El Paso Firme festival

Residents gather to denounce white supremacy

Rebecca Reza
The Prospector

Artists from Guatemala, Mexico and Southern California performed at El Paso Firme Music Festival Saturday at Ascarate Park for a day of healing and celebration organized by the Border Network for Human Rights and other local and statewide immigrant advocacy organizations.

The event was meant as an action against white supremacy and the ideologies that allegedly inspired one of the deadliest hate crimes against Latinos in recent U.S. history just over a month ago in El Paso.

More than 175 people have been killed in attacks linked to white nationalism around the world since 2011, according to The Guardian.

Many of the mainly white men who are allegedly responsible for these violent acts have used the same rhetoric, referring to immigrants as "invaders" and an "infestation," similar to the way U.S. President Donald J. Trump has referred to immigrants as an "invasion" in a tweet.

The event began with a march at El Segundo Barrio from Centro de Trabajadores Agrícolas to Sacred Heart Church in the morning before arriving at Ascarate Park. Under the shadow of the sun and the shade of the trees, residents gathered in painting colors for a celebration and to denounce white supremacy.


Commuters stress over road closures

Paulina Spencer
The Prospector

Commuters driving into Ciudad Juárez stress as the next phase of the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) I-10 Connect Project begins closing off the exit on I-10 East and Westbound near the Americas Bridge.

The Connect Project's mission is to separate the traffic headed to Ciudad Juárez through different ramps on I-10 and Loop 375, allowing truck drivers to cross into Mexico without causing traffic jams on Paisano Drive and surrounding areas. The project is expected to be completed in about three years.

The current phase of construction is expected to take about nine months to complete. Four new connecting ramps will be built while the exit ramps from I-10 to U.S. 62 on Paisano Drive will be removed.

The recent construction and road closures have already begun to affect commuters and students who cross the border on a daily basis.

Javier Gomez-Rodriguez, 23, said it has been a struggle for him to commute to and from Ciudad Juárez every day, especially with the current road closures. He said he has been using alternative routes to avoid traffic jams.

The project is expected to be completed in about three years, according to TxDOT.

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Feeling unsafe

Maria Ramos Pacheco
The Prospector

About 18 years ago, a terrorist attack in New York City started a wave of insecurity that was felt throughout the country.

Sep. 11, 2001 is a date that people in the U.S. will never forget.

Nearly two decades later, a similar wave of insecurity took place in El Paso because of the mass shooting of Aug 3.

On Sept. 11, nearly 3,000 people died in New York City, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania, according to CNN.

Last month, Patrick Crusius, a man with an AK-47-style assault rifle, allegedly shot and killed 22 people in El Paso and injured many more as they shopped on a Saturday morning.

Crusius drove almost 600 miles to get to the place where he opened fire against innocent people, said El Paso Police Chief Greg Allen.

The recent mass shooting has made me feel unsafe in the city I call home. Although it has been years since Sept. 11, hundreds of tragedies have continued to occur within this country, committed by its own people.

We cannot afford, as a country, to continue to lose people because of gun violence or any other form of domestic terrorism which, according to the FBI, is "perpetrated by individuals and/or groups inspired by or associated with primarily U.S.-based movements that espouse extremist ideologies of a political, religious, social, racial, or environmental nature."

The first step people need to take in order to reestablish the sense of safety in the U.S. is to be closer to each other and leave behind any prejudices. Instead of fighting over differences, people need to acknowledge and appreciate what makes others unique.

While I am not trying to compare these two dates whatsoever, I want to draw a parallel between them and help people see and understand the bigger picture. Hate, in any form, is never going to lead us into a better future.

These tragic events that have affected the nation are now part of our history and are going to be taught in classrooms. I hope history will also teach how people came together to support the affected communities.

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The importance of internships

Why students should challenge themselves

Juan Corral
The Prospector

Starting a new semester as a college student means a couple of things: Buying expensive textbooks, trying to find relatively good parking across campus or surrounding neighborhoods and wondering what you’re going to have for dinner without stressing about your last five bucks. Aside from graduation, scoring the internship you’ve been working so hard for, can be worrying.

We all know the summer break ended less than a month ago, but many deadlines for the next summer internships are starting to come up, typically many are due the end of November but some are coming up earlier.

Although the fall semester may seem like the time to ease off the gas pedal, students, including myself, are swarming sites to find that perfect internship that will impress future employers.

Internship opportunities can be seen as a four-leaf clover for your future. Coming to what I hope to be my senior year, I can confidently say that, although I have tackled quite a few internships myself, I still have room to learn as a journalist.

I have been lucky enough to have numerous internships, both within our border city and outside of Texas, all of which taught me new tactics, perspectives and lessons.

My most recent internship took me to a smaller town in Louisiana, where I was able to work alongside journalists for The Daily Advertiser. Although some may think moving away for a period of time is frightening, others, like myself, may think it’s an exciting adventure that will teach you many things.

During my time at The Daily Advertiser I was given opportunities and stories that, as a junior at UTEP, I could only imagine covering. Given the opportunities and reassurance I received from my editor, I believe I did a good job during my stay at the paper.

One of the stories I remember covering was that of a benefit concert for the three churches that burned in the St. Landry Parish on late March, a story I could only dream of covering but had the amazing opportunity to do so. My editor had no doubt that I would be able to write a good piece on this.

I knew at the start of my career that I wanted to be a great journalist. I also knew that would not be possible without the help of good teachers, both professors and employers alike, and good credentials under my belt. School can only teach you so much, it’s what you learn and how you apply it to your career that will help you grow more, not only in your profession but also as a person.

Take the risk of opting for an internship out of town because you’ll learn a lot about yourself and how to adapt to a new culture, city, state and people. I can continue writing about my own experiences, but I cannot share them with an audience.

Internships should not just be viewed as a steppingstone to your career, but as another class you may be taking over the summer. Apply to as many internships possible and go in with an open mind and an enthusiasm to learn things you did not know about before. Also, remember to be open to criticism and know that everyone is there to help you; make the best of it and enjoy yourself.

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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. Write to 105 E. Union, theprospchorch@gmail.com, call 747-7477 or fax 747-8091.

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The P:ospector Services (CAPS), which aims to provide high academic and career success of the university’s students, expressed its support and offered its services to any faculty member or student wanting to talk.

UTEP still offers mental health resources in aftermath of shooting

Anahy Diaz
The Prospector

UTEP will continue to offer mental health resources to students after a gunman opened fire at the Cielo Vista Walmart and killed 22 people in early August.

The UTEP Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), which aims to provide high quality mental health services for the personal, academic and career success of the university’s students, expressed its support and offered its services to any faculty member or student wanting to talk to a professional following the city’s mass shooting.

“I think healing or coping together is really helpful, to hear other people’s stories, for them to recognize that they are in fear and know they are not alone in that,” said Brian Sneed, director of the university’s counseling center. “I think there is comfort in being able to recognize that.”

The department recently hosted a support group called “Coping Together” for individuals who wanted to talk about how the incident has affected them and what it is they are dealing with.

The group was only scheduled to meet for the week following the incident, but was brought back Sept. 2-7 to help returning faculty and students transition into the new semester.

“I think it’s great that they have these resources,” said Elizabeth Olivas, 33, a national security graduate student. “Anybody could have been impacted or even if you or your family wasn’t impacted, it’s still good to have somebody to talk to.”

Through coping, people are able to heal, which is why CAPS is looking into planning a second part to this series to focusing on healing as a community.

The program, scheduled to take place at the end of the fall semester, invites UTEP students, faculty and staff to heal through art by creating paintings, drawings or writings that will help cope their emotions. The event will be open to the public to observe the art pieces.

“That’s one of the nice things that’s unique about El Paso. We have a big city with all the amenities a big city needs, but we still have that small-town feel,” Sneed said. “That sense of community, closeness, togetherness with the people.”

UTEP also hosted “Trauma, Resilience and Resistance” Aug. 28-29, an event in which people of various backgrounds and expertise, majority being UTEP faculty-held workshops that aimed to discuss and help guide people through trauma, healing and advocating for change. The event consisted of workshops such as “Healing Through Movement”, “Campus Safety 101” and “Collective Healing Workshop.”

“For them to offer a hand for those who need it is very nice,” said Seth Flores, 19, a computer science major. “To reach out and do more activities to help those people who were truly affected by it.”

CAPS, along with UTEP’s Student Government Association, encourages students to bring forward any other ideas they may have for programs or workshops, in order to ensure that everyone’s mental health needs are met.

“One of the goals of the administration is to be as transparent and open as possible. We are very much open to any public opinion, concerns or ideas,” said Luis Hinojos, an SGA senator at large.

“El Paso is a wonderful place; it’s a place that deserves to be celebrated even in a tragedy like this,” Sneed said. “We still want to keep that small-town feel, trust other people and be a great community.”

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Freshman survival at UTEP
The Prospector staff

The Prospector's editors, reporters and photographers thought of different tips and advice they wish someone would have told them when they started as incoming freshmen.

"3D printing is free at GAIA Makerspace, laser engraving too, plus free workshops located in the "UGLC room 202," said Claudia Hernandez, photo editor.

"If you have any concerns, speak to your advisors and professors, they're your friends," said Teddy Baylon, layout editor.

"Ask about research opportunities; a lot of professors are looking for research assistants," Marisol Chavez, web editor.

"Get your required courses out of the way and plan what courses you're going to take the next semester ahead of time," Isaiah Ramirez, reporter.

"Don't schedule long breaks between classes unless you have the willpower to not go home and sleep in between," Margaret Cataldi, reporter.

"Good notes equal good grades," Carolina Alvarez, photographer.

CLOSURE from page 4

Javier Gomez-Rodriguez, 23, said it has been a hassle to find alternate routes because of construction going on in other areas of El Paso.

"I have to find another way to go to my house and sometimes those roads may also be closed due to construction," Gomez-Rodriguez said.

Miguel Lopez, 23, stays on campus after finishing his classes to avoid heavy traffic on his way home to Juarez.

Lopez said that he tends to avoid the Americas Bridge altogether. That means Lopez has to pay a fee to cross over other bridges, which begins to add up over time.

"Whenever I'm in a hurry, I just go through other bridges even though I have to pay," Lopez said.

Lopez and Gomez-Rodriguez both recommend driving through Paisano Drive to get to the bridge and avoid traffic congestion during peak hours.

According to the TxDOT's website, different exits were closed throughout the week of Sept. 1 nightly, starting at 9 p.m. Drivers are advised to take exit 22B (Pershing Drive) as a detour.

To get information about road closures, TxDOT created a phone application that sends notifications. For information on the app, visit txdot.gov.

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Café Tacvba takes the stage at Abraham Chavez

Band celebrates 30th anniversary on tour

Alejandra Molina
The Prospector

Latin alternative rock band Café Tacvba performed Saturday night, Sept. 7, at the Abraham Chavez Theatre for its “30th Anniversary Tour.” An energetic crowd sang along and danced all night as Rubén Albarrán, Emmanuel del Real, Enrique and Joselo Rangel took the stage to perform several hit songs.

The band began its set a little after 8 p.m. with “Seguir Siendo,” “Tengo Todo” and “Cero y Uno.” Afterward, vocalist Rubén Albarrán formally introduced the band to the audience while making a few jokes on the side. Albarrán also mentioned that the performance was part of a celebratory tour, and that they would be performing a mix of earlier and more recent songs.

The band was formed in 1989 in Ciudad Satélite, Mexico, and then grew increasingly popular throughout the 1990s. Their most previous appearances in El Paso were on Oct. 27, 2014, and on May 27, 2018 at Neon Desert Music Festival.

Throughout the night, the band performed songs such as “Volver a comenzar,” “Olita del altamar,” “Como te extraño mi amor,” “Futuro,” “Eres,” among others.

Albarrán paused in between songs to talk to the crowd in Spanish. At one point, the singer mentioned he feels “freedom” whenever he sings and that he dislikes doing interviews because he finds them boring.

Before Albarrán began singing “Déjate caer,” he paid tribute to musician Celso Piña and painter Francisco Toledo, who passed away earlier this year, and invited the audience to dedicate the song to any relatives or friends who have also died.

Toward the end of the night, Albarrán asked the crowd for a minute of silence in honor of the El Paso Walmart shooting victims. The audience yelled “El Paso strong!” immediately after as they clapped.

Albarrán spoke of the racism that influenced the Walmart shooter, the ongoing femicides and protests in Mexico and implored the audience to “fight the good fight” in order to make society and the world better.

The band concluded the night with “El baile y el salón,” as they reached out to fans in the front row to sign autographs.

Alejandra Molina / The Prospector

Cafe Tacvba plays in El Paso for its 30th Anniversary Tour.

Alejandro Molina
The Prospector

Café Tacvba celebrates 30 years together on a tour, that included a stop at El Paso’s Abraham Chavez Theatre Sept. 7 2019.

Fight the good fight...

-RUBÉN ALBARRÁN
Café Tacvba vocalist

Cafe Tacvba vocalist Ruben Alvaran sings on stage at Abraham Chavez Theatre.
Festival promotes classic Mexican films

**Bryan Mena**
The Prospector

The Consulate General of Mexico in El Paso, in cooperation with UTEP and the Centro Cultural Paso del Norte debuted the Época de Oro Film Festival at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 4, at UTEP’s Union Cinema.

Every Wednesday for the entire month of September, members of the community will have the chance to watch films from Mexico’s “Golden Age” of cinematography. The first film of the month-long weekly series was the classic “Enamorada,” starring María Félix and Pedro Armendáriz and directed by Emilio Fernández.

The goal of the Época de Oro Film Festival is to promote Mexican films that were produced between 1936 and 1959 and saw critical economic success and international recognition, said Mexican Consul General Mauricio Ibarr Ponce de León.

“Lo que queremos es que también se conecten a las raíces de México,” he said. (What we want is that you also connect to the roots of Mexico.)

“Enamorada” takes place during the Mexican Revolution of the early 1900s, in the Mexican town of Cholula, Puebla. The film’s protagonist is the feisty Señorita Beatrix Peña, played by Félix and its antagonist is the macho General José Juan Reyes played by Armendáriz.

**Claudia Ramirez / The Prospector**

Inspired by William Shakespeare’s “The Taming of the Shrew,” the film tells the story of a strong-willed woman, who challenges the male authority figure of the film.

The film begins with Reyes conquering Cholula with intentions to extort the town’s wealthy and fund the Mexican Revolution.

Among the wealthy is the Peña family, which is how Reyes eventually crosses paths with Beatriz. After their initial encounter, Reyes becomes infatuated with the gutsy yet beautiful Peña, prompting him to overtly pursue her.

Throughout the film, Peña defies the stereotypical mold of a gentle woman by playing several pranks on Reyes, which adds comedic elements to the film. “It is really almost like a caricature but in a good way,” said Diane Afuamado, who attended the screening. “Women can lead also and it is quite powerful in this movie.”

Reyes, the film’s symbol of machismo, becomes emasculated in his pursuit of Peña. After the scene where Reyes slaps both Peña and Padre Rafael Sierra, Reyes finally connects with his feelings and learns how to apologize.

The film is just one of six that will be screened at the Union Cinema throughout the month.

Regarding the lessons these films can teach society, Ibarr Ponce de León believes they make commentaries on how to respect women and how to value the present.

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**Lana Del Rey’s new album portrays powerful paradoxes**

**Bryan Mena**
The Prospector

A “dangerous hope” and a “man child” are only two of the many powerful paradoxical themes seen in Lana Del Rey’s sixth studio album, “Norman Fucking Rockwell” (NFR!), released Aug. 30.

Del Rey and American producer Jack Antonoff co-wrote the album with additional contributions from Zach Dawes, Andrew Watt and Rick Nowels.

Stylistically, NFR! features elements of soft-rock and folk-rock, simple piano chords and silky vocals. Del Rey’s new album radiates an all too familiar vintage aura that makes it blend in with the rest of her discography.

The album marries profanity-laced love songs like “Fucked, I love you” with tender lullabies like “Happiness is a butterfly” to put together this trove of anthems for the hopeless romantic next door. NFR! symbolizes the rose-tinted shades meant for gazing at the pain that comes with romance.

The title track “Norman Fucking Rockwell” refers to the 20th century painter, Norman Percevel Rockwell, who was known for his portrayal of American idealistic culture through his artwork.

The American aesthetic has typically been a recurring theme throughout Del Rey’s artistic career as demonstrated in her music videos like “Ride” and songs like “Looking For America.” Del Rey has taken ownership of this culture, so her embrace of Rockwell makes sense. However, it has a deeper purpose than to just flaunt her signature aesthetic.

“If we look back into U.S. history, generally Norman Rockwell’s artwork was known for capturing good ol fashioned American ideals and every day American life,” said Elizabeth Martinez, a UTEP mechanical engineering student. “However, the whole album depicts Lana’s catalyst that things aren’t always as great as they seem in a pretty picture.”

The lyrics for the title track begin by positively describing Del Rey’s hypothetical partner as someone “wild” and “fun,” but the romantic pain kicks in with “Your poetry’s bad and you blame the news / But I can’t change that, and I can’t change your mood, ah.”

This agony over a seemingly inconsolable lover has been expressed in previous songs like “Shades of Blue,” where Del Rey wrote “But I can’t fix him, can’t make him better / And I can’t do nothing about his strange weather.”

It is a heartbreaking sentiment that the commonly expresses in her music, presumably why Forge Media refers to Del Rey as a “sadcore superstar.”

Behind Del Rey’s serenades of picture-perfect American cities like Hollywood and Brooklyn are haunting reminders of “how empty these places can be,” according to Apple Music—another paradoxical theme using her beloved America as reference.

In NFR!, Del Rey pays homage to Venice Beach in Los Angeles with “Venice Bitch.” The commentary the song makes is that América completes itself with its differences, like an imperfect “American-made” couple who complement each other.

This can take on several different interpretations: how the political chaos of the country is remedied by its vibrant and diverse cultural scene or how America’s vain obsession with fame and living fast-paced is remedied by living

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Miners’ offense struggles against Red Raiders

Michael Cuviello
The Prospector

UTEP Miners struggled all night on offense against the Texas Tech Red Raiders, scoring only three points while managing 131 yards with just 54 in the passing game.

Averaging just more than two yards per offensive play, the Miners’ only score was a 45-yard field goal by sophomore Gavin Baechle with roughly five minutes left in the game.

The Miners’ rushing attack, which produced 288 yards on the ground against Houston Baptist, could only muster 77 yards on 38 carries versus the Red Raiders.

In the passing game, the Miners had their lowest output since the 2017 matchup versus Middle Tennessee State where they passed for 48 yards.

Overall, the 131 yards of total offense were the fewest number of yards for the Miner offense since a 2009 matchup with the University of Texas at Austin, in which they gained only 84 yards of total offense.

see OFFENSE on page 8

UTEP soccer on a two-game winning streak with weekend win

Isaiah Ramirez
The Prospector

The UTEP soccer team (3-1-2) is on a four-game unbeaten streak and coming off a weekend where they went 2-0 at home defeating Texas State and Southern Utah. The Miners have outscored their opponents 6-2 during this streak.

This streak for UTEP began with a 2-1 win over Grand Canyon University (GCU) Aug. 29, which was the first win under first-year head coach Kathryn Balogun. Sophomore forward JoJo Ngongo and senior midfielder Danielle Carreon scored a goal each for the Miners against GCU, which was the first matchup in their two-game road trip.

The Miners’ next matchup ended in a scoreless draw against the University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV). Freshman goalkeeper Emily Parrott had four saves and the Miner defense smothered UTRGV and held off nine corner kicks.

"It was a tough weekend on the road with three time zones and two tough games. There are a lot of positives to take away this weekend," Balogun said in a news release.

UTEP heads back to the Sun City for a two-game home stand starting with unbeaten Texas State. The Miners handed the Bobcats their first loss of the season with goals from senior defender Lauren Crenshaw and sophomore forward Kam Fisher.

Crenshaw leads the Miners with 18 total shots and averages three shots per game, ranking her seventh in Conference-USA.

Crenshaw is tied for first in goals on the team with two and tied for second in points with four. The 2017 All-CUSA third-team selection currently leads the Miners in total minutes played with 515. Against the Bobcats, Ngongo recorded an assist for the Miners and Parrott had three saves for UTEP.

The Miners extended their streak to four games with their 2-0 win over Southern Utah. The Miners did not allow a shot on goal for the first time since 2009.

Parrott recorded her second shutout of the season. Parrott’s average of three saves per game currently ranks her seventh in Conference-USA.

"I’m super excited about the shutout," Balogun said in a news release. "We also got two good goals and finished out another one for the weekend. It was a really good home weekend for us. We had some really good runs in the run of play goals."

UTEP had two newcomers adding to the stats sheet, sophomores Nicole Pugsley and Ayana Noel, each scoring a goal for the Miners.

Forward freshman Tess Carlin assisted Noel on her goal in the 22nd minute of the match. Carlin is the first Miner in program history to record an assist in her first three matches of the season and currently leads the team in assists with four.

Carlin’s four assists on the season rank her fourth in CUSA.

UTEP will look to extend its unbeaten streak to five against crosstown rival New Mexico State (1-2-2) and will continue their two-game road trip against Utah Valley (2-3).

The Miners will take on New Mexico State at 4 p.m. Sept. 12 in Las Cruces, New Mexico. UTEP’s matchup against Utah Valley will take place at 7 p.m. Sept. 14 in Orem, Utah.

Isaiah Ramirez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
The secondary string made some critical plays in the game that kept the score from being worse. Junior Josh Caldwell and sophomore Justin Prince were standouts from the Miners with 17 combined tackles. Also, Caldwell broke up two passes.

"If we play defense like we did tonight we will have a good season," Dimel said to UTEP Athletic's Director of Broadcast Jon Teicher on KROD's "Voice of the Miners" after the game.

Offensively, the Miners only broke into Red Raider territory twice all night resulting in two field-goal attempts with the team converting one.

Penalties were once again a problem for UTEP with nine for 70 yards after having 75 yards of penalties the previous week versus Houston Baptist.

Miners fall to 1-1 on the year with the 38-3 loss to Texas Tech.

The Miners will take on the Nevada Wolfpack (1-1) – who lost 77-6 to the Oregon Ducks this weekend – at 6 p.m. Sept. 21 at the Sun Bowl in El Paso.

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Volleyball team splits 2-2

Claudia Hernandez / The Prospector

Outside hitter Cheyenne Jones and middle blocker Mallory Yost block the ball against Coppin State Friday Sept. 6, 2019.

UTEP wins two matches out of four at the Borderland Invitational. Visit theprospectordaily.com to read the full recap.