Pokémon takes over campus

BY ADRIAN BROADUS
The Prospector

It may be over 100 degrees under the blistering sun during the late afterschool hours, but crowds of hunters will be out trying to find a Pokémon to brag about to the rest of their friends. While some of the hurdles vanished when Wired Spoda intensified and rains fell from above, some still huddled under their backpacks because they were in an intense duel.

Instead of going out to the clubs, finding a hot date on a Saturday night or spending the night in with Netflix and a tub of ice cream, countless Pokémon Go players flood the front of the UTEP Library in hopes of boosting their level, checking in at the different Pokéspots or battling against others in the "Gym," an environment where you can battle other Pokémon teams.

The multitudes of Pokémon players all have one goal in mind—to catch ‘em all.

Pokémon Go is an app that is based on the Pokémon series, which started more than 20 years ago. In the "90s, Pokémon made its debut on the Nintendo Game Boy, and "Pokémon Go" has evolved the classic game into a whole new realm of gameplay. In the new spinoff of the classic videogame, users seize virtual reality monsters called Pokémon and use them as the premise of the game. When a Pokémon is captured by the user, the game can then care for it, evolve it, release it for extra points, or battle with it against other gamers’ Pokémon. Along with the playing process, the user’s character can level up after a certain number of points, gain badges for achievements and collect more Pokémon.

Now, instead of the usual hurried walk students usually have to get to their destination, people all around campus are attentively walking and occasionally stopping to catch a Pokémon. In fact, senior criminal justice major Juan Calvo enjoys not seeing the typical students, who would walk around without caring about anyone else.

"I've seen this many people on campus, but I don’t think I’ve ever noticed them without headphones on or trying to avoid everyone," Calvo said. "It makes UTEP feel a lot friendlier around campus. Before, you would walk around campus seeing everyone with headphones on trying to look down—he was kind of cold."

In just a week since its launch, the app increased Nintendo’s stock market value by approximately $14 billion. According to the Huffington Post, the estimated amount of money the app makes in a single day can range up to $1.6 million, and the average person uses it 33.4 minutes a day—which is higher than Facebook (22 minutes) and Snapchat (18 minutes).

Although the game is booming as of late and roots atop the charts in the app store, senior political science major Nicole Mata believes that the Pokémon craze is just a fad that will die out soon enough.

"The app will surely live for a short period, just as everything else does within the millennial generation," Mata said. "A new thing will come along, and will distract from the game until it’s a memory brought up at next year’s family reunion.

The free app, available on all major devices, does require the user to actually venture outside their house to capture Pokémon. These creatures are most commonly found in bigger congregation places, such as a big park, the Don Haskins Center, a community space such as San Jacinto Plaza or a well-known area such as UTEP. For Calvo, the best spot on campus for the UTEP Pokémon community is the library.

"Definitely the library is the best because you can stay in one spot and capture four hours or Pokéstops," Calvo said. "It’s easy: I would be more avid on gym if I had more friends who played with me. I take over all the gyms on campus, but within five minutes, someone has taken it from me. The gym is the best because I get the chance to knock someone out. Someone spent the time to get it, but I just took it from him or her. That’s my favorite team.

Although he is usually in class all day at the Law School Preparatory Institute, Calvo still finds time to play the game that he has loved ever since he was a kid. Calvo has captured over 3,000 Pokémon and is on level 17.

"I play every day," Calvo said. "I usually come during class. I get to play usually five hours a day. I grew up playing Pokémon. I learned to read by playing Pokémon back in 1996."

see POKÉMON on page 4
Hundreds of thousands have gathered in protest of the brutality they say the police have inflicted on minorities, and millions of people have watched tragedy after tragedy unfold. It's a topic everyone seems to have an opinion about.

However, the police force does more than embody the notion of being the brutal arbitrator of a racist justice system. They arrest people, and by doing so, they change the life of every single person that gets processed into our legal system.

For many of us, when we fill out an application, there is a section that asks a seemingly simple and under-processed question. “Have you ever been convicted of a crime?” Most check no and move on, but for millions of people in the U.S. this isn’t the case for them the odds of truly starting over diminish the moment they’re released from prison.

It does seem to make sense though. Most people would prefer to know if they’re working with a recently released Ted Bundy. According to the Prison Policy Initiative, out of the 2.3 million people in prison last year, roughly 15,500 are in prison or jail because of a violent crime, which can range from homicide to simple assault. The idea that people who have been in jail or prison are violent maniacs who cannot be trusted is a tawdry notion.

If we put people in prison because they broke the law and they need to be punished then why does the punishment extend long after the crime? The price someone pays for breaking the law can be years, sometimes decades, of his or her life in society. Former prisoners pay that price, yet we tell them they are not welcome back.

Those who have made a mistake have broken the law, but it is not just the individual who is punished. The kids of those individuals are also punished. Someone who was locked up can try to pay his bills, but he still has to feed his children and pay the bills to keep a roof over their head.

They will use desperate measures to make sure there is enough food on the table. You don’t need to pass a background check to sell drugs and you don’t need to check mark a box to steal. Those “jobs” are always available and the money is there.

At this point, it becomes easier to go back to prison than it does to get a stable job and begin to contribute toward society. The quality of life declines for both the children and the person who supposedly has paid his or her debt to society. This can potentially impact everything from basic nutrition to education. Even their grandchildren’s future is at risk because once the cycle of poverty starts it can be difficult to stop.

It doesn’t take a financial guru to figure out that the more we put people into prison and the more we keep them out of the workforce, the weaker our economy is going to come. The weaker our economy, the fewer jobs are going to be available, and the fewer jobs that are available, the more people will turn to other means to make ends meet.

Our justice system is a vicious cycle that actively dissuades rehabilitation. To call it a “justice” system is almost oxymoronic at this point. Justice for whom? Is it justice for someone who was caught smoking pot to miss out on an education because they are no longer eligible for financial aid? Is it justice to no longer have a say in our political system because you are a felon who can’t vote? Is it justice to pay a price, and then continue to pay it for the rest of your life? If you can’t vote, can’t get an education, can’t get a job, then are you even a citizen of this country? A country that brags about opportunity, and the so-called government of the people, by the people and for the people? Of course, all of this assumes that when someone is arrested it is because they are guilty. This all assumes that those who did the crime is that. That’s a heavy asumption to make. Not to mention that minorities are heavily over-represented in our prison system and in poverty levels. So while all of this has a lasting effect on millions of people of all races, it has a devastating impact on minorities.

I was at work one day, talking with my manager as he looked over applications. He passed over one with that checkmark on the “yes” box, chuckled and said “Uhh no.” He went on to the next one. I wondered if that individual was desperate for a job? Did they have a child they were trying to feed and clothed? Was this going to be the final job they apply for before doing something drastic to make ends meet?

We all get a second chance. When you didn’t get caught smoking pot, when you weren’t pulled over the night you blacked out and somehow drove home, when you got in a fight and nobody called the cops. The one who wasn’t so lucky don’t get that chance. That has got to change.

Either we treat the formally incarcerated as human beings who deserve a second chance or we create a society that robs people of the ability to make a mistake.
QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Have you gone out to catch Pokémon this summer?

CESAR HERRERA
Junior electrical engineering major
"Yes, I play because I love it as a kid, and I love the adventure and searching for things.”

JOSHUA ACOSTA
Freshman mechanical engineering major
"No, I don’t find it as interesting as other people do, just not my kind of thing.”

JOCelyn TORRES
Junior civil engineering major
"I’ve been playing Pokémon Go, I watched it as a kid and it’s cool to start getting into it again.”

JUAN CARLOS LOPEZ
Graduate student education
"Yes, I don’t play Pokémon Go, I’ve heard about it but I just don’t have time for that game.”

JAI ME BLANCARTE
Junior nursing major
"I’ve been playing it. It gets really competitive to get the best Pokémon out of your friends and you get to meet people, it’s fun.”

ANTONIO VACA
Senior mathematics major
"I play “Pokémon Go” because I grew up with Pokémon and doing this now is like a dream come true.”

RENEE ALEXANDRA TREJO
Junior English major
"I’ve barely started playing, but I downloaded “Pokémon Go” because it’s popular right now, and in my generation growing up, I always dreamed of catching Pokémon, so I think it’s cool that it’s a virtual reality now.”

RENE OCHOA
Junior electrical engineering major
"I play because it’s a pretty cool app. We’ve been waiting for it for over a year. We couldn’t wait.”

LAURA HERNANDEZ
Senior education major
"I do not play I’ve never been a fan of Pokémon.”

LUIS DOMINGUEZ
Junior electrical engineering major
"Yes, because I used to play as a kid and it gives me a very nostalgic feeling when I play.”

EVELYN STAINS
Freshman social work major
"I do play “Pokémon Go,” and I play it because I’ve always wanted to play Pokémon, but never had the right system for it, so being able to play it without having to buy an entirely new system is awesome.”

SARAH ESTRADA
Junior kinesiology major
"Yes, I used to play when I was really little, but never stayed up to date with new Pokémon that would come out. Then this app came out and it was a lot more accessible and fun to actually get out and catch them.”

TROY SAVID
Graduate student civil engineering
"I do play Pokémon because it’s a game that I grew up with when I was a kid. I’m able to play it again and just rekindle that old experience.”
Undergoing said that El Paso has many negative connotations that might confuse outsiders about what is the reality of the city. In 2013, he created "River Spirit," which is the river-shaped design of the floor around the baggage claim area, which includes a message to people coming to El Paso to see the beauty the city has to offer.

"It was about making people leaving the airport with positive ideas about our city and not with negative ones," Undergoing said. The river design divides the United States and Mexico, differentiating between the two nations.

"It shows the world why there is so much life here," Undergoing said. "The river is more like a thread that makes us different, that separates us, but that also brings us together. The river part of the installation is about being free and experiencing the region without having to deal with the bureaucracy of each nation."

"People who have been completely enthralled by the game have gone even lengths to capture a rare Pokémon," Mata said. "The game is so popular because it involves going into dark areas alone at night to find these coveted game pieces, but they are unaware that predators know that these areas are secluded."

 Aside from the great monetary aspect that the app has generated or the danger that the app could have, Calv says that the game has a societal impact that overrides all the other arguments.

"I think Pokémon Go is helpful to the community," Calv says. "You see people walking around, you are friendly people too. People will just be standing around. The other day, I went around looking with people looking for a Pokemon, and it helps me make friends."

The app plans to release new updates within the month and improve on the first version. Developers of new Pokémon added, more items and fewer server errors are foating around the nation.
The Steve Miller Band will perform at the Don Haskins Center on Friday, July 29.

BY ANDRIA GRANADO
The Prospector

The American rock group, the Steve Miller Band, will perform at the Don Haskins Center July 29 as part of the group’s 2016 North American Summer Tour.

The tour, which was confirmed in the wake of Steve Miller’s acceptance and induction as a solo artist into The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame last year, kicked off June 17 in Northfield, Ohio.

The band will make its stop in El Paso before concluding their tour in San Francisco, Calif., at AT&T Park.

Throughout the course of the band’s career they have been both, in the words of a release about the tour, “a psychedelic blues sound that drew the words of a release about the tour, band’s career they have been both, in San Francisco, Calif., at AT&T Park.

The Steve Miller Band has long been recognized as one of America’s prominent roots music and a “brand of rock ‘n’ roll music that was polished, exciting and irresistible.”

The group is responsible for contributing staples such as “The Joker,” “Livin’ in the USA” and “Take the Money and Run” to the genre.

“We (Steve Miller) is an institution in the music industry and I’m looking forward to seeing him live on stage,” said Jorge Vasquez, executive director of UTEP’s Office of Special Events.

The Steve Miller Band’s members have changed several times over the years, but its current members include Jacob Peterson, Joseph Wooten, Gordy Knudson and Kenny Lee Lewis.

Miller has recently been contributing his time to serving on the welcoming committee of the Department of Musical Instruments of New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art and as a board member of Jazz at Lincoln Center, where he curates and hosts shows at both institutions, “celebrating the bridge between blues and jazz music and early American music.”

Tickets are available through the UTEP Ticket Center, Ticketmaster.com or by phone at 800-745-3000.

Doors are scheduled to open at 7 p.m. and patrons are asked to arrive early due to security checks and traffic and to not bring alcohol, food and beverages, pets, laser pointers, audio/video recorders, weapons, fireworks, bottles/containers, umbrellas, coolers, ice chests, sign/banners, strollers, helium balloons, drones or professional cameras with detachable lenses.

Glory Road will not be accessible from Mesa Street past the Sun Metro Bus Terminal Parking Garage.

Andrea Granado may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.
Top 2016 hip-hop mixtapes so far

BY ADRIAN BROADOUX

Lil Yachty's "Lil Boat"

Lil Yachty is not a rapper, rather the self-proclaimed 10-year-old prefers the term "artist." And that is simply what Lil Yachty does on "Lil Boat"—he creates art through hard trap beats mixed with soft vocals. The album sounds like how one would sound if Nintendo ever made a rap album for one of their video games, but is mastered in doing so. His hit, "One Night," is a slower track with more vocals, however, Yachty has bangers on the tapes such as "Good Day," "Rats Stinking" and "Tucked Over." After the mixtape dropped, Lil Yachty has been relied on every feature he has been on, and this is simply the stepping-stone of so much more by him.

Logic "Bobby Tarantino"

Logic pulled a fast one (Bernence) on all of us—dropping a mixtape with no announcement prior to the release whatsoever. His first mixtape since "Welcome to Forever" in, as he defines it, "for his fans." The 11 tracks on the mixtape sound effortless in Logic's attempt at showcasing his masterful ability to flow. The mixtape also leaves room for more, as heard in "Studio Ambiance at Night: Malibi," a song in which Logic previewed one of the songs off his next album. Overall, the mixtape sounds masterful, and surely grenade at the first listener.

Young Thug "Slime Season 3"

How could you have Thugga out in front of a 10 feat? He is already running the game as far as mixtapes and "Slime Season 3" shows how he has no intention of stopping at any time soon. The mixtape is comprised of eight tracks that flow well, but his previous mixtape, "I'm Up," with more rap and hard-hitting beats. It also makes listeners anticipate his next work, "Jeffery," which will possibly come out early in the fall.

Lil Uzi Vert "Lil Uzi Vert vs. the World"

Who would have known a purple-haired rapper out of Philadelphia would test the boundaries of the rap game by so much. The album is as unique as it is daring, taking the main character in the movie "Scott Pilgrim vs. the World." Through unique twists, production schemes and bars, the album has earned much praise for the rapper's fresh man work.

Kodack Black "11B.I.G. Pac"

Jack could have enjoyed the afternoon of his fourth project, "11B.I.G. Pac," but the 19-year-old rapper was behind bars during its release and will probably be in prison for a while for weapon and drug charges. Bars will not stop Kodack from releasing one of the hottest tapes of the summer. He is a rapper who does not conform to the Drake and mainstream era—he sticks to his roots and voices the truth as he proclaims.

Migos "Y.N.R. 2"

It is hard to top a mixtape such as "Y.N.R.," which dropped multi-cultural changes that Migos sparked, such as "Versace" and having every teen rap, or hitting the "So So Blas. However, on the beagnuudicous tape of "Y.N.R. 2," Migos deliver a plethora of great music. They venture through different producers, such as DnD, Zaytoven and Wendy Ono. Quavo, one member of the Migos, has been influencing the trap game, and he produces high-quality rap on the tape.

The Prospector

JULY 19, 2016

MINETRACKS

11B.I.G. PAC

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CHECK OUT: "How Does it Feel, for a laid-back, ghetto anthem. The song brings Kamaiyah back to her roots. "I'm Off," is a track that takes her back to Oakland for a gritty dance track.

KAMAIYAH "A Good Night in the Ghetto in 2016"

Do not even mess with Kamaiyah because the hard-hitting, Oakland rapper will destroy you with her vicious lyrics. She wanted to make a tape that was "for the average 18-25-year-old thriving, living and having a good time... with no drama and no one being hurt." The tape is beautifully written and definitely 90's hip hop inspired. CHECK OUT: "How Does it Feel," for a laid-back, ghetto anthem. The song brings Kamaiyah back to her roots. "I'm Off," is a track that takes her back to Oakland for a gritty dance track.

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Amusan leaps to World Championships and seeks Rio

By Adrian Broaddus

She stands at the runway ahead of her, which seems so unfamiliar to sophomore hurdles standout Tobi Amusan. It is the same track that she practices on, with the same coach helping her push hard. However, not one other teammate sits besides Amusan during her post-season races. They have either all gone home for the summer, are taking summer classes or are just taking a break from the track.

Despite the fact she ended her Conference USA season with a second-place finish at the NCAA Tournament, Amusan is not finished yet. She will travel to the IAAF World Under 20 Championships, which will be held in Bydgoszcz, Poland, on July 19-24, followed by the Olympics, where she will represent her home country of Nigeria, and travel to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in late August.

"I want to go a little bit more faster because I feel my body is in a good shape to run faster," Amusan said. "Racing against some of the top athletes in the U.S. is going to make me run fast. Going into the championship, knowing I got the fastest time in the hurdles, it's going to propel me to run faster. Girls are going to know me as the fast girl from Nigeria, so that will push me harder too."

Despite her excitement, the thoughts of her being alone on the Kidd Field track at UTEP still linger in Amusan's head.

"It's really hard training alone—there's no one to push me, but I push myself," Amusan said. "I'm just trying so hard, but I think that is the way I think I can run. I feel I'm training alone and going to the competition alone, so I will block everyone out and do myself. There's no one to tell me, 'oh, you got this girl.' I'm just here. Coach is the one saying, 'you can do it.'"

Her secret to combining mental toughness with the physical aspect the sport requires is simply consistency.

"I'm not doing anything different," she said. "It's more of the rest. Like my country used to say: the nine-minute training is not going to make you break the world record. It's what you've been doing and the consistencies of the program and your diet, but other than that, there is not much different. The only difference is both of these competitions are going to be entirely different from college races."

"It's a great privilege given to me by God because I never dream of this," Amusan said. "It's one of the greatest feelings to represent my country because it's rare for someone to make it to the Olympics, and your country gives you the opportunity to be there."

Amusan, who clocked her best time this year in the 100-meter hurdles at 12.83, is looking to set a new personal record for herself. That is only one of the many different accomplishments Amusan is striving for during this post-season action.

"The Olympics—I'm not saying I want a medal necessarily, but I want to go there, do my best, get a new personal record and breaking the African record," Amusan said. "I know I can do it, but it's one step at a time and anything can happen. But I can't worry about going to the medals table or running faster—anything that happens, glory be to God."

Currently, the Nigerian hurdler is ranked 21st in the world on the senior list and ranks among the top Nigerian times for the country's best in the hurdles. However, being in the top 25 in the world has little affect on Amusan.

"I'm not bothered by world ranking," Amusan said. "Like NCAA Finals, I went into the finals as the last qualifier and I got second, so ranking is nothing."

The once-little girl from Nigeria never dreamed she could go this high in such little time.

"I used to just go to the track, just like a normal girl, and run," Amusan said. "After going for a major championship and my nationality, I felt like I really need to take this stuff seriously. I thought of training for the Olympics some day, but I was thinking way ahead, like 2020 or past. I wouldn't have thought I would have made it this fast."

Amusan left for Poland from El Paso with her coaches on July 16. She will then fly with the Nigerian team to Brazil in late August. However, it is unsure whether she has a spot on the team yet.
Questions going into football’s summer training camp

BY ADRIAN BROADUS

The Prospector

As August rolls around the corner, the UTEP football team will retreat to the mountains of Baldyso and begin their annual training camp on Aug. 3. This camp will allow the squad to zero in on their plans for the season. The Miners will open up season play on Sept. 3 against the University of Mexico at home.

Below are some questions to focus on during the upcoming training camp.

1. HOW HEALTHY IS AARON JONES?

After being sidelined for the majority of the season due to a foot injury in the second half against Texas Tech in September 2015, all eyes are on junior standout running back Aaron Jones. All the what-if’s and what-could-have-beens from last season will transfer over into this season, as Miners anxiously wait for what the running back will produce in his most anticipated year yet.

Jones has been testing ever since he was injured and now is back, amid claims he is up to 100 percent. The El Paso native and Burges High School graduate is eighth in UTEP’s history for all-time rushing yards with 2,241 yards and has scored 20 touchdowns in 23 games. He has already received preseason recognition by being featured on the Doak Walker award watch list and the Maxwell award watch list. Jones was also named by Dave Campbell’s All-Texas team as the seventh player in the 50 Most Important College Football Players in Texas.

2. WHO WILL BE THE STARTING QUARTERBACK?

This might be a question that will be asked well after the summer training camp. In fact, it might be a question that is asked leading up to their first game on Sept. 3. Head coach Sean Kugler and offensive coordinator Brent Fease have three different options in Ryan Metz, Karvik Johnson and Fresno State transfer Zak Greenlee. Last year’s starting quarterback, Mack Leftwich, will be sidelined for the entire season due to a shoulder injury.

Throughout spring ball, Metz emerged as a definite front-runner at the quarterback core. He completed big passes and has moved the ball at a rapid pace during the offense’s two-minute drills. However, Metz underperformed during the actual Spring Game, only completing 4-of-11 for mere 19 yards. Last season, Metz started in five games of the eight he played.

After Leftwich was knocked out of the NMSU game with a concussion last year, Metz led the team from behind on a one-game victory over the Aggies, which included completing 13-of-19 passes for 218 total passing yards and the game-winning touchdown.

After Metz had back-to-back poor performances against UTSA and Florida International, Johnson stepped in as the running back to eliminate some of the troubles the team was having in the quarterback spot.

Prior to his play at quarterback, Johnson came into the game in the Wildcat package and caused confusion on the team by keeping it on the ground. Throughout the season, Johnson threw for 218 yards on 27-of-53 passes, four total touchdowns and 209 rushing yards. However, Johnson did not have the best game for either. He completed 10-of-22 for 66 yards in a game dominated by the defense.

Almost immediately after the sub-par performance by Metz and Johnson, the program added Greenlee to the mix. The junior, who has played in California all his life, started five games last season for the Bulldogs and appeared in seven. He led the team with 866 passing yards and completed 74-156 attempts. He completed 13 touchdowns and six interceptions. The remarkable part about Greenlee is his ability to be dynamic in the pocket, yet escape the pocket and still make a play.

FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR

3. WHAT FRESHMAN RECEIVER WILL SPARK THE MOST NOISE?

There will be 15 players stepping into their first-ever college training camp this summer. Out of the pack, the one poised to make an immediate impact for many preseason notices, such as being named to the 2015 All-American Bowl by Dave Campbell, and was recognized on the John Mackey award watch list. Through 11 games in 2015, Pliske ranked second on the team in receptions (37) and receiving yards (495). After his dominant season, he was named a 2015 Conference USA Honorable Mention.

5. DOES ALVIN JONES HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A USA DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR?

Yes. While the spotlight is on Aaron Jones for his dynamic impact on offense, his twin brother Alvin is a silent killer on the defensive side. The junior linebacker started in all 12 games of the 2015 season and led the team with 93 tackles (48 solo and 45 assisted), 14.5 tackles for loss, 6.5 sacks and two fumble recoveries. He tied for second place in C-USA last year in tackles for loss. He was named last year to the 2015 All-Conference USA Honorable Mention list.

This year, he leads the pack of wolverines on defense. Jones already garnished honors from Dave Campbell’s All-Texas players watch list as the number 38 player to watch in Texas. Alvin brings a whole new unique edge to the linebacker spot—he has speed mixed with strength.

Mike Braddish may be reached at mbraddish@utep.edu.