PREPARING FOR Valentine’s Day

BE MINE
I LOVE YOU
Meh

NETFLIX

DESIGN BY ANA RAMOS / THE PROSPECTOR
**Chicks before dicks: Celebrating Galentine’s Day**

By Leslie Sariñana

The Prospector

Even if you don’t celebrate Valentine’s Day and claim to be too cool for it — the stress of the holiday is simply too much to get to you. If you’re like me, you ever thought about everything that happens that day and end up disappointed every year.

February 13, a day that once was full of anxiety about what your plans were going to be for the next day, just became every girl’s favorite day of the year. Galentine’s Day! A holiday created by the television show “ Parks and Rec” girls take back the romance-filled holiday and turn it into a day that celebrates female friendships. When it is first introduced on the 16th episode of the show’s second season, Leslie Knope says, “Oh it’s the best day of the year. Every February 13th, my lady friends and I leave our husbands and our boyfriends at home, and we just come and kick it, breakfast-style. ‘Ladies celebrating ladies.’ Breakfast foods and female empowerment! Sign me up! Why worry about having to have a date or getting noticed and we just come and kick it, breakfast-style and we spent the day going places and doing things our SOs wouldn’t want to do. It was great to finally be able to do all of our favorite things with the people who enjoyed it just as much. The whole day felt like a huge hug.

Follow Leslie Sariñana on Twitter @GreciaSanchez88

**Valentine’s Day: Time for a mutual love**

By Adrian Broaddus

The Prospector

Contrary to the modern-day pessimists, I don’t hate Valentine’s Day. I think it’s a time for people in a relationship to take a step back from their hectic, busy lifestyles and spend a day together to celebrate a mutual love. Again, I’m all for Valentine’s Day — the flowers, the candy, the unnecessary presents, the dinner, the date and everything leading up to it. But the reason so many people, especially college students, aren’t fans of Valentine’s Day is the lack of equal presents for those who once had.

If you are the optimistic, good for you. If you happen to be the pessimist, good for you! Either way, my point is this is not about having a relationship or not, this is about respecting each other’s beliefs toward a celebration, just like everyone else respects every other not-so-controversial celebration throughout the year.

From a woman who has always enjoyed this day with either friends or a boyfriend, I’m always excited to give little gifts to others throughout this love celebration. Most importantly, I believe the idea of expressing love doesn’t seem too bad in a world where wars, genocides and school shootings are taking place. This year, I am especially happy and excited to celebrate love in a world where hate seems to be the daily meal.

Follow Adrian Broaddus on Twitter @adrian_broaddus

**It’s my Valentine’s Day and I’ll be happy if I want to**

By Grecia Sanchez

The Prospector

Valentine’s Day can either be your best or worst celebration of the year. Most people would probably think it all comes down to whether you have a relationship.

You can be either an optimist or person and spend money on gifts for your significant other or you can be a pessimist because you want. Or you can be the pessimistic person that just complains about money to the ones who actually enjoy the day (or that have partner to share it with).

If you are the optimistic, good for you. If you happen to be the pessimist, good for you! Either way, my point is this is not about having a relationship or not, this is about respecting each other’s beliefs toward a celebration, just like everyone else respects every other not-so-controversial celebration throughout the year.

From a woman who has always enjoyed this day with either friends or a boyfriend, I’m always excited to give little gifts to others throughout this love celebration. Most importantly, I believe the idea of expressing love doesn’t seem too bad in a world where wars, genocides and school shootings are taking place.

This year, I am especially happy and excited to celebrate love in a world where hate seems to be the daily meal. I plan on spending it with my boyfriend for the second time in our relationship, and I plan on spending quality time with him on such a great day for people who love to express love.

Follow Grecia Sanchez on Twitter @GreciaSanchez88

**SPEAK YOUR MIND**

Submit a letter to the editor!

Letters will be edited for clarity and brevity. Letters over 250 words are subject to editing to fit available space. Please include full name, street address and telephone number and e-mail address, plus major, classification and/or title if applicable.

Address and phone number will be used for verification only.

Send to 105 Union, 747-7477 or fax to 747-8031.
Signs you might be in a mentally or emotionally abusive relationship

BY THE PROSPECTOR STAFF

Editor’s note: According to UTEP Campus Police, these are some of the signs you may be in an unhealthy relationship. The advice listed under each topic is an opinion on why these topics can be signs of abuse. If you are experiencing one or more of these problems in your relationship, then you may need to have an open conversation with your partner or consider ending the relationship.

Overly jealous

The foundation of every successful relationship is trust. If your significant other is constantly questioning your faithfulness, it could be a sign of jealousy. It’s been said many times jealousy often stems from insecurities, and this could be the case with your loved one, but they should be willing to openly talk about their jealousy and work to overcome it.

Insulting comments

In a relationship, your goal should be to build each other up, not tear each other down. Whether it is profanity or passive aggressive comments, they can, over time, deteriorate your desires and motivation. Stay aware of insulting comments.

Threatening behavior

If your partner intimidates you by saying if you don’t do something they’re going to hurt you or themselves, this is a sign of abuse. “If you break up with me I’m going to…” is probably a sign you should break up with them and seek help as well.

Sexual pressure

In a relationship, good communication is always important, especially when it comes to being physical. Everyone has his or her boundaries. If your partner is being sexually forward with you and pressuring you beyond your comfort zone even after you request it to stop or they’re aware you’re uncomfortable, this is a form of abuse, even if they are your boyfriend or girlfriend.

Controlling behavior

If you want to talk to someone about your relationship, you can make an appointment with the University Counseling Center at 232 Union West, Monday through Thursday. You can also contact the After Hours Crisis Line at 747-5302. These services are open to UTEP students, parents and other university associates.
**BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS**

**‘IN PLAIN SIGHT: ENSLAVEMENT OF WOMEN AND THE ORIGINS OF AFRICAN GYNECOLOGY’**
A special lecture will take place on Friday, Feb. 10, in the Blumberg Auditorium at the library. Deidre Cooper Owens, an assistant professor for history from Queen College in New York, will be presenting “In Plain Sight: Enslavement of Women and the Origins of African Gynecology” at 2 p.m.

**GOSPEL EXPLOSION**
The African American Studies department and the Religious Studies department will be hosting the annual Gospel Explosion on Saturday, Feb. 11, at the Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the event begins at 6 p.m. Spoken word, dance and music will be present during this event.

**‘ON RELIGION AND VIOLENCE: LANGUAGE, ANARCHY AND WALTER BENJAMIN’**
The Religious Studies program is having a lecture titled “On Religion and Violence: Language, Anarchy and Walter Benjamin,” hosted by Jules Simons, director of Graduate Studies. The lecture will be held in the Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts on Feb. 16, at 6 p.m.

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**Sexual assault on campus rarely reported**

**THE MAJORITY OF SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS ARE UNDER 30**

By Kene Delgadillo

During the fiscal year 2015, UTEP had one incident of rape and one incident of fondling (touching the private part of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification without the consent of the victim), according to the campus' 2016 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report. The gender of both victims or any details of the incidents can’t be released to the public due to respect for the privacy of the parties involved, said UTEP Police Chief Cliff Walsh.

Deputy Title IX coordinator and assistant vice president for student support Ryan Holmes, said victims of any kind of sexual violence should act quickly after the incident, and to follow simple steps that could accelerate the investigation.

"If you are an incident of sexual assault, it is important for the person to get to a safe place and call the police," Holmes said. "If it is also important to wait for the police to arrive before making any changes, (like) changing clothes and taking a shower."

Holmes also said if victims were unable to report the incident right after it occurred, they should still do it to stop the aggressor from causing more harm to other victims.

"Even if time has passed, reporting is key. The reporter is taking a crucial step in ensuring that other members of the community are better protected from being impacted by the accused party or parties in similar ways," Holmes said. RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network), an anti-sexual violence organization, estimates college women are twice as likely to be sexually assaulted than being robbed, while 23.1 percent of female and 5.4 percent of male undergraduate students experience sexual assault or rape.

STARS (Sexual Trauma and Assault Response Services) estimates that one out of every 33 American men has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in his lifetime, making him to be about 10 percent of all victims.

"Men are less likely to report due to fear of not being believed, shame for various reasons, but possibly connected to perceived harm of what it means to be masculine, and or thinking that the situation does not happen to other men," Holmes said.

The National Crime Victimization Survey, a national survey on the frequency of crime victimization, as well as characteristics and consequences of victimization, says men are less likely to report sexual assault especially if the abuser is a woman, making the data be inconsistent with previous studies.

"For anyone who feels embarrassed and or ashamed, it is important to let him to understand that these feelings are normal and that no one will judge," Holmes said. "All entities connected to the situation are trained to provide assistance and be supportive in the assistance process."

Walsh said student orientation presentations served as prevention efforts to stop sexual assault incidents and encourage victims to report the incidents.

"Students should know that they can approach campus police or the numerous other resources on campus. There are measures in place to safely and confidentially address any issues that they may face," Walsh said.

Walsh also said UTEP students and faculty should take advantage of the resources offered by the university regardless of gender, race, ethnicity or sexual orientation.

If you or anyone you know has been sexually assaulted, contact the UTEP Police Department at 915-747-5302 or the University Counseling Center at 915-747-5302.
The less the merrier

By Nina Titovets

February 14—a day celebrated by thousands of couples to show their unswerving love for one another. It’s a day filled with overpriced red roses, fancy dinners, uncomfortable clothes and sweaty palms. As men and women’s expectations soar high for this material love fest, we are left with one question—“Is it all worth it?”

From a young age, I was introduced to Valentine’s Day as a day filled with candy grams and heart-shaped cards, but as a grew older I felt more pressure to try and fulfill the Hallmark/Hollywood version of Valentine’s Day. When I was in a relationship, I’d spend hours trying to figure out the perfect gift. Somehow the idea of spending hours trying to figure out the perfect gift was the more I cared. Beyond the gifts there was also the outfit. I needed to wear something just right and, as the case usually was, everything in my closet was absolutely right and, as the case usually was, everything in my closet was absolutely wrong and I had to go buy something in particular for this splendid occasion. That usually meant something in the shades of either pink or red and of course it was something totally uncomfortable and something I would most likely never wear again.

It turned out to be me who I gave flowers to. The excitement I felt when I saw her walking toward me on our first Valentine’s Day is right around the corner and that means two different perspectives from the men and women in the world. February 14th is a day the majority of women circle on their calendars, while men have it marked for different reasons.

Love is in the air, but for men love is followed by a lot of money being spent, planning where to go weeks before, having the guts to ask the girl and making sure that the girl goes smoothly. If Valentine’s Day does not go as planned in the girl’s mind, every mistake and little issue tracks back to the one who went over backward for her—the guy.

One random Tuesday night should not be designated for a male to show how much he cherishes the girl he cares about. In this day and age, social media is part of daily life that provides people with false hopes and expectations. It should not diminish what the girl’s date has in store. And to make matters more difficult, the internet makes it seem that the asking proposal has to be just as big/special as their actual evening out. But the biggest difference is that the girls know they can snatch a date whenever and wherever, compared to guys sweating bullets due to not knowing if she will approve of the date or not.

Not all men and women fit the descriptions, but in reality, it’s how Valentine’s Day is set up to be around the nation. If all goes well for a couple, more power to them.

I don’t have to stress on Valentine’s Day this year

By Mike Flores

Valentine’s Day is right around the corner and that means two different perspectives from the men and women in the world. February 14th is a day the majority of women circle on their calendars, while men have it marked for different reasons.

Love is in the air, but for men love is followed by a lot of money being spent, planning where to go weeks before, having the guts to ask the girl and making sure that the girl goes smoothly. If Valentine’s Day does not go as planned in the girl’s mind, every mistake and little issue tracks back to the one who went over backward for her—the guy.

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Not all men and women fit the descriptions, but in reality, it’s how Valentine’s Day is set up to be around the nation. If all goes well for a couple, more power to them.

I’m broke and not having to buy all the things I used to buy each Valentine’s Day will definitely help my credit card. I won’t have to worry about finding the perfect gift, the overpriced roses or the unnecessary heart-shaped balloons and all the other cliché gifts I would buy. Not having to think about where to go and what to do to a relief, especially since I always aimed to get a better gift every year. I would always get stressed about what to give her each year. But not this year. I’m glad I won’t see her throwing away the dead flowers I gave her or how the unnecessary gifts end up in the back of her closet.

Valentine’s Day is fun, stressful, and for some it can be a very sad day reflecting on past relationships, but this year it will be just like any other day for me.

Follow Mike Flores on Twitter @MikeyTheReal
What is your ideal Valentine’s day?

DANTE GUTIERREZ
Freshman mechanical engineering major
“Getting along with your friends and saying how much you love and appreciate them.”

ARIANA PEREZ
Junior political science major
“Probably going out to dinner and going back home to watch a movie—basic Valentine’s Day date.”

LUIS VALLES
Junior history major
“My ideal Valentine’s Day is to go on a spontaneous date and always give the flowers that my wife likes, not just the typical flowers.”

LUISA CASTREJON
Sophomore civil engineering major
“My ideal Valentine’s date would be going to the movies.”

MICHAEL SEPUVEDA
Junior psychology major
“My ideal Valentine’s date would be spending it with my loved ones. Also, show them how I truly appreciate what they do for me.”

DEREK QUINTANA
Freshman accounting major
“I think Netflix is the perfect date, because you watch it alone.”

MARLEEN GARCIA
Freshman studio arts major
“I would like to go to Cici’s Pizza because it’s a buffet. I like to walk so it would be great if he would take me to a park.”

IVIN MARTINEZ
Junior history major
“My ideal Valentine’s date would be going to the movies.”

KARLA PUENTENS
Junior education major
“A home-cooked meal with my family. After that I would like to go to the movies together and the mall with my loved ones.”

EZEQUIEL HERNANDEZ
Sophomore psychology major
“To get the best gift for a girl.”

ALEJANDRO ARRIJO
Senior graphic design major
“It doesn’t matter, I believe what matters is your sexual drive and your imagination when it comes to sex.”

ARIANNA RODRIGUEZ
Junior graphic design major
“It depends on your partner, in my personal experience some partners care and others don’t.”

ISAIAH OZONE
Junior undeclared major
“I am honestly not sure, but from what I have heard I don’t think size truly matters to women.”

KAREN HERNANDEZ
Senior education major
“It matters, depending on the sensation you want to feel.”

RAPHAEL BENERO
Senior sculpture major
“Size does matter due to the fact that we are in Texas, everything is bigger here. Go bigger or go home.”

SARAH MARTINEZ
Sophomore nursing major
“Regardless of what people tell you, I think yes, size does matter.”

RICARDO CARMONA
Senior graphic design major
“It is depends on your partner, in my personal experience some partners care and others don’t.”

PAOLA DOMINGUEZ
Freshman English major
“If it is for love, no. If it is for sex, yes.”

GENESIS RIVERA
Senior music education major
“No, I think most women aren’t as concerned with the size as they are the performance.”

MOLLY ZAMORA
Junior drawing/metals major
“No, I don’t think size matters, it’s how you work with it.”

Does size matter?

ALEXANDRO MARTINEZ, NINA TITOVETS / THE PROSPECTOR
GET READY WITH OUR NEWEST STYLES FROM LRG!

Shown from left:
- Paramount strap back cap, $26.
- Tribez short-sleeve button-up shirt, $54.
- Solid Script tee, $26.
- Surplus cargo short, $59.

Research Group snap back cap, $26.
- Walk Off baseball jersey, $66.
- Rise & Grind tee, $28.
- RC Ripstop cargo short, $49.
- Research Collection crew sock, $8.
- 147% Lifted invisible ankle sock, $5.

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Keeping up with the Texas Legislative Session

By CHRISTIAN VASQUEZ
The Prospector

The Texas legislature meets every two years, and the current 85th Texas Legislative session began on Jan. 10 and continues until May 29. During the first 60 days, the legislature cannot pass a bill, as well as the potential racial profiling that will occur due to the focus on Mexican immigrants.

SB 4
SB 4 is a bill that targets so-called sanctuary cities, or cities that have an immigration policy where local enforcement agencies do not regularly require an individual’s immigration status or fulfill detainee requests from Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The bill would allow the state to withhold state grant funds if those cities do not comply.

Critics of the bill have said that the definition of the term “sanctuary cities” is not defined well enough to make for a coherent bill, as well as the potential racial profiling that will occur due to the focus on Mexican immigrants. Police departments have testified against the bill saying that SB 4 will erode trust in immigrant communities with law enforcement, which might lead to those communities not calling on law enforcement when they are victims of a crime.

The city of El Paso has said that the financial loss of the passage of the bill will be $130,000 each fiscal year for additional arrests and processing.

SB 4 is in the second stage of passage as it has passed the Senate Committee of State Affairs and will be voted on for the Senate floor.

SB 6
Known as the “bathroom bill,” SB 6 would force transgender people to use bathrooms that corresponded with their biological sex in public schools, universities and government buildings statewide. The controversial bill was introduced by State Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham, and has received widespread condemnation from advocacy groups and support from conservatives across Texas.

The rhetoric used by the author and coauthors of the bill suggest that their priority is keeping transgender women out of the restrooms they identify with.

A study by the Texas Association of Business suggest that, if passed, the bill could “result in significant economic losses in Texas GDP with estimates ranging from $964 million to $8.5 billion.” The study also suggests that job losses would be around 185,000, and the tourist and entertainment industry will suffer heavily as well. The TAB has come out strongly against the bill, and since it is a heavy political figure, the study could be the end of the bill.

SB 6 is in the first stage of passage as it has not yet passed the Senate Committee of State Affairs.

SB 14
The SB 14 bill aims to gain public trust in state institutions and elected officials by introducing a series of changes to the ethics laws. One change is that an elected official who has been convicted of abuse of office cannot receive a publicly funded pension, check, while serving time for that crime, and will be removed from office once convicted of a felony.

The second change, according to the analysis submitted by the Senate Committee of State Affairs, is that elected officials should disclose contracts for goods or service that they or their spouse or dependent child have with governmental entities.

The third change addresses the amount that lobbyists must report for “transportation, lodging, food and drink, or entertainment for a member of the legislative or executive branch” that exceeds $114. The new bill changes that amount to $37. It also stipulates that lobbyists must disclose any amount given to immediate family members of persons in the legislative or executive branch.

The bill passed the Senate Committee of State Affairs with nine votes and zero nays and awaits a vote on the Senate floor.

SB 11
This bill is one of the few bipartisan projects that address a recognized statewide crisis in the Department of Family and Protective Services and aims to improve accountability as well as increase support and services.

One of the implementations is the creation of a pilot program to help “comprehensive care management services” for children with mental and behavior health needs.

The bill plans to renovate the intake case design model to increase the quality of services and support while giving a greater authority and accountability to local communities. It also poses that the standards of child abuse and neglect investigations be raised and have financial penalties toward residential childcare providers if they fail to meet performance outcomes.

The bill has been filed, but as has not yet been seen by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. If passed the bill would take effect Sept. 1, 2017.

In addition to meeting donation criteria, you must provide a valid photo I.D., proof of your current address, and your Social Security or immigration card to donate. Must be 18 years of age or older and weigh at least 110 pounds to donate.

*Expires 3/31/2017

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GRIFOLS Pride for Donors. Passion for Patients.
If you’re planning on going out for Valentine’s Day this year change it up. Don’t go on the cliché and typical dinner date. Get to know your date in a unique environment by going on a more adventurous date. El Paso has a lot of great restaurants, but the entries on this list are places that get overlooked or are not as well known. Any one of these places is a great alternative to the small talk over dinner and forces you to get to know your date better.

If you’re over the age of 21, driving out to a vineyard for Valentine’s Day is the ultimate romantic date. Take a tour of the vineyard and learn how wine is made, and the best part is all of the wine samples you get to drink. The El Paso/Las Cruces area has over four vineyards to choose from. Sunland Winery, Zin Valle, La Vina and Sombra Antigua.

If you wake up at the crack of dawn and rent out ice skates, and all you need to bring is your date and a jacket. If you’re inexperienced, they also offer skating lessons that you could take together. After the dance lessons they offer. Take your date here if you’re comfortable enough to dance with them. Even if you’re not that comfortable it’s a great way to loosen up and get closer. The lessons are usually $10 and it’s always BYOB.

This dance studio offers dinner and classes every Friday, and they’re constantly changing up the dance lessons they offer. Take your date here if you’re comfortable enough to dance with them. Even if you’re not that comfortable it’s a great way to loosen up and get closer. The lessons are usually $10 and it’s always BYOB.

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# Alternative dates to take your significant other on

## Old Mesilla
This charming town North of El Paso is the perfect place for an all-day date. Old Mesilla is rich in history and full of interesting shops. This is almost like walking through the streets of Mexico. Spend the day exploring all that Old Mesilla has to offer and end it with dinner at any one of their unique restaurants.

## Vineyards
If you’re over the age of 21, driving out to a vineyard for Valentine’s Day is the ultimate romantic date. Take a tour of the vineyard and learn how wine is made, and the best part is all of the wine samples you get to drink. The El Paso/Las Cruces area has over four vineyards to choose from. Sunland Winery, Zin Valle, La Vina and Sombra Antigua.

## Shundo Dance Studio
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## Disaster Room
This date is like none other on this list. At Disaster Room you work in a team to solve riddles and make it out of a room in an hour. It’s a great way to connect with your date because it involves a lot of communication and working together. The themes for each room are different. This month the mystery room themes are “Prison Break Blackout” and “Wild West Meth.”

## X-Motoball Paintball
Do something adventurous and different this Valentine’s Day. Take your date paintball shooting. X-Motoball offers the biggest park in town and the cheapest paintball prices. This might not be for everyone, but it’s definitely not your typical date.

## Wyler Ariel Tramway
For those who are wimps and can’t take hikes, the Wyler Aerial Tramway takes people from the base of the mountain all the way up to the peak of the Franklin Mountains. The experience is fun and it allows anybody to experience heights they’ve never dreamed of seeing before. A perfect couples’ spot that has room for dinner afterwards.

## 1 Painted That
The sip and paint social art studio provides step-by-step art lessons by local artists. You’re welcome to take your own drinks and snacks for the lesson. There is no way you could go wrong with packing your favorite snacks and getting to paint. This is a more intimate place to take a date or even your friends. Most classes are two hours for $35 and all of the painting materials are included. There are two locations, one on Mesa and one on Traswood.

## 2 Elephant Hike
If you’re over the age of 21, driving out to a vineyard for Valentine’s Day is the ultimate romantic date. Take a tour of the vineyard and learn how wine is made, and the best part is all of the wine samples you get to drink. The El Paso/Las Cruces area has over four vineyards to choose from. Sunland Winery, Zin Valle, La Vina and Sombra Antigua.

## Transmountain Elephant Hike
If you wake up at the crack of dawn and can power through a near three-hour hike, it can be fun. Doing it with a person you like is even better. Pack a lunch for two on the way up and camp out in the cave that looks over the Westside of El Paso. Perfect spot for nature views and a cost effective date.

## Ice Skating
Winter is not over at the El Paso Event Center. Go ice skating in the Sun City. They rent out ice skates, and all you need to bring is your date and a jacket. If you’re inexperienced, they also offer skating lessons that you could take together. After much exhaustion you can just head over to Chico’s Tacos across the street.

## I Painted That
This theater is unlike other movie theaters because you can eat while watching a movie. For a date night, and to avoid the hectic stress of watching a new movie that could be shitty, take a date to a Movie Party that the Dance Studio hosts. The tickets are usually discounted, the movie’s awesomeness is guaranteed and the party aspect makes it a treat. The interactive setting makes for a totally unique date night.

## Disaster Room
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Love playlist: Editor’s picks

ZOE “Paula”
Rone Delgadillo - Minors Editor
Never been a fan of Zoe, but “Paula” is a sad love song which makes you realize how much you miss someone after messing up.

The Beatles “Something”
Leslie Sariciana - Entertainment Editor
This is my favorite Beatles song. They describe a person who they’re infatuated with. They don’t know what the future holds for them, but it’s okay.

The Prospector staff may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

Wedded bliss: Nyquil and couch sex

By Jason Green

I was recently reminded of that early—what I thought was—unforgettable love when I rediscover ed a mix CD that was hidden on a book shelf in our bedroom. As I searched around the house for some means of playing a compact disc, I eventually found the computer that my son uses to watch “Pokémon” episodes on Youtube.

I brushed off the Doritos crumbs and loaded the CD. I was getting lost in the Allison Krauss, Jack Johnson and Craig David jamz (yes, with a ‘Z’), when my son came downstairs, groggy-eyed, in his underwear and looking for cereal, and there went my flashback to the early days of the romantic years of my marriage.

For a married couple, it’s not always the drone of work and school that can get in the way of romance on Valentine’s Day, sometimes it’s these tiny little succubus—I mean bundles of joy—which call us children. They don’t mean to get in the way, but MY GOD DO THEY GET IN THE WAY.

They don’t mean to, but there are no longer romantic dinners at the table without the occasional spilled drink or dropped plate. There is no longer spontaneous sex on the couch when you think they’re asleep, because there is always the need for another five glasses of water and eight bathroom breaks.

All of this being said, perhaps the best gift this Valentine’s Day—for a married couple—is to just do what you can. You can still write homemade Valentine’s Day cards, not somebody else’s words. You can still make mixtapes with sweet jams—with a ’Z’.

Even though you have kids, you can still have a nice romantic dinner, even if they are around. Valentine’s Day is a great opportunity to take your little boy with you and your wife to a fancy restaurant and show him how he will be treating women on dates in the future—pulling out chairs, taking her coat, etc. It’s a daughter, it will be a chance for her to see her father treating her mother the way she will be treated by future dates.

When you get home, there can still be couch sex—despite the kids who like to get out of bed. Just go for it! It’s Valentine’s Day.

So, what do you give them a card for Valentine’s Day? Well, to me it says, “we love you.” The subtext is, “I know you love me.”

I’m not claiming to be the “Love Guru” or anything, but I can say since the beginning of my 10-year marriage, I’ve known better than to let other people confess my love for me. Though the drone of married life can often make you fall back into a pattern of complacency and forget the love that should be there year-round, not just on Valentine’s Day.

When you step into the office of Union East 105, most journalists expect to find an office of work, experience and training for the real-world journalism atmosphere. But, if we at the Prospector had a dollar for every love bird couple that has left the office, the reader would definitely be surprised. Here, the Prospector editors weigh in on some of their favorite love songs:

Hindi Zahra “Beautiful Tango”
Christian Vasquez - Copy Editor
It sets a relaxing mood with gorgeous yet sensual lyrics. What’s not to love?

Franck Ocean “White Ferrari”
Adrian Broaddus - Web Editor
Love is all the small moments, like car rides. White Ferrari places two lovers in an endless setting on a rides and uses the Ferrari to symbolize much deeper into their relationship.

The Turtles “Happy Together”
Ana Ramos - Multimedia Editor
This is my favorite love song so far. It’s timeless song that never gets old.

Pink Floyd “Pillow of Winds”
Andres Martinez - Multimedia Editor
This is my favorite because it’s soothing. I like to play it on guitar and it reminds me of the love of my life, Michaela Roman.

Merle Haggard “Natural High”
Jason Green - Sports Editor
People spend a lot of time looking for highs, when in reality love is always the best high of all.

The Beatles “She’s Enough”
Michaela Roman - Editor in Chief
It’s genuine. He loves his wife so much that he would do anything for her. It’s what I would want from a man. It’s much that he would do anything for me. Though the drone of married life can often make you fall back into a pattern of complacency and forget the love that should be there year-round, not just on Valentine’s Day.

The Prospector

University Police

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AVOID DISTRACTIONS

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ALWAYS WEAR YOUR SEAT BELT

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SOUTHWEST UNIVERSITY PARK (DURANGO ENTRANCE)

February 7, 2017
A look back at some of the most memorable romantic films

The Prospector Entertainment Staff

50 First Dates

Great movie to watch with your significant other while still making you laugh. It makes the audience appreciate the little things in a relationship and still finds a way to make you emotional. Each day Henry Roth, played by Adam Sandler, tries to impress Lucy Whitmore, played by Drew Barrymore, who suffers from short-term memory loss. Each day is a reoccurring day for Lucy because of her condition and Henry attempts to entice her to fall for him.

Following the story of a bridesmaid who lusts for love, “27 Dresses” is a perfect movie to watch with your girlfriends on a single gal-date night. It’s a funny and cute movie that gives hope that one day you will find the right person, even if you’ve been waiting as long as the lead character in this film. “She’s always a bridesmaid but never a bride”—this is one of the more memorable quotes in the topsy-turvy romantic comedy.

One of the most classic and timeless rom-coms in existence. This movie explores the subject of a girl and a guy being friends without becoming romantic. This movie is filled with memorable dialogue and always worth a watch.

Not a fan of Valentine’s Day? This is not your typical love story. If you are looking for a not-so-lovey-dovey movie, then this is the perfect one to watch. The movie, which follows the love story of a hopeless romantic, offers a more realistic view of love and expectations.

Watch this without tearing up—I dare you. Being labeled as one of the most popular “chick flicks,” “The Notebook” is based on the novel by Nicholas Sparks that makes you “aww.” Ryan Gosling has scenes in the rain which makes it easy to watch too.

Not so typical love story. “10 Things I Hate About You” is the ideal movie to do so. It follows two sisters on their quest to find love in the high school hallways. Also, you might want to watch it by yourself because it might bring the water works out. The soundtrack to this movie is just as great as the movie itself.

Record Player Group is a unique, vintage route for gift giving might prove to be a solid gift for a significant other. A decent record player is not only aesthetically appealing to the modern college student, but also it can be a really thoughtful present for music lovers. Prices for decent record players can range from $30 to $70 depending on the type of system you chose. Throwing in their favorite album or getting creative with the record player is an added bonus. Also, to make it even more creative and an added gift, adding a subscription of “Vinyl Me Please” could be the icing on the cake as far as presents go. “Vinyl Me Please” is a monthly subscription that sends the subscriber a random record each month and allows them to even swap out the record for another one if they are not satisfied. It’s a perfect subscription to build a vinyl collection on and starts at $23.99.

Subscription boxes Although sometimes overwhelming in presents, getting monthly subscription boxes for him or her is a trend present that keeps on giving. Birchbox, for women, is a subscription that sends the lady a box full of makeup samples and body care products for only $10 a month.9

On the man’s side, SprezzaBox is probably one of the highest-rated male monthly subscription boxes. SprezzaBox is a box that follows men’s tastes and includes items such as ties, socks, hair and skin products and other grooming additions each month. The good news for the box is that first-time buyers get their first box for $8 however the bad part is that the subscription increases to $28 per month afterward.

see GIFTS page 12

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订阅盒子

尽管有时让人感到压力山大，得到每月订阅盒子作为礼物给男生或女生也是一种趋势。Birchbox就是为女性准备的一个订阅服务，它每期都会寄送一个装有化妆品样品和身体护理产品的盒子，每个盒子只要10美元。

对于男士而言，SprezzaBox可能是最好的选择之一。SprezzaBox会按照男性的喜好准备礼物，包括领带、袜子、头发和皮肤护理产品以及其他美容用品，每个盒子的价格是8美元，但是随着订阅时间的增加，价格会提高到每月28美元。

让生活更美好

用订阅服务来打开新世界的大门，让生活更美好。
### Concert Tickets
A thoughtful present to a Valentine could be concert tickets. Realistically, both of you will go to the concert together anyways, so Valentine’s Day is a perfect excuse to snatch tickets to a highly anticipated show. Local concert series, such as Neon Desert and the Texas Country Music Festival, are both anticipated events that will storm through the city. Any other concerts, such as The 1975, Isaiah Rashad, Elton John, Guns N’ Roses or Band of Horses are all upcoming shows that each have reasonable ticket prices.

### Book Subscription
If your partner isn’t a fan of basic makeup or grooming subscription boxes, one of the most thoughtful gifts could be a monthly subscription book box. Bookcase Club is a website that allows the buyer to give a two-book subscription according to the preference of genre. The different genres they include in their subscription boxes include mystery/thriller, sci-fi/fantasy, young adult, children, romance, cookbooks and military history books. Also, on Amazon, there are different comic book subscriptions that send different comic books to your doorstep each month.

### Water bottle
This one can be creative based on your date’s preference. For a sporty, athletic couple, a personalized gym water bottle or protein shaker is a thoughtful present that is both cost efficient and can be used daily. A studio partner could use a travel water bottle they can carry throughout the day in backpacks, such as a Camelbak, Swell or Hydro Flask water bottles. All of these are noteworthy gifts, but the best and possibly most useful water bottle purchase is definitely a Yeti tumbler. Whether it be the 10 oz. Lowball or the 30 oz. Rambler, Yeti cups are the highest trendsetting water and coffee carrier. These cups are not only widely used, but also keep drinks cold or coffee warm throughout the day.

### Portable Speakers
This present is for possibly anybody who likes music. A portable speaker can be used while taking a shower, hanging out with friends or cleaning your room. They usually run relatively cheap. Amazon always has sales on brand new portable speakers starting at $19.99 and with Prime shipping the speaker would make it before Valentine’s Day. Whether it be a small speaker that can fit in a backpack or a big speaker to keep in the house, a portable speaker would be a solid gift for anyone.

### Coupon Books
After dropping stacks of money around Christmas time it could be hard scraping up funds for Valentine’s Day. Never fear because a DIY coupon book for your significant other is a sweet gift that doesn’t hurt your wallet. Creative coupons giving someone a dinner date, the chance to pick a movie or a pass to get out of a fight is a gift that can be enjoyable and entertaining for both members of a couple.

### Kitchen Items
An inexpensive, yet interesting waffle maker would add flavor to someone’s kitchen. Waffles are totally underrated, and with a waffle maker anything is possible for a delightful breakfast. Also, Sprouts, Albertsons and Whole Foods all have different waffle mixes and syrups to add to the gift.

Another exciting kitchen item could be a French press for coffee lovers. A French press can change how your significant other drinks coffee every day with its different and special way of preparing coffee. Add some coffee beans or creamer for an extra bonus.

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**‘Valentine’s Super Love Jam’ brings the funk back to El Paso**

BY EDDIE VELAZQUEZ

Pacific Concert Group is bringing the funk and soul multi-act concert “Valentine’s Super Love Jam” back to El Paso. This year, the Valentine’s Day-themed event will take place at UTEP’s Don Haskins Center on Friday, Feb. 10, at 7:30 p.m.

The concert will feature 10 artists: The Delfonics, Zapp, One Way, The Sylvers, The Meters, Little Willie G, Evelyn “Champagne” King, The Persuaders, Rene Rene, Sunny Ozuna and Tierra. The lineup represents different eras of funk, soul, disco, R&B and Chicano music, not to mention the diverse ethnic backgrounds behind these genres.

The Persuaders were at the center of the massive R&B mecca that was New York City in the 1970s, contributing a gold-certified single to the movement. “Thin Line Between Love and Hate,” which topped the Billboard R&B chart, immediately becoming a hit.

Rene Ornelas, performing under the name Rene Rene, is half of the iconic Latin pop duo Rene y Rene. Their hit single “Lo Mucho Que Te Quieres” reached no. 14 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart.

Sunny Ozuna started his career as the lead singer of Sunny & the Sunlows, a Chicano blues band in 1960s San Antonio. The band released albums under their own label Sunglow, including the single “Talk To Me,” which reached no. 11 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart.

Tierra contributed to the Chicano arts movement in California playing across different venues in Los Angeles. Their biggest hit was a cover of The Intruders’ “Together,” which reached no. 9 on the Billboard R&B chart.

Ticket prices range from $28.50 to $49.50 and can be purchased at ticketmaster.com.
Sterling Napier and wife Alex make it work despite being athletes at rival schools. Sterling plays football at UTEP and Alex runs track at NMSU.

"We both have an edge, and get pretty fired up around our games (against NMSU and UTEP). We never let it boil over to the rest of our lives, and keep a friendly household during these rivalries," Sterling Napier said. "Happy wife, happy life." The Napier's live right on the border of Texas and New Mexico, providing a near equal driving distance for Alex to go to NMSU and Sterling to make the trek down I-10 to El Paso.

For college athletes, dating can be a difficult task. When you are an athlete dating an athlete, that task can become even more difficult. The grind of a full school schedule combined with workouts, study hall hours and meetings can take up an immense portion of a UTEP scholar-athlete's time. It can be difficult to spend quality time with a significant other. In talking to a variety of athletes from different sports and settings, it becomes clear that despite the difficulties of a packed schedule, relationships can actually enhance the college experience and even produce better results for athletes.

For star running back Aaron Jones and his girlfriend, soccer player Nikki Gutierrez, "It was easy when we were both in El Paso, but with me being in California and her in El Paso, it's a little trickier," said Jones. "I've come to appreciate when we FaceTime and talk more, as it gives me a break from the grind to relax and talk to her." Jones was in Houston for Super Bowl weekend and said he was very happy to see Nicole again. "After being separated for a while, it's great to see her in person," said Jones. "For the Napiers, the duty of playing sports with different seasons at different schools can create a feeling of distance in its own right. "Certainly distance can be a problem," Jones says. "In El Paso, things were a little easier from a dating perspective.

"It's certainly difficult to find time when both of us aren't tired," Barreiro says. "Often times, working out can be our main time together, but we love it and it's something we both enjoy." For star running back Aaron Jones and his girlfriend, soccer player Nicole Lindsay, distance can be a major issue. Currently training for the NFL combine, Jones is at a workout facility in California with some of the top-NFL prospects in the country. "Certainly distance can be a problem," Jones says. "In El Paso, things were a little easier from a dating perspective. We were both in the same city." Jones said that when a couple is far apart, communication is key.

"We don't talk every second of the day," Jones said. "We both have busy schedules and understand that support is the most important part" Sterling Napier, a football player heading into his senior season, is married to a New Mexico State track member, Alex Napier. Although they attend rival schools, Sterling says that they do not let their competitiveness get between them.

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Brianna has motivated me in so many ways, and I can honestly say that I've never been happier. - Miranda Gutierrez, senior outfielder UTEP softball

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The UTEP men’s hockey club had a superb regular season and will look to continue that success into the Texas Collegiate Hockey Conference (TCHC) playoffs, which will be played in El Paso from Feb. 9-11. The Miners finished the regular season with a remarkable 28-3 record, outscoring their opponents 203 to 77 while claiming the conference’s top seed.

The TCHC formed in 2016 and began play last fall. The conference is separated between the North and South divisions. UTEP competes in the Southern division with Texas, Texas A&M and Texas State. The Northern division is composed of Texas Tech, Texas Christian, North Texas and Dallas Baptist.

The Miners’ first game in the playoffs will be Friday, Feb. 10, at 3 p.m. versus either Texas Tech or North Texas. The Miners went 3-0 against both Texas Tech and North Texas during the regular season.

UTEP hammered Texas Tech in a two-game set on Jan. 14 and 15, outscoring the Red Raiders by a combined score of 27-3 in both games combined. Nicolas Howell, Brett Bloor and Jeramy Rezaeepour combined for 11 of the 27 Miner goals in the two-game series, stacking 11 assists to combine for 22 points.

The Miners also swept North Texas with scores of 8-4 on Sept. 25 and 10-1 on Oct. 2. Six different Miners scored in each of the two contests with brothers Matt and Jon Sancsa leading the way, exchanging goals both days, combining for five goals and six assists for a total of 11 points in the series.

“We’re excited, once we got the word of the bid to host the playoffs, our goal was to finish at the top of the pack and have strong showings,” said head coach Tom Herman. “Goal number one is complete, and now we’re waiting to see what we can get done there.”

UTEP dominated their division, compiling a 9-2 record to claim the first-round bye in the playoffs. The Miners won 15 straight games in between the two losses, which came at the hands of Texas A&M on Oct. 1 and recently on Jan. 9. The Miners split with the Aggies 2-2 this season, with an even 17-17 goal count total for both teams. However, the Miners went 7-0 against Texas and Texas State, most notably completing a four-game sweep of the Longhorns from Nov. 11 to Nov. 19, outscoring them 23-4 during that stretch.

Against the rest of the conference, UTEP went undefeated at 8-0 with two signature wins against the Northern division champion and second-seeded Dallas Baptist. The Miners defeated the Patriots 7-3 on Dec. 2 and snuck by them 6-5 in a close one on Dec. 3, thanks to an early goal by Lucas Znosko.

“I hope our fans come out and continue to show their support for our club and UTEP.”

“I think it’s a great way to finish the season, especially for our seniors,” said Herman. “We kind of leave him out to dry and rely on him a little bit too much, but he’s always there. He’s been solid for us all season long. You can’t really say enough about the guy.”

The Miners have been a big part of our success this year, Herman said. “Our biggest strength right now is our depth,” said Herman. “We have three lines that can score and we can roll four lines almost all game long, it’s a next guy up kind of mentality, if we have guys in the penalty box or hurt, we’re able to just keep rolling and that’s helped us find our success this year.”

“UTEP’s success could be marked by the fact they score 6.52 goals per game. However, the Miners are also holding their opponents to 2.48 goals per game. A statistic that would make any coach and team happy. “Our biggest strength right now is our depth,” said Herman. “We have three lines that can score and we can roll four lines almost all game long, it’s a next guy up kind of mentality, if we have guys in the penalty box or hurt, we’re able to just keep rolling and that’s helped us find our success this year.”

UTEP is led by stars Rezaeepour and Znosko. Rezaeepour leads the team with 75 points, thanks to a well-balanced 38 goals and 37 assists. Znosko leads the team in goals with 42, tallying on 31 assists for a total of 73 points.

Three other Miners have scored double-digit goals, while nine others have added double-digit assists. The rest of the team has continued to show their support for this last stretch because they have been a big part of our success all season long. You can’t really say enough about the guy.”

“Lazarski is our last line of defense, he’s our rock back there,” said Herman. “He’s been solid for us all season long. You can’t really say enough about the guy.”

“The Miners have scored on 24.3 percent of their power plays, while they are holding their opponents to 12.8 percent, with only 25 power play goals allowed, owning an 87.2 percent penalty kill percentage.

“Lazarski has tallied a total of 739 saves with a .906 save percentage.”

“I hope our fans come out and continue to show their support for our club and UTEP.”

Follow Jeremy Carranco on Twitter @J_Carranco22

FILE PHOTO | THE PROSPECTOR

The UTEP hockey team will host the first ever TCHC playoffs and will enter the tournament as the top seed, with a 28-3 overall record.
Clayton is one of two UTEP players in the 2017 Pression All-Conference Team. The other Miner player is junior Karylin By- der, who led the team in walks (23) and had 17 multiple-hit contests. Clayton is also one of two Miners on the second highest batting average (350), just behind Clayton’s .416 average.

In the end, he is mentioned on the Preseason All-Conference team, but it’s my teammates that get me there. We, as a team, look at the bigger picture of things and we hope to have another incredible season,” Ryder said. “Our team is coming together and it’s about that time where we show everyone what we can do. If we play how we know we can, it’ll be no problem getting back to conference tournament. I think we can go on and do big things this year,” Ryder added.

The Miners will be under head coach Tobin-Hawk for the second year. With his 2017 signing class, when UTEP overcame Florida International at the beginning of the league season, doctors thought that his third season was abruptly put to an end by Southern Mississippi. However, Kugler said that he will put his entire squad to the ordeals since the orange and blue was forecasted to complete in back-to-back tournaments.

In the past, we weren’t very good on the road, but last year we started to get better. Our team has the mentality that they don’t care where we’re at, if a field is a field and we are going to continue to play our game,” said Echo-Hawk.

Opening the new year, UTEP will challenge themselves in four tournaments before engaging in conference games. The Miners are scheduled for at the New Mexico Desert Classic, the Riverside Invita- tional and the Jeanine McFarley Memorial Invitational. The squad kicks-off conference play against North Texas, on March 11.

The goals for the Miners is set in sophomore pitcher, Hettie. The Missouri- sian on May 15 when the Confer- ence-USA tournament will take place. The Miners would also have two stars to an All-Conference selection for the 25th straight season. The squad.

Although this is not normal comparison to previous signing day classes, this could be a strong sign for the pro- gram. It shows that Kugler feels com- fortable with the position his team is currently in and he does not feel the need for any certain players right away. This allows time for the coaching staff to evaluate some players on the fence and look at those in all areas. “We’re going to be extremely pa- tient,” Kugler said. “We’re going to hold on to those scholarships until May and possibly look for a late quali- fying high school player.”

Kugler’s reasoning behind this was simple: it is based off of prior luck with last-minute additions. “We’ve only turned out pretty well for us. His name is Will Hernandez. Or a late qualifying (junior college) player,” Kugler said. "The last one worked out pretty well for us—his name is Dante Lavellette, who finished second on the team in tackles," Kugler said. "When we do sign these players, we’ll an- nounce that to the Miner faithful." Kugler also mentioned that the program is on the lookout for a pitching prospect and a hitter who could help the Miners in the future.

FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR

Softball is gearing up for the 2017 season, which begins in Arizona on Feb. 8 against Stanford. The orange and blue also have questions in the field, compared to over 20 matchups with teams last season. Stanford and Arizona State awaits the Miners on Feb. 8.

“Last season, when cornerback Kalon concert. The numbers really do not lie; some of the future NFL players, such as Nick Yueh and Jones, did not look like special stars coming into UTEP. It was college football that made the in- dividuals emerge into special players. UTEP was ranked the worst (no. 14) in C-USA as far as recruiting talent, yet still did not faz Kug- ler. He was completely confident in the quality of players that he and his staff recruited.

Five takeaways for this year’s 2017 football signing day class

1. DEFENSE GALORE
Ten of the 17 signees for the foot- ball team were defensive players, so it could come down to two ways—Kugler could continue to focus on his defensive crew or he could start looking for a new team with the current squad.

2. TWO DEFENDERS SNAGged locally
Two defenders the Miners snatched locally include Irauvong Thomas from El Paso High School and Joshua Wells from Parkland High School. Thomas has experience on offense and defense, while Wells was a monster on the defensive line. Kugler signed 2-5A All-District Football Defensive MVP.

3. MIGHT NOT BE MUCH
TALENT RIGHT AWAY
Historically, the Miners have not been too expectant or reliant on their new group of individuals at their intended position and start working on them or he could redshirt in the coming off high school career and back Aaron Jones and fullback Darrin Brownholtz will not likely see the playing time as a freshman because he started his college career at Boise State. As a JUCO transfer, he is back and ready to work follow- ing his injury that forced her to the bench last year.

4. SCHOLARSHIPS HOLD
To finish off the 2017 signing day, Kugler said that he and his staff had worked on two more scholarships available for the squad.

5. STARS DON’T GO FAR
When the program announced those who were going to sign their letter of intent for UTEP, the 2017 signing day was much different than previous seasons. The Miners had not signed one high school player since 2014. However, Kugler does not put too much weight into stars. “Many of these guys—no stars, three stars—but what you are looking at, and I don’t know who they’re going to be yet, but some of these guys are going to be future All- Conference players for UTEP; future leaders or captains that lead our team to a bowl game or a championship,” Kugler said. “Some of these young men will have opportunities to go play in the NFL, and I don’t know who they are. It’s going to be up to them and what they put into it.”

For what seemed to be going off on a tangent, Kugler stressed how many times that one player would seize the opportunity to compete with any school at any given time.

“Last season, that one player would seize the opportunity to compete with any school at any given time. This year, we have four of these players and we are going to give them four of these scholarships,”Kugler said. "I told the girls yesterday, we could win conference, that’s how good we are and how good we can be. We have to be the outclass and respond to failure along the road in a positive way.”

Kugler has traveled to Tempe, Arizo- na, to start their 2017 journey. A dou- bleheader with Stanford and Arizona State awaits the Miners on Feb. 8.
Men’s basketball looks to continue winning ways against Bulldogs

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS

At the start of January, the men’s basketball team was clawing for a win after losing 12 games in a row. “Fire Floyd” signs were seen in abundance at the Don Haskins Center, former starting forward Terry Winn left the team, and less fans showed up in support. The Miners were tired of being bullied on the court.

It all started with a double-over-time victory against Florida International, a team most believe they should have beaten. After another nail-biting overtime win against Florida Atlantic, the Miners took their most quality win of the season, beating UTSA 59-39.

The quality wins did not stop there. Despite a close loss to top C-USA squad Western Kentucky, the Miners won back-to-back key wins from Marshall (91-68) and UAB (63-59).

Now the Miners have won six of their last eight games and are coming into Thursday’s game to create more turnovers per game and decrease team’s shooting percentage in second halves.

Defensively, the Miners are becoming better as they have started to create more turnovers per game and decrease team’s shooting percentage in second halves.

“Defensively (against Middle Tennessee) we created some turnovers, which led to some easy baskets for us,” Floyd said. “It’s those stops that gave us a chance.”

With hopes to stun the Bulldogs, the Miners will need to key in on both Boykins and McCree, but they also need to be aware of a third emerging scorer from La Tech, most likely forward Omar Sherman.

Tip off between teams is slated at 7:05 p.m.

Follow Adrian Broaddus on Twitter @adrian_broaddus.