted back-to-back double-digit scoring performances and has averaged 12 points per game in her last five games.

The Miners kick off its two-game homestand at 7 p.m. Feb. 6 against Charlotte and finish off at 1 p.m. Feb. 8 at the Don Haskins Center.