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El Paso and Ciudad Juárez woke up to devastating news, March 28, of a fire at the National Migration Institute at the Lerdo-Stanton Bridge, taking the lives of 39 immigrant men from South and Central America. The fire sparked protests among many in Juárez due to the rare circumstances and now ongoing investigations.

**STORMS DESTROY CENTRAL U.S.**

Six people were killed in a school shooting on March 27, in Nashville, Tennessee including three children and three staff members. The shooter identified as former student of The Covenant School, Andrey Hale who was killed by police. Adding to the list of mass shootings, students across the state of Tennessee continue to protest for gun reform hoping to decrease mass shootings around the country.

**NAKESVILLE SHOOTING**

After major tornadoes hit several states across the South and Midwest, officials say residents and counties can expect another round of severe storms. Several counties suffered after multiple tornadoes left 32 dead along with severe damages. Residents are urged to find safety in their homes during these unpredicatable storms.

**MIGRANT FIRE KILLS 39**

Residents are urged to find safety in their homes during these unpredictable storms. It’s clear, residents can expect another round of severe storms. Several counties suffered after multiple tornadoes left 32 dead along with severe damages. Residents are urged to find safety in their homes during these unpredictable storms.
Finding confidence in bell bottoms and platforms

BY ANNABELLA MIRELES
The Prospector

Fashion does not have one defined look. You could give three people the same top or accessory and it would be styled three different ways. I think the first time I really started to care about fashion was when I watched “The Devil Wears Prada” for the first time when I was in elementary school. Seeing how people treated pieces of fabric as magic that transforms not only their appearance but their confidence excited me and helped me believe I could do the same for myself. I fell in love with the idea that the clothes you decide to put on your body were more than just something to wear a statement telling the world who you are and what you like. Figuring out your style is a journey that ends with self-expression, whether people realize it or not.

Growing up, I had three great fashion inspirations: my mother, my “teta” (grandmother) and my great-grandmother. I used to love watching them get ready in the morning, strategically layering their outfits with pantyhose, sequined or lace blouses and gold hoops. I used to love exploring my great-grandmother’s and teta’s closets when I was younger, observing the different fabrics, patterns, cuts and colors, waiting in anticipation for the day I could buy my own clothes. It has taken me a while to develop my own style. In high school, I lacked a lot of confidence.

I was not too happy with what I saw in the mirror, so I decided to play around with my style and have some fun. I started looking at stylebooks and going on social media for inspiration. I would go to thrift stores and try to match several things together to try and build even more ideas. Being creative with fashion pieces is the highlight of my morning. Being confident with what I am wearing helped me become confident in myself.

There is just something about trying on clothes that makes me feel like I am a completely different person. Somehow my 10-year-old self, playing dress-up games on my iPad translated into me buying and trying different outfits as if I were the little model in that game, even if that does mean I have become a little bit of a ‘shopaholic.’ Now, just like my mom, I cannot leave the house without dressing up. In a funny way, I like feeling like a Britte Dazzle, creating a new outfit every day by reusing pieces I have—putting a little of my own style into what they look like every day because that is impractical. All I know is turning myself into another character every day has made me feel a little more powerful and confident. To me, my confidence comes in platform shoes and bell bottoms and like Carrie Bradshaw once said in “Sex in the City,” “I like my money right where I can see it—hanging in my closet.”

I choose to wake up a little earlier to get ready because I enjoy picking out a new outfit I have not worn before. I like putting on makeup because I get to enhance what is already there. I do not do any of these things for anyone else other than myself because that is what makes me happy. Now, I am not saying everyone needs to put 100 percent of their effort into what they look like every day because that is impractical. All I know is turning myself into another character every day has made me feel a little more powerful and confident. To me, my confidence comes in platform shoes and bell bottoms and like Carrie Bradshaw once said in “Sex in the City,” “I like my money right where I can see it—hanging in my closet.”

The Prospector

BY ANNABELLA MIRELES
The Prospector

THE PROSPECTOR CROSSWORD

DOWN:
1. Which fashion brand do you associate red-soled shoes?
2. Lingerie brand that gives models the title of “Angels.”
3. Who took over Versace in 1997?
4. What is the fashion capital of the world?
5. What was the most popular jean brand in the early 1980’s?
6. What is an environmentally safe alternative to buying clothes?
7. Where does the Met Gala take place?
8. What brand is Harry Styles most known for wearing?
9. Who is the biggest fashion event that happens on the first Monday of May?
10. What is the name of Rihanna’s lingerie and sportswear company?
11. What NBA Rookie revolutionized the shoe game?
12. What is the name of the most popular jean brand?
13. What is the name of the fashion designer Chanel?
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39. What is the name of the fashion designer Chanel?
40. What is the name of the most popular jean brand?

ACROSS:
1. Fabric made out of fibers in a protein found in larval secretion?
2. Lingerie brand that gives models the title of “Angels.”
3. Who took over Versace in 1997?
4. Bella Hadid’s signature outfit?
5. What brand is Harry Styles most known for wearing?
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18. What brand is Bella Hadid’s signature outfit?
19. What brand is Harry Styles most known for wearing?
20. What brand is Bella Hadid’s signature outfit?

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Personal information (phone numbers and address) will be used for identification only. Letters are subject to editing to fit available space, clarity and brevity.

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A city filled with unique and stylish souls

By Erik Acosta
The Prospector
From putting on a pair of bell bottom styles to rustic casual to rummaging through a closet to find a favorite piece of vintage clothing, browse through the pages to read how Acuna’s unique style and work ethic is perfect.

“A city filled with unique and stylish souls”

As Acuna expresses herself through her fashion identity, she said, “‘I feel like growing up, I wasn’t able to express myself through my style and once I hit a certain age, I realized that I could express and liberate myself through the clothes that I wear,’ Acuna said. ‘So, I feel like street style with formal style is a fusion of who I am.”

Mixing a world of trendy tees, sneakers and fancy blazers with bell bottoms like street style with formal style is a fusion of who I am.”

Incorporating bell bottoms and ’70s retro clothing into their style, EPCU student René Acosta recalls experiencing his first feeling of style’s journey due to Hispanic culture. “Our culture is very (machista), “It was a very square individual to be part of this society,' Acosta said. ‘‘So, I mean it’s a work in progress, but I know we will eventually get there in the future. It really was a journey because of culture and my parents, born in the early ’70s so they still have that late mentality of being ‘Why is he wearing makeup?’ or ‘Why is he expressing himself like this?’

A closet filled with colorful retro flares to warded-toned patterns of paisley, his wardrobe gives energy to vintage and also Acosta is not afraid of embracing his femininity through makeup and his long curly hair. Being raised in a Chicano family, Acosta drew inspiration from his ancestry and family’s culture, transforming it into his style. “My fashion sense and what I live for is Viva la Raza, Chicano power, I am all about these things, ‘ Acosta said. ‘Ever since I was a kid, I always lived for Viva la Raza, and I like expressing my fashion through the nostalgic Chicano rock movement.”

Having nostalgic for a garment or fabric that is a throwback to a different era can sometimes be a driving force for someone’s sense of style and fashion. For Acosta, he considers his luscious long curly hair and his nautical bloused shirts and beanie, clothes a driving point in his style. “Nostalgia is what really defines me, I crave nostalgia of late 70s nostalgia and Acosta is one-way UTEP student Frida Acuna expresses herself through her fashion identity as well. "I live for is Viva la Raza, Chicano power, I am all about these things, ‘ Acosta said. ‘Ever since I was a kid, I always lived for Viva la Raza, and I like expressing my fashion through the nostalgic Chicano rock movement.”

Being raised in a 70s retro clothing, Barbara Dickstein, once said, “Clothing, more than anything else – more than furniture, more than jewelry, represents a person. Clothing is a symbol of who you are. It tells your status, role in life, and social position.”

Many can agree and relate that clothing is a form of representing oneself, and many have the privilege to express themselves creatively through their outfits. Still, there are circumstances where fashion restriction is especially in the workplace. Although men have their share of dress codes to follow for professional attire, the dress code for women is deemed more strict.

A woman’s professional attire has always impacted how they are perceived in the workplace. The dress code for women in professional jobs varies depending on the industry and company. However, some general guidelines exist, such as conservative attire, neutral colors and the limitation of makeup and nail polish.

Women are presumed to fulfill each expectation of this strict wardrobe to fit into the professional work attire status quo. Unprofessional business attire for women could include but is not limited to mini skirts, tight clothing, anything showing cleavage or slitless. These restrictions

Critical Race Theory could just be a theory in Texas Universities

By Salma Paola Baca
The Prospector
A collector of twentieth-century clothing, Barbara Dickstein, once said, “Clothing, more than anything else – more than furniture, more than jewelry, represents a person. Clothing is a symbol of who you are. It tells your status, role in life, and social position.”

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By Erik Acosta
The Prospector
Sitting in a classroom learning about local and social movements can be shaped by social concepts of race and ethnicity as well as Critical Race Theory. This discipline can transform a student’s knowledge and learning, but a new Senate bill could mean this teaching is moving onto the next legislative session later this year, among other things.

As Ingram said, “There’s a culture war about critical thinking and embracing other ideas, and I think it comes from people who are scared of change.”

Although the dress code already exists, such as conservative attire, neutral colors and the limitation of makeup and nail polish. Women are presumed to fulfill each expectation of this strict wardrobe to fit into the professional work attire status quo. Unprofessional business attire for women could include but is not limited to mini skirts, tight clothing, anything showing cleavage or slitless. These restrictions

Trying to blaze trails in more than Blazes

Professional attire on women has always impacted how they are perceived in the workplace. Studies have shown that sexualized body parts are more likely to be gazed at when a woman wears revealing clothing than in conservative attire.

The same research studies revealed that if women are sexualized in the workplace, they are perceived as less honest and trustworthy, but women dressed more masculinly are more likely to be taken seriously.

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Dress the planet with organic fashion

BY ELISNA HURTÉZ  
The Prospector

With the state of the world’s environment becoming a bigger topic in modern politics, ways to make a positive impact on the globe are also being discussed. From recycling paper and plastic, there have been many ideas to reduce pollution or other negative impacts on the environment. One method becoming popular with brands and customers is organic fashion. Organic fashion is clothing made from natural organic materials without the use of chemicals. The use of organic fashion can lead to many benefits, from reducing humanity’s carbon footprint to making clothing better for people with sensitive skin.

“In a recent BBC report, it was mentioned that over 30 percent of all the clothing manufactured annually, upwards of 65 percent end up in a landfill,” Wriech said. “With the rise of more conscious consumers, and increased transparency in the supply chain, there does seem to be a rising inclination of manufacturers to move towards more recycled and biodegradable materials, along with more innovations in terms of development of biodegradable and plant-based plastics.”

From benefiting the planet to people, organic fashion poses more positives outside the state of the environment. People with skin conditions such as eczema and skin sensitivity are exposed to dangerous chemicals or materials in other clothing textures. With organic fashion, people with these conditions do not have to worry about exposure to things that can irritate their skin. Some clothing materials can carry pesticides and other harmful chemicals that can damage people’s skin, even for people without such conditions.

“Organic fashion is grown in healthier soil, and it is a much better quality for people who suffer from skin allergies,” said Nicole Gastel, an El Pasoan who suffers from eczema. “It can help me to get rid of rashes and allergies, unlike non-organic clothes, which have chemicals like bleach, dyes, and scents or perfumes. Not only does organic fashion help people with skin conditions, but it can also save animals by not using their fur and it supports fairer working conditions for people.”

Shopping for organic clothing can also be healthy for businesses and workers. Many fast fashion companies have clothes made in poor countries, where working conditions are poorer, along with wages. When you are buying from sustainable brands, you are buying from a company that has clothes manufactured in a safe place with good working conditions.

Organic fashion is not only a good choice if you want to support a good company, but you can also be supporting ethical and cruelty-free companies.

Sustainable companies that produce these pieces of clothing are free of child labor, animal testing and other unethical practices many companies are infamous for.

Overall, buying organic clothing is a choice that can only be made by customers. The choice is not only to benefit the wellbeing of the planet, but to improve people’s health conditions and ethics or standards for companies around the world.

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ARTIZA: a fashion company founded in 1984, and they now operate over 501 stores in both the U.S and Canada. Its website launched in 2012, carrying over 3,000 items, including styles made with organic materials. Photo by Joel Molina/The Prospector

Greta from cover

with Josh. The four performed “The Age of Man” from their “Anthem of the Peaceful Army” album and “Highway Tune” from their “From the Fires” album.

I was absolutely blown away by Josh’s vocals and how long he could hold notes as well as how entertaining he is. At the end of the last song, he jumped on one of the speakers barefoot and took a short, As for Wagner, his drum solo was the highlight of the night and special since he does not do it every concert. Jake even played in a Jimi Hendrix-type fashion by playing his guitar behind his head and Sam lit incense during the show while playing multiple keyboards. There is no doubt that Greta Van Fleet can put on a show. Each musician displays so much passion in their work and that can be noted from even the furthest seats. In all, the concert was fire out of five stars for putting on one of the best I have seen.

To see the full gallery, visit https://photographybyannabella.mypixieset.com/

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DOWN:


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THE PROSPECTOR • APRIL 4, 2023
Performing in color: Concert fashion

BY ITZEL GIRON
The Prospector

Editor’s note: More photos of the Greta Van Fleet concert can be found on page eight of The Prospector.

Concerts can call for much planning on the attendees’ part, from transportation to hotels to makeup to clothing choices, but what about the artists themselves?

Most artists perform in simple, comfortable and easy-to-move-in clothing while some use their looks to excite their fans amid the difficulty of finding clothes comfortable enough to perform in.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began to slow down in 2021, many artists have slowly returned to stages across the globe. Some are taking advantage of the two to three-hour sets to highlight their creative and unique outfits, those artists include Harry Styles, Greta Van Fleet and Taylor Swift.

During his most recent tour, “Love On Tour,” Harry Styles utilized his partnership with GUCCI by wearing different custom outfits during each show. It is something Styles has been doing since his first tour, “Harry Styles: Live on Tour,” but now it has become a guessing game each night as to what he will wear or what color-patterned outfit he would have on.

It may not be something Styles started during his time in One Direction, but his clothing choices have brought up the question if men should put more effort in what they wear during performances rather than going shirtless and wearing a pair of shorts like lead singer of the band Imagine Dragons, Dan Reynolds.

When looking at women in the music industry, many of them always look their best by wearing heels, full faces of makeup, skirts and dresses but some have taken it up a notch by either leaving that norm completely or elevating their outfit choices. Taylor Swift is one artist taking her clothing choices up a notch during her highly anticipated “The Eras Tour.” With 17 quick changes, Swift has elevated the idea of a performance with all her costuming.

Other performers who utilize their fashion to stand out amongst other artists is Greta Van Fleet, an American rock band that takes inspiration from the 1970s to stand out rather than the usual black leather and chains most rock bands are known for.

It is the eccentric wardrobe by these artists that not only inspire other artists in their shows, but the fans who attend them as well. Thus, inspiring a new era of concert fashion culture.
The best of both worlds:

Eden Coffee X Thrift gives clothing and accessories a chance to be loved and used by someone new. This thrifter seeks to give their clothing a second home and second chance at wear.

BY ELISHA NUÑEZ
The Prospector

Editor’s Note: This is the second part in a three-part series.

Isaac Perales never imagined he would be running a side business including two of his favorite things: thrifting and coffee. After being involved with thrifting for a little over a year he decided to start his own thrifting business while maintaining his job as a barista. It was not until recently though that his company went through a major change. Coffee would be the new addition to his newly renamed business, Eden Coffee X Thrift.

Perales started thrifting on his own around two years ago. Before, he would shop at retail chains and other stores before discovering local thrift shops. It was in these stores where he found his new sense of style and before he knew it, entered the thrifting business.

"I used to shop at stores like H&M, but now I can find better stuff, clothes that are worth something within my own thrift stores," Perales said. "I think clothing is very fun, I guess, especially when it comes to the vintage (clothing)."

Fashion has always interested Perales and it was thrifting that gave him the motivation to dress freely and express himself. Prior to thrifting, Perales never had a clear way to express his interest in fashion.

It was not until he started shopping at local thrift and vintage shops that he could start to exercise his interest in fashion.

"I believe that the fashion industry is just something that’s so remarkable," Perales said. "I feel like it tells a lot about a person based on the clothing that they’re wearing. I feel clothing is a form of expression. You can really tell a lot about a person based on how they’re dressed. But at a certain point, being able to dress freely based on what you like to wear, colors that you like to wear and stuff like that is very important."

His newfound passion for thrifting led him to establish his business, Five Minute Thrift Trips in November 2021. For a while, his business was strictly clothing related. It was not until earlier this year he decided to incorporate coffee in his originally fashion based business venture. "I think that a thrifting business selling coffee would be socially favorable," said Kaylee Corral, a senior at Americas High School.

"It’s always appreciated that places like Target and Albertson’s have Starbucks inside of them. I find it very convenient. I know many people who enjoy thrifting for fun along with trying new places, and it’s because of this that I believe a place that has both coffee and shopping will be successful."

A lover of coffee, Perales decided to take this love to the next level by buying an espresso machine, which he would eventually use to expand his thrifting business.

"I actually bought an espresso machine for my house and for refreshments," Perales said. "Those things are really expensive. So, I wanted this machine to pay itself off. That’s when I started selling coffee and stuff like that. When I decided to start growing as a business, this (was) my (new) goal. So, sometimes at our markets (we) will set up (the) little espresso machine and we’ll sell coffee."

After it was decided that he would start selling coffee with his clothing products, Perales decided to rename his business to Eden Coffee X Thrift. Accompanying his business' rebranding, Perales also has hopes to see his business grow with time.

"I feel like everybody’s goal when starting a small business is to grow. Our goal for the business is to have a little coffee shop and have vintage clothes. It’s going to be a hybrid. That’s what we hope for the future," Perales said. "I’ve always believed that if I’m going to do anything, I’m going to do it to glorify God. Eden goes back to Adam and Eve. I think it’s so impressive how they were kicked out of Eden because of their (imperfection). Our whole motto of our business is ‘You don’t have to be perfect to be here.’"

As the business does not have a set location, you can follow the business' Instagram @edencoffee.xthrift to see where they will pop up next.

"There’s always a different market and we can be reached through ig or at miners.utep.edu.

Thrifters in the midst of the recycled closet at Eden Coffee X Thrift. Photo by Salma Paola Baca/The Prospector

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Tattoos: Art for the body and soul

By Marco Hinojosa

From skull to floral designs to portraits and meaningful quotes, tattoos have the capability to express more than just a design but an individual. Tattoos have a history of making their mark within certain cultures. Nowadays, this art form is used to express more than emotions but also create beautiful forms of stories on the skin.

The word “tattoos” originates from a mix of the Samoan and Marquesan language, which originally was called “tatau” or “tatu.” Tattoos were first introduced over 5,000 years ago, it was not until the 1400s that tattoos were seen very rarely, and the practice began spreading through Europe and America. Later in 1991 tattoos were discovered on a mummified body.

Despite how common they were amongst different cultures, with the rise of Christianity, cultures and societies began to view tattoos as sacrilegious. Even though body art dates back many years, people set aside the judgment and continue to use this form of art to express themselves in a more permanent way.

“Body art for me is expression like any art. I had things I wanted to represent, experiences I had in my life, and I just felt like I needed to put them on my body because they are a part of me,” said UTEP student, JC Rivera. “Nobody will ever know about it, and I will not remember it in the same light as if I did not mark it and use it as a book end to move forward onto the next chapter of my life.”

As tattoos have grown in popularity over the course of several years, people have accepted the art form, but tattoos blossom at the cross-roads of art and the human body, allowing people to portray this form of expression on their body as if they are their own canvas. In more recent times, there has been an overwhelming increase in body art, allowing a new wave of fashion to be introduced into society, especially with tattoo shops spreading across multiple cities.

“It has evolved to (that) and it makes people feel more individual as a person. Tattoos for the longest time have been like a site of passage,” said local tattoo artist, Julio Cesar Pizana Aleman who works at Monolith Tattoo, which is located at 212 E. Paisano.

At The Good Life Tattoo, located on 4131 Fred Wilson Ave., another local tattoo artist, Goldie Jones says she likes to see how tattoos bring her clients’ joy. Many local artists say Pinterest is now a common gateway for art inspiration among people nowadays. “The frequency in designs that I definitely see are the ‘Pinterest’ stuff or ‘TikTok’ stuff,” Jones said.

“However, their favorite art style to work on is ‘cottagecore.’” While some get bolder and more brazen looks tattooed, others get simplistic patch work on their body creating a form of collage. “I try not to do stuff that other people have done 10,000 times, but I mean traditional people have done it 10,000 times,” Aleman said. “I want to do my own spin to it, so I develop my own style. I like to perform my own art,” Jones said. “I approach my tattooing in a very technical sense if I can. Through the creative aspects especially with my designs, I like to try and pour a little piece of myself into each design. Like I want people to see, ‘Oh yeah that’s Goldie’s work.’”

Tattoo art captures and at the same time, reveals unspeakable aspects of one’s personal story. “I love walking around campus and just seeing people with different artwork,” Rivera said. “I have no shame, so I’ll go up to people and I’ll ask them, ‘Oh what does this mean?’ There is always a story behind it. It is always a good talking point, you get to know a person by their tattoos.”

From being covered head to toe with eye catching tattoos to simple and meaningful tattoos, it is a great thing to see people express themselves more artistically. As society continues to welcome new trends, the art of tattoos will continue to prosper and remain relevant within the realm of art.

THE PROSPECTOR - APRIL 4, 2023 ARTS & CULTURE

Read more about this story

Don’t Buy Farah Pants!

We all may have a friend or family member in our lives that when it comes to what we wear in our daily lives, can easily put our casual wardrobe to shame.

Every decade in fashion is interesting from the colorful tie-dyed shirts of the ‘60s to the punk rock flannel of the ‘80s.

One name familiar to those interested in fashion history is Mammie Farah. Farah, an Egyptian immigrant who sold dry goods and hay, traveled from Canada to El Paso, Texas. He, along with his wife Hanna Farah, had one goal in mind...

Photo courtesy of todayinlabornet.com

on theprospectordaily.com

Here, and the Wind is on exhibition about paintings, drawings, photography, and sculpture by the Basque artist Dámaso Pérez Valcarce at the Rubin Center Project Space Gallery.

March 23 - May 26, 2023

Free and open to the public.

Here, And the Wind documents the process behind Experiencing the Basque (ETB), an interdisciplinary exploration and performance at the University of the Basque Country.

Photo courtesy of todayinlabornet.com
Josh had seven stripes of gold glitter and white makeup across his cheeks as well as face jewels and glitter eyeshadow. Sam had stripes of glitter on the bottom of his lash line and Danny had dots under his eyes and black eyeshadow with glitter in his inner corners. Photos by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector

The Office of Student Fellowships and Awards supports UTEP students who are applying for nationally competitive scholarships and fellowships to fund graduate school and overseas experiential learning (research, teaching assistantships, etc.).

What is an external fellowship?
Nationally competitive funding opportunities that are:
• Based on academic merit as opposed to financial need
• Open to students from a variety of majors
• Eligibility, application materials, and deadlines vary depending on the award
• Involve a substantial amount of time commitment and careful planning

What do these awards provide?
Depends on the award, includes but is not limited to:
• Funding for overseas experiential learning: research, intensive language study, teaching assistantships, etc., both during undergrad and beyond
• Funding for graduate school either domestically or abroad

Why should I apply?
The application process is a form of professional development in and of itself:
• Become a more confident writer
• Sharpen interviewing skills
• Think critically about future goals

Is my first or second year too early to start thinking about these opportunities?
Absolutely not! Most applications are due junior or senior year, but joining our Undergraduate Fellows Program as a first-year student or sophomore will help you prepare.
Junior distance runner Kenneth Talavera has quickly become a star on both UTEP's track and field team and the cross country team. At UTEP, the Ciudad Juárez native runs the 800-meter, 1,500-meter and one-mile races in the spring. Photos by Emmanuel Rivas Valenzuela/ The Prospector

Editor's note: This article is a part of a three-part series featuring student-athletes from the Mexican State of Chihuahua. Kenneth Talavera is known to some across UTEP as a star track and cross-country athlete. The junior has earned All-Conference USA First Team honors on a very competitive roster with countless accolades in his designated event of the 800-meter, 1,500-meter and one-mile runs. What makes Talavera stand out from most is he is only one of a handful of UTEP student-athletes who are from Ciudad Juárez; El Paso's sister city. The distance runner attended the Mexican Institute of Ciudad Juárez (Instituto México de Cd. Juárez), but started running track back in middle school despite it not being too big of a sport in Ciudad Juárez. There, Talavera began to run mostly for fun, but soon began to pick up on fundamentals and technique while focusing on his main sport at the time, soccer. "By my freshman year of high school in Juárez, I was really involved in track and field," Talavera said. "I used to go to national meets in Mexico. (Track and field) is not that popular in Juárez, but actually there is a big running community of 10K runners and 5K runners." During his junior year of high school, Talavera spent the year in Mexico City where he trained and went to school in hopes of becoming a better runner. He would eventually come back to Ciudad Juárez to better his academic standings along with his English in order to attend school in the U.S. When most international student-athletes look back on their experiences abroad, they tend to find challenges in adapting to a new culture, language and people. For Talavera, that was not the case. This is due in part to how constant the track star traveled between the two border cities. "Will of course my freshman year and my sophomore year here were very hard for me," Talavera said. "But I have been crossing the border since I can remember. Here at UTEP most of the population here is Hispanic people, so there are not really struggles. I like El Paso, I like Juárez, and, in my opinion, they are the same cities. Because I'm crossing the border at least once a week. I think I was already used to coming to El Paso and there were no big changes in my thoughts about El Paso." For those native to El Paso, UTEP is not their first choice. Several high school graduates find themselves itching to leave, but for Talavera, this feeling did not exist. UTEP also offered Talavera something that not many schools can offer. "I saw UTEP as my dream school," Talavera said. "Normally people in Juárez will go to UACJ (the Autonomous University of Ciudad Juárez) or other schools in Juárez, and they are very good. But, since I was a child, I wanted to do a sport. So, when I had the chance to do track and field and the chance to represent UTEP, I did not think twice. Having this opportunity to run D1 and not being that far from my house, I think that is the main thing." Talavera hopes to come back to UTEP soon after receiving his bachelor's degree in construction management, with a master's degree in Talavera's sight, but he hopes to keep running in any capacity. "I started out in civil engineering, but I got this class that was named construction management and that was my favorite class," Talavera said. "I'm more into the management of civil engineering, so that is why I made the change. The plan is to try to get a master's degree after my eligibility years and maybe make it to the pro scene. Right now, my plan is just to enjoy one year at a time and then try to keep improving." Talavera, along with the rest of the track and field team are set to compete at the New Mexico Spring Invitational Thursday, April 6 at the University of New Mexico Track and Field and Soccer Complex in Albuquerque, New Mexico with the Conference USA Outdoor Track and Field Championships just over a month away for the Juárez native. Talavera has already snagged gold for the mile race at the C-USA Indoor T&F Champions earlier last year, something he accomplished just a year prior. Talavera has a simple message for aspiring international athletes. "I think the main advice I will give is to not be afraid of anything," Talavera said. "Sometimes, you will receive some opportunities to come to the U.S. and you may just reject them, because do not know English, but I will say, just take the take the opportunities that you get and don't be afraid just go for it." Statistics provided by UTEP Athletics.
Are subpar NFL quarterbacks overpaid?

BY KATRINA VILLARREAL

The letterman, also known as the varsity jacket, has its roots in American college baseball. Originating from the Harvard baseball team in 1865, the idea of sewing the first letter of the school onto a uniform would soon bleed over to the Harvard football team. Although this was more of a team uniform, these origins set the trajectory for what we now know as the letterman jacket.

Since the cardigan was gaining popularity over the pullover, the letter had to be moved to the left from the center. The popularity of this “letterman” jacket eventually spread across the country and the jacket that we know today took its form in 1930. The wool jacket with leather sleeves and chenille lettering was embroidered onto football jackets. Although celebrities may not have earned their letterman through athletic achievements, they not only helped promote it to the youth, but they kept the jacket relevant for almost a century.

Some icons known to have worn letterman jackets throughout the years include James Dean, Michael Jackson and ASAP Rocky. Celebrities may have borrowed the style of these jackets, but outside of its timeless looks, the letterman has meaning behind it. For athletes, the letterman signifies the time and effort it takes to be an athlete. In college, being a student-athlete means the student-athlete must come before the athlete. Because of this, athletics need to perform well both on and off the court or field. It is safe to say that the letterman may be one of the most easily recognizable jackets among most, if not all sports. Athletes today will earn their letter after achieving a specific accomplishment. In high school, athletes earned their letters for going to state competitions in their sport or completing a certain number of years on their high school varsity team.

College is different since it is already at the national level. Athletes earn patches or simply have them embroidered onto their letterman to signify specific achievements in their sport. Earning a letterman shows everyone that you achieved something, whether it is through athletics or the performing arts.

The letter on the jacket tells people the school in which the achievement was earned. Although the letterman transitioned from being part of sports uniforms to being a major part of everyday fashion, its main purpose has stuck. Standing the test of time and history signifying the hard work from athletes.

Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson has been looking for a new contract since 2020, but he and the Baltimore Ravens have not been able to reach an agreement. On March 2, Jackson took Twitter to say he has requested a trade from the Ravens. The Ravens placed a non-exclusive franchise tag on Jackson after the front office was unable to reach a long-term deal. Jackson’s season in 2022 was cut short due to a knee injury he faced in week 13; with a Most Valuable Player Award and some stellar seasons, Jackson is worthy of a $40 million contract.

Allen and Jackson are only to name a few quarterbacks worthy of the contracts Jones has. Free agency has just begun so we will have to wait and see if other quarterbacks receive the contracts they deserve. Before you say anything, I realize Allen had more interceptions than Jones, but Allen has improved since his first season with the Bills; leading them to the playoffs in his second season.

BY NICHOLAS MAES

The Prospector

The 2023 Free Agency season officially kicked off March 15 for the National Football League (NFL) and it has been crazy to say the least. With fresh faces in new places and new contracts being signed, some quarterbacks are earning a little more than they should, raising the concern of the quarterback market being in trouble.

New York Giants quarterback Daniel Jones signed a four-year $160 million contract extension, which includes $82 million fully guaranteed, according to CBS; he has an annual salary of $40 million dollars making him the seventh highest paid quarterback. No offense to any Giants fans, but Jones is not worth $40 million. Let us not forget the time when he ran for 80-yards and tripped just before reaching the endzone in 2020. Yes, during the 2022 season, he led the Giants to its first playoff berth since 2016; but barely.

The Giants won the Wild Card round matchup against the Minnesota Vikings 31-24, but lost in the Divisional round to the Philadelphia Eagles 38-7. In the game against the Eagles, Jones had 15 completions for 135 yards, zero touchdowns, one interception and was sacked five times. Jones finished the 2022-2023 NFL season with 3,205 yards (15th), 15 touchdowns (tied for 21st), five interceptions (third) and a quarterback rating of 60.8 (sixth). Jones led the Giants to 2-0 in the beginning of the season until New York lost to Cooper Rush and the Dallas Cowboys in the third game. After that, the Giants had a winning streak, but then began losing games. The Giants finished 9-7-1 and third in the National Football Conference (NFC) East. You have to remember, Jones did not do it alone; he has players such as running back Saquon Barkley, who finished fourth in rushing yards (1,312). According to CBS, when Barkley plays, Jones has 44 passing touchdowns and 17 interceptions; when he is not playing Jones has 16 passing touchdowns and 17 interceptions. A real testament to Jones’ production.

There are many other quarterbacks in the NFL that deserve that amount because of how well they have played throughout their careers. One quarterback who is worthy is Buffalo Bills quarterback Josh Allen. Allen had his contract restructured due to the team being over its salary cap. According to Buffalo News, Allen’s new contract will have a base salary of $23.5 million for the 2024 season. Allen finished the 2022 season with 4,283 yards (seventh), 35 touchdowns (tied for second), 14 interceptions (tied for 30th) and a quarterback rating of 71.4 (second). Before you say anything, I realize Allen had more interceptions than Jones, but Allen has improved since his first season with the Bills; leading them to the playoffs in his second season.

Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson has been looking for a new contract since 2020, but he and the Baltimore Ravens have not been able to reach an agreement.

A look into the letterman’s standing of time

The Prospector

The letterman has stood the test of time signifying the hard work from student-athletes. Photo by Emmanuel Rivas Valenzuela/The Prospector

WORK STUDY

POSITION AVAILABLE:
HELP US WITH:
- Customer Service
- Tabling
- Social media
- Presentations and promotions
- Plan and coordinate events AND MORE!

To view complete job posting and/or to apply, visit Job Mine. Code: #27180839
COMMENTARY

UTEP ‘Just Did It,’ They Switched to Adidas

BY NICHOLAS MAES
The Prospector

As of November 2022, UTEP has been in talks with a third-party athletic supplier, Game One, to replace Nike with Adidas as UTEP’s source for athletic uniforms. Although a contract has not yet been finalized or approved, this includes athletics using Nike footwear, gear and accessories. According to KTSM, the supposed five-year deal would begin for the upcoming 2023 season and includes every sport. UTEP had initially partnered with Nike in 2004, first outfitting the football program then expanding to include every sport. An offer sheet obtained by KTSM stated UTEP would be provided with yearly discounts on athletic equipment. If the university spends a specific amount of money annually with Game One, UTEP would be supplied with additional gear and apparel at no cost. In the 2023 fiscal year, monetary assistance was also to be provided to make the transition to Adidas easier. Other incentives would be provided on the basis of athletic performance and increases in funding would be given for conference championships, bowl berths and tournament appearances. Considering all the perks of going into this partnership with Game One for Adidas, it is clear to see the main reason UTEP switched from Nike to Adidas, because of the monetary benefits of this partnership. These benefits likely made the new contract more beneficial than being with Nike, if the university did not receive the same or any benefits. However, the question remains: is Adidas up to par for UTEP athletics over Nike? Some may argue Adidas is the better brand, but Nike has been unshackling a reputation in athletics that has challenged Adidas for over the past 30 years. Their reputation was set in stone when one of Nike’s biggest collaborations happened with basketball legend Michael Jordan. Converse was one of the leaders in athletic footwear prior to Nike, often being used in sports like basketball and boxing. Nike was huge in pop culture as well, being featured in movies like “Back to the Future,” “Terminator” and “Space Jam,” the last of which featured Michael Jordan himself and a pair of Air Jordan 11s. Adidas had a different story when it came to athletics. Adidas was around fifty years before Nike and dipped its feet in athletics soon after its founding. Track and field star Jesse Owens was one of the most notable athletes to have donned Adidas. Reportedly receiving his shoes from Adidas founder Adolf “Adi” Dassler. The shoes would then be worn at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Throughout the 70s, Adidas made a name for itself in soccer, as players made the switch in favor of lightweight shoes featuring screw-in cleats. Because of this, Adidas eventually formed a line for sporting goods in 1963, but their popularity began to fall as brands like Nike were on the rise. After the company’s decline in athletics, the company gained pop-ularity in the hip-hop community through Run-D.M.C. in the 1980s and most recently through rapper Kanye West. Considering the background behind both brands, Nike was able to remain relevant in sports, while Adidas was forced out and became better known for its role in pop culture. Although Adidas remains a strong competitor in football and soccer with cleats, Nike generally dominates overall in the industry. Although the Adidas switch may have been a better choice financially for the university, some of the athletes may not perform up to their maximum capabilities, as Nike made a name for themselves in athletics and for good reason. Today, Nike still remains in sports, with athletes like LeBron James, Serena Williams and Eliud Kipchoge all donning the shoe giant to perform. Kipchoge may be the greatest testament to the shoe’s capabilities today, as he wore them to run a world record marathon just last year. The fact that Nike took Adidas out of the limelight in sports should be enough proof Nike is the better athletic brand. Brands have come close to Nike in different sports, but it is safe to say Nike has dominated in every sport.

Nicholas Maes is a contributor and may be reached at nmamas@miners.utep.edu.

Upcoming UTEP Athletic Events

Softball vs. UNT Mean Green
6 p.m., April 6
3 p.m., April 7
and noon, April 8
Helen of Troy Softball Complex

Softball vs. NMSU Aggies
6:00 p.m., April 11
Helen of Troy Softball Complex

SPILL THE TEA!

Tell us your thoughts on what events and activities you want to see at UTEP.

WIN COOL PRIZES!

Brought to you by the Dean of Students Office.

Complete the Student Engagement Survey by April 23.
What is the Climate Charter known as Prop K on the Ballot?
Prop K is a people-led ballot measure initiative to codify climate action into our city charter, while holding our utility companies and city government accountable for their goals and promises to address climate change and environmental issues in our community.

Scan our QR code to access all of our campaign-related pages, including our voter pledge form, volunteer form, donation link, website, news article, and more!

Access our quick links:
linktr.ee/elpasoclimate

Important dates
Voter Registration Deadline
April 6, 2023

Early Voting
April 24, 2023 to May 2, 2023

Election Day
May 6, 2023

What will Prop K do for our community?
Prop K was created by El Pasoans to protect and empower our community.

Here is a summary on what Prop K strives to do for the city of El Paso:
Create safe, sustainable jobs;
Transition city-owned property to solar;
Conserve our water;
Establish a Climate Department, Climate Director, and a Climate Commission made up of El Paso residents;
Prepare for climate disaster and mitigation response;
Eliminate fines or fees associated with using renewable energy;
Establish renewable energy goals for the city and privately-owned electric utility;
Determine the feasibility of making our electric utility publicly-owned by the community; and more!

READ THE FULL POLICY HERE
bit.ly/elpasoclimatepolicy

Join Sunrise El Paso, and local advocates to rally for the Climate Charter and get out the vote this May 6.

You are invited!