BLAZED AND CONFUSED

Campus officials concerned that students are unaware of drug policies

BY JASMINE AGUILERA
The Prospector

College students smoke pot. No surprise there. Marijuana has become as associated with the college experience as beer pong or Greek Life. But officials at UTEP are concerned that many students may not know or understand the consequences of being found in possession while enrolled in school.

Aside from the charge showing up in a background check—which can make it harder to find employment or lease an apartment—a student who has been caught with marijuana off campus may have the federal government and the U.S. system to deal with.

A possession charge can disqualify a student from federal financial aid and the student can lose rights or privileges from the university. Some students may be suspended from the university or campus housing. Some may also be required to complete a program at the UTEP Police Department.

"The drug policy that we have in the handbook of operating procedures—these recommendations are specific from the UT System," said Johnnie Wilmot, director of the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. "We cannot ignore those obviously. We have to abide by those."

So even though 23 states and Washington, D.C. have legalized pot use in some form, UTEP officials must abide by UT System policy, which states that all illegal drugs are prohibited on campus.

Charlie Gubanski, director of Residence Life, oversees students who are living on campus and has seen an uptick in the number of students caught in possession of pot. He said he is

see POT on page 6
Not everyone a fan of “The Cloud”

BY MIKE VAZQUEZ

The Prospector

UTEP students were caught off-guard as their first week of school was not only marred with a stack of syllabi and new class routines, but a new piece of public art commissioned by the city standing tall in the center of Schuster’s roundabout. Unfortunately for people without depth perception, the art is a three-dimensional structure of a healthy, fluffy cloud made up of individual white and gray panels.

“The Cloud” is a part of the city’s public art program which was put in place by the 2006 City Council in an attempt to beautify communities in El Paso with pieces of art reflecting the city’s history and uniqueness. As of now, the program has established over 50 pieces of art, including this past year’s light sculptures on I-10 near Airway, the cloud off of Schuster, and the baseball stadiums stained glass tower seen from Franklin Avenue. The city’s decision to commit 2 percent of every Capital Improvement Project budget is exactly what El Paso needs to be taken seriously as a progressing city.

Tracey Jerome is the director of the city’s Museum and Cultural Affairs department and one of the city’s officials who helped see the cloud to completion. She is one of the many members of the public art program committee that decides which artists or art projects are best suited to design pieces for different parts of the city.

“One of the goals of the public arts program is to create a visual identity for visitors and residents,” Jerome said. “UTEP is known for its Brutalist architecture, ‘The Kingdoms of the Clouds’. This interpretation of a cloud ties into the design of the UTEP campus, and helps create a focal point people drive through the area.”

As suitable as it may be for UTEP’s campus, not everyone is excitedly happy with the installation. Robert Grob, a junior business administration major, likes the idea but finds the execution was a miss.

“The beams supporting it are pretty distracting,” Grob said. “It looks more like a highway billboard than anything.”

While the cloud does little more than advertise the different shades of white, the supporting beams do extend past the cloud’s boundaries, and in a way dwarf the actual piece of art by systems supporting it. Erik Ramires, a junior studying English and American literature, disagrees.

“I think it was a good use of money,” Ramires said. “It’s visually appealing, especially right there where it’s just concrete and traffic.”

The city’s public art is a lot like the Kardashian family: it’s already put in place in society so you might as well have a strong opinion about it. Art cannot be separated from infrastructure as if it were a kid brother with a handful of crayons. There are artists in El Paso having their craft to professionalize, and it is decisions like this that allow our local talents to share their art with the same environment and community that inspires them.

We must step out of the mindset that art comes from stereotypes like the brushed painter, gilded sculptor or wry musician. These are our friends, aunts, brothers and coworkers, and people who drive on I-10, eating the same tacos in salsa who are hunting for an opportunity to share their art. If we want El Paso to have landmark restaurants, then we have to find ways to allow master chefs to step out of their kitchen. If we want local bands headline festival acts like Coexistella and Lollapalooza, then we must find spaces for them to try out their newest music.

The public arts program is definitely a step in the right direction, allowing visual artists a canvas in the city to create upon, but it comes from an understanding that although it is important to have successful businessmen and women build the city, it is just as important to have artists bring their point of view to build El Paso in a direction unlike any city in Texas and, dare I say, the nation.

Aside from the installation of the roundabout this past year, the Schuster area of campus has seen few changes. Whether or not the cloud is aesthetically pleasing or efficiently executed is a secondary reason to its existence.

“Public art changes the way we view our community,” Jerome says. “By investing in public art and in our local artists, our city has created a vibrant community where art is an integral part of who we are.”

She is not wrong about this. By merely existing, the cloud has sparked conversation between students and teachers alike, and to debate whether or not it is a good piece of art to interact with and connect with members of the community. Even by grimacing and holding your breath for fear of losing the air to express your disgust of the cloud to your classmate is to do exactly what public art is meant to do. For more information on El Paso’s current and completed works of public art, visit mcaed.epaustx.gov/public-art.

Mike Noyes may be reached at treyprospector@ualm.edu.

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 a mail address, plus major, classification and/or title if applicable. Address and phone number will be used for verification only.
Write to 105 S Union, e-mail treyprospectornews@gmail.com, call 774-7177 or fax to 774-8031.

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The pride and joy of a basketball city

BY AMANDA GUILLON
The Prospector
El Paso has been called a basketball city time and time again. UTEP basketball programs are rooted as the gems of the athletic programs at the university.
It all began with the Texas Western men’s 1966 NCAA basketball championship 50 years ago. Now UTEP is preparing a celebration in honor of the legacy left behind by the 60s champions.
The County of El Paso will recognize the 50th anniversary of the 1966 men’s basketball NCAA championship at the County Court House at 9:30 a.m. on Feb. 1.
Along with the recognition there will be a 50th anniversary celebration game on Feb. 6 at 3 p.m. against Western Kentucky University.
Student tickets will be available from now until Feb. 4 and no guest tickets will be up for sale for this game.
The Texas Western Miners and the Kentucky Wildcats met on March 19, 1966, and this matchup was unlike any game played in college basketball at the time.
Head coach of the Miners, Don Haskins, went against the grain by starting five black players against an all-white Kentucky team.
"The Miners went on to defeat the Wildcats with a score of 72-65.
El Paso Times sports writer Bill Knight was one of the many who watched the 1966 game unfold.
Knight was in Dallas playing basketball for UT Arlington at the time and said that he knew the importance.
"It gives me, as a basketball player, motivation to accomplish something and to bring joy to the city again.
"- Tevin Caldwell
UTEP basketball guard

Pope’s visit means campus closure, Sun Bowl party

BY JAIMER CORTEZ
The Prospector
The UTEP campus will be closed on Feb. 17 in response to Pope Francis’ visit to Ciudad Juarez.
The Office of Special Events and the Catholic Diocese of El Paso is expecting a big crowd for the “Two Nations, One Faith” viewing party at the Sun Bowl, which will simulate the pope’s papal Mass being held across the border.
Tickets went on sale on Jan. 18 on ticketmaster.com, and are also on sale at the University Ticket Center.
The price of admission is $10 for local parishes and $15 for the general public, plus service charges. According to Jorge Vasquez, executive director of special events, the Sun Bowl will operate in the same capacity as it does for any other event.
Bathrooms, assigned seating and concessions will all run as usual.
“Due to the uniqueness of this event, it is hard to predict (the attendance),” Vasquez said. “Although it may not be the largest event the stadium has held, this event is more for the Paso del Norte community and the Diocese of El Paso.”
 Whereas Brinkley Stadium will host the main event, the Sun Bowl viewing party is an alternative.
Officials estimated that about 450,000 people will be participating in the Papal Mass in Juarez, but there is a possibility that the number of participants might be slightly lower.
Nevertheless, the trip to Juarez is expected to be long and costly.
According to Elizabeth O’Hara, communications director for the Catholic Diocese of El Paso, the walk across the border could take six to eight hours, making the Sun Bowl a viable option.
“Give you the opportunity to be with people from the Catholic community,” O’Hara said. “There will be cultural events, live entertainment and, of course, we will be joining the simulcast of the pope’s mass, in which we are anticipating acknowledging those of us who were here at the Sun Bowl.”
O’Hara added that the Sun Bowl viewing party will be less stressful on the viewer’s wallet, as people come from all over town.
With airliners, hotels and transportation, going to Juarez may be too costly for some.
More so, O’Hara stressed that the viewing party is much more of a simulcast of the mass, and said that it will be a fun-filled event that will include live entertainment.
Guitarist Tony Melendez is one of the entertainers who has confirmed to play at the Sun Bowl on Feb. 17.
“We certainly wanted to make sure this felt like more than just a viewing party because if these are the people who want to do this, it’s an opportunity to do things,” O’Hara said.
Despite weather, thousands attend March for Life

BY JULIO CESAR-CHAVEZ

WASHINGTON – It has been 43 years since the Supreme Court’s de-
cision in Roe v. Wade made abor-
tion legal. For the 43rd straight year, anti-abortion activists gathered on the National Mall and marched to the Supreme Court.

With the hope that one day Roe v. Wade will be overturned, men and women, young and old, American and international, those opposed to abortion braided the cold to ex-
press their beliefs – even if that meant staying in Washington an extra day or two.

Some groups canceled trips because of the predicted record snowfall. “We’re here to stand for the truth that all life is sacred from conception to natural death,” said Sister Anna Grace, who has been part of the Sis-
ters of St. Cecilia in Nashville, Tenn., for the last 19 years. “We would like to speak for those who can’t speak for themselves, the most vulnerable.”

Grace and other members of her order drove 11 hours overnight from Nashville to be at the march. Their plan is to return home Sunday, but like most others at the march, they were prepared for delays because of the weather.

Thomas LaPointe, 26, of Lakeland, Fla., was at his second consecutive march chaperoning over 30 students from Santa Fe Catholic High School and St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Polk County, Fla. The group arrived Thursday night and will be forced to stay at least an extra night at their hotel before returning home.

Before heading to the National Mall, some of the group’s chaperones made sure they were prepared for the weekend storm. They made a trip to WalMart.

“We know a lot of stuff is going to be closed,” LaPointe said. “We had to prepare earlier this morning just to make sure the kids have something to eat.”

The sacrifices they made to be in Washington, and the delays they might experience, didn’t seem to worry LaPointe and the rest of the thousands of marchers. The state-
ment being made by their presence on their beliefs and views about the state of American society was much more important than a few flights.

“Our culture right now does not respect the dignity of life like it should,” LaPointe said. “This is, I think, one of the best ways we can fight that. It’s peaceful a march, a peaceful process, and that’s absolutely critical to making the point.”

In a statement, President Barack Obama reaffirmed his disagreement with abortion opponents. Obama celebrated the anniversary of Roe v. Wade and said he will keep working to protect the decision.

“The more you learn, the more you earn,” Serrata said.

As efforts increase to have more students enter colleges, some are con-
cerned job requirements may increase as the job market gains more people with the same qualifications. Fears, others say, should not be felt much.

“Most of the companies that come recruit here are looking for under-
graduate degree,” said Craig Thompson, associate director of the UTEP Career Services.

Thompson clarified that although some companies are asking for more than just a degree, it does not mean students would need a master’s degree to get a job instead of a bachelor’s.

“It doesn’t really mean the degree isn’t worth anything, it’s that they are looking for job-specific criteria,” Thompson said.

He said those companies that ask for more than a degree usually look for students who have had previ-
sous experience in similar positions which give the students extra train-
ing for the job.

Those job-specific criteria, Thompson said, are gained by internships and work experiences the students seek out while still in college. He said the experiences might give students a chance to learn things they wouldn’t normally in a classroom setting.

Heather Khalifa / SHFWire

Ricardo Zavala, 16, of Palacios Texas was one of thousands that stood out in the cold for this year’s March for Life.

Constitution Avenue was close off from traffic for the march.

“Now we know a lot of stuff is going to be closed,” LaPointe said. “We had to prepare earlier this morning just to make sure the kids have something to eat.”

The protesters marched on despite the falling snow.

Heather Khalifa / SHFWire

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Students agree that out-of-class experience is crucial to finding a job after graduation.

“That will give you an advantage over other people who don’t have expe-
rience and just do the (academic) work,” said Cassandra Kunta, a junior literature major.

For some students it means more than just working in internships.

“Junior political science major Miguel Alvarez said he wants to go into law enforcement, but was advised to not follow the criminal justice de-
gree plan. He wants to pursue a po-

tical science, and plans to approach his career from a different angle.

He said this advice came from a number of people going into law enforcement with criminal justice degrees, a political science degree will set him apart from the crowd.

“People should do extra work, should stand out and should go the extra mile, because in the end it pays off,” Alvarez said.

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The Prospector

JANUARY 26, 2016

Texas Tribune convenes to discuss educational attainment

BY JULIO CESAR-CHAVEZ

THE Prospector

UTEP hosted a Texas Tribune dis-
cussion Friday, Jan. 22, taking a look at urban public education in the state of Texas.

The first talk concentrated on changing demographics in public schools, while the second covered the complexities of social and emo-
tional learning.

The third phase of discussion centered around the importance and challenges faced by school systems trying to get more high school stu-
dents into colleges and universities.

Challenges, the panel members said, can’t be dealt with by only one side.

“College people don’t really under-
stand high school and high school people don’t really understand col-
ge,” said Daniel King, superintend-
ent of the Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District.

King emphasised the need for uni-
versities and local school districts to coordinate, working together to encourage more students to go after post-secondary education.

That encouragement, the panel said, is about more than simply hav-
ing more students apply to and grad-
uate from universities.

“We need to make sure the students have options and that they know what those options are,” King said.

Among those options, panel mem-
ers discussed, are paths less than a traditional college education should be presented.

“Technical training is still college,” said William Serrata, El Paso Com-
munity College president.

Serrata said many students think the only path after graduation is a traditional college education. While he said more should be aware of technical careers, he said that those who follow them do so as much as they can, and become professionals in their field.

Finding out how to maximize each student’s potential is no easy task.

“There isn’t just one solution, there are a million solutions,” said Susan Hull, superintendent of the Grand Prairie Independent School District.

Despite the hard work that would be required, they also agreed the ef-
forts would be worth it.

- Daniel King, superintendent of the Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District

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1966 from page 3

1966 from page 3

1966 from page 3

of the game and what it meant for
sports in the United States.
When Knight became a sports
writer for the El Paso Times in the
late 1980s, he was able to cover UTEP
basketball and create a working rela-
tionship with Haskins.
Knight even traveled with the
team to Springfield, Massachusetts,
in 2007 to cover their induction into the
Naismith Memorial Basketball
Hall of Fame.
Knight said that he has seen the
pride that the championship brought
to the city and how it lives on even
after 50 years.
"I think they are proud of the fact
that they won the national champi-
ionship," Knight said. "Secondly,
and probably just as importantly,
the crown was such a significant national
championship!"
Senior multimedia studies
major and UTEP basketball guard
Tevin Caldwell moved to El Paso 11
years ago and remembered realizing the
importance of the 1966 champi-
nship when he was a senior at Ameri-
cas High School.
Caldwell said that now, as a bas-
ketball player for UTEP, he knows how
important the championship is for
UTEP fans.
"It's definitely something that the
city takes pride in," Caldwell said. "I
know a lot of UTEP fans and every
time I run into them they always
bring it up. You know, take us back
to the championship, or 1966 and
all that stuff. It gives me, as a bas-
ketball player, motivation to accom-
plish something and to bring joy to
the city again."
Although many in the city and the
university are reminiscing on the his-
tory that was made half a century ago,
some say that this championship is
overlooked by many current students
that have parents that weren't yet
born in 1966.
Senior psychology major Fernando
Hernandez said that many current
students have told him that they had
never heard of "Gypsy Road" or of the
1966 national championship.
Hernandez played for Haskins in
the '90s and said that because of
the NCAA championship, he de-
cided to stay in his hometown to
play basketball.
"When you are a basketball player
and you are trying to find a school to
play at, you are looking for a school
that has had a legacy and I was just
lucky enough since 11 was local," Her-
nandez said. "I grew up dreaming of
playing for that program and playing
for coach Haskins. Being a part of
that team was something very presti-
gious and something very special."
Now with the 50th anniversary a little
over a month away, the UTEP commu-
nity is preparing itself for celebrations.
The basketball program, although
not likely to bring home an NCAA
championship this year, continues
to use history as a motiv-
ator for the future.
"It gives us, as a basketball team,
hope," Caldwell said.
O’Hara said, “This is something that our parishioners told us that they wanted to do. They wanted to get together in the Sun Bowl to pray, celebrate, join together and feel like one.”

With the mass-viewing turning into an event, O’Hara is hoping for a sellout.

“It would be fantastic if it did (sell out),” O’Hara said. “We certainly what we are working for. The Two Nations, One Faith! celebration is going to be El Paso’s way of being able to gather in a faith-filled community and celebrate the success of this visit for our brothers and sisters in Jujuy.”

The Sun Bowl seating capacity is listed at 51,500. Although the advertising for the viewing party has ramped up, some UTEP students are still unclear on the event details. General business major Alea Fagee-Jones has only heard mentions of the viewing through word of mouth in class.

“I was thinking about looking into it because how often does this happen?” Fagee-Jones said. “I know in class teachers have mentioned it, but I have never heard any mention of anything or the excitement that all goes with it.”

Then there are some students, like sophomore graphic design major Dennis Martin, who might opt out of going to the viewing because of the bad traffic that might occur.

“It depends on how easy things get because I am expecting so many people to inundate the area,” Martin said. “I’m in the middle because it is a once-in-a-lifetime thing, but I don’t know how it’s actually going to be getting home and trying to get through the crowd.”

Organizers at the Sun Bowl have experience hosting large events, such as the One Direction concert that happened on Sept. 19 of last year, where close to 45,000 fans filled the stadium.

UTEP’s Office of Special Events is enforcing strict parking rules that do not allow attendees to park overnight; any vehicles that are parked overnight will be subject to ticketing. The parking lots will open at 6 a.m., and all parking is first come, first serve. Tickets for the events do not guarantee parking.

“The law may be enacted at any time,” Fagee-Jones said.

The number of students found in possession of marijuana has increased in the past year.

PDT from page 1

Concerned that not enough students are reading the campus drug policy.

“When students move in, we strongly encourage them to make sure they know what the policies are,” Gibbons said. “But I think a lot of the times, unless it directly affects you, then you don’t think about it.”

Gibbons shared an anecdote about an international student who was found in possession at their dorm. The students were removed from campus housing, and because these particular students were in a program that required them to live on campus, they ended up having to leave the university and return to their home countries.

There has been an increase in how many students have been found in possession on campus. According to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, 13 drug-related incidents were reported in fall 2013. That is up from seven in spring 2013 and two in fall 2014.

Sisto said the growing number is a concern, but the numbers do correlate with the growing student population and the number of students living on campus, which has increased to almost 1,000.

Sisto sees all of the students who have been charged with a drug-related offense. She said her office tries to take more of an educational approach, where they require students to think through their actions.

“Just that usually, students will be put on a probationary period that can last anywhere from four months to their graduation day, depending on the severity of the offense.”

Many students will also have to go through the Individual Reflective Experience program at the UTEP Police Department, which requires students to sit one-on-one with UTEP Assistant Chief of Police Raymond Rodriguez, write a reflective essay and attend presentations by lawyers and speakers.

“If your employer calls the university to get a background check; they don’t care what’s in that file, all they care about is that you have a file,” Gibbons said. “It scars me that students may not know the negative repercussions of someone finding up a joint.”

Sisto’s epilogues may be reached at prospector.dep.sisto@utep.edu.
JANUARY 26, 2016

ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR
JOSE SOTO, 747-7477

Prickly Elder is inviting with nostalgic decor

BY JOSE SOTO

Her Prospect

It takes some creativity and originality to create a niche bar, especially in a city where the bar scene is growing. But one recently opened location has taken niche to another level.

Opening the door to the Prickly Elder on W 16th St. Monroe Street, will give you a sense of nostalgia. The place looks as if you are walking into your grandmother’s house. Except you’re not. You are actually walking into one of the most distinctive bars in town.

Prickly Elder has adapted the concept of a vintage, classy grandmother’s house for its decor, which works wonders for its appeal. Located at the corner of Main and Rice Goodman Street, it’s easy to miss the new bar which was previously Samnatz Hashbash Lounge, but you definitely don’t want to miss out on this place.

Old wall clocks, floral paint wallpaper and knitted placemats help give Prickly Elder the notion that you’re at your grandmother’s house, but don’t get bored just yet. The new bar is actually a fun place to visit. The TV might be showing classics like “The Twilight Zone,” “Murder, She Wrote,” or “The Price is Right,” but the music is all contemporary indie rock and pop.

“It was incredibly hard to come up with an original idea for our bar,” Allison Barker, manager of Prickly Elder, said. “We wanted a unique theme for our bar, something that hadn’t been done.”

Prickly Elder has done exactly that, managing to be the only bar in the area that mimics grandma’s honey and cozy home.

“The wall paint wallpaper is one that is discontinued,” Barker said. “We actually had to order it from somewhere in Canada. Much of the things that decorate our place were actually given to us by my mother. She loves thrift store shopping. It was actually cool to finally put those old things to good use. It’s like finding a treasure in someone else’s trash.”

Along with paperbacks books and wicker-framed sofas, Prickly Elder’s biggest appeal is the way they serve their cocktails. While your grandma might serve you some simmering Earl Grey tea from her ancient teapot, at Prickly Elder, you’ll be served an interesting mingled adult beverage.

“There is actually a bar in England that serves their cocktails in teapots, which is where we got the idea for that,” Barker said. “It’s obviously a British concept since they drink tea daily, but it’s something that has definitely been intriguing here in El Paso.”

What’s more interesting than the teapots is what’s inside of them. The bar offers unique recipes on their drink menu. Espresso, mint, raspberries, lemon juice, green tea and bitters are all ingredients you’ll find in Prickly Elder’s teapot-sharing options. Their Elder Punch, I would argue, is their signature offering. Composed of Bombay Sapphire Gin, Campari, sweet vermouth and juices.

If the location wasn’t different enough, the name by now should have sparked some interest.

“I really wanted our name to stand out and be different,” Barker said. “It needed to be distinctive. I literally looked up weird plant names and prickly elder came out. It was perfect. It was witty and suitting.”

Prickly Elder offers $2.50 Lone Stars, $3 Pabst Blue Ribbon, $5 Jonestown and $3 Fireballs all day. Their teapot cocktails are $2 cheaper during the day. For more information on Prickly Elder, visit Facebook.com/prickleyelder.

(by) Prickly Elder bartender Kristy Cozz prepares a drink for a customer. (Right) A customer checks out an Elder Punch from a vintage teapot.

MICHAELA ROWAN / THE PROSPECTOR

The decor at Prickly Elder includes wicker-framed couches.

MICHAELA ROWAN / THE PROSPECTOR

We wanted a unique theme for our bar, something that hadn’t been done.

- Allison Barker, manager of Prickly Elder
MindCanvis coloring books promote interactive art

“Spirit Animals” is the title of the coloring book illustrated by Carlos Gonzalez.

BY JULIA HETTIGER
The Prospector

While some may take up exercising or knitting, many have found the old childhood ritual of coloring can be a relaxing way to unwind after a day of stress. Artist Carlos Gonzalez, art director at MindCanvis Publishing, has brought the fun back to coloring for adults with the release of his coloring book “Spirit Animals,” which features 30 pages of drawn out animals waiting to be colored. The coloring book, which can be purchased on Amazon or at Barnes and Noble, includes engaging and interactive art created to give artists and non-artists alike the opportunity to unleash their creativity.

Carlos Gonzalez, who is a UTEP alumnus, said he gets his artistic inspiration from everything and anything. "I've been drawing since I was 2 years old, so I've been doing it pretty much my whole life," Gonzalez said. "Sometimes it doesn't all make sense in the moment, but I usually catalog everything in my head and use it later. I get inspired by life and different events, things that have happened or might happen." Enrique Macias, MindCanvis co-founder, said they chose to do coloring books because demand was growing and it became the perfect medium for Gonzalez to get his talents out into the world. Macias said that past projects have yielded very little monetary return, but were done simply to be creative. "I've always known Carlos has an amazing talent, so we needed to give it the visibility it deserved," Macias said. "Once we realized the coloring book phenomenon was overtaking the art scene, we figured it was a great medium to showcase what Carlos has the ability to do, and at the same time, creating the experience to not only let people enjoy his art, but take part as being the artist themselves."

In addition to making the art interactive, the duo behind MindCanvis also believe coloring can help people alleviate stress and take their mind off everyday pressures. "Not only does it ease your childhood, but it does it in a way that you're not worrying about your emails or text messages or your bills," Gonzalez said. "It does it in a meditative way that maybe people have tried in the past, but haven't explored it enough to say 'wow, this is a better alternative to managing stress.'" Irena Fierro, junior studio art major, said art—particularly drawing and coloring—helps alleviate her stress by giving her a nice distraction.

"It gives me a sort of distraction from over thinking and gives me full attention and focus to the current subject I am working on," Fierro said. Carlos Gonzalez, who was born in Los Angeles but grew up in El Paso, said being raised here gave him the drive to strive for bigger and better things within the art world. "I learned a lot about etiquette," Gonzalez said. "If you love it enough, put in the work to get it done, and growing up in El Paso in that sense gave me the work ethic."

To celebrate the release of “Spirit Animals,” Trade Craft coffee shop and bar will have an adult coloring book meet up on Feb. 4. "This upcoming one is our second one so far," said Joe Jimenez, an employee at Trade Craft. "When the idea for this event came about, we knew it would be popular. However, we didn't expect the huge turnout we ended up getting."

For more information about the coloring books or the meet up at Trade Craft, visit MindCanvis’ Facebook page or website at mindcanvis.com.

"I think it's cool because you see these coloring books, because I would probably never use one, not even as a stress reliever," said Joe Jimenez, an employee at Trade Craft.

For more information about the coloring books or the meet up at Trade Craft, visit MindCanvis’ Facebook page or website at mindcanvis.com.

MINDCANVIS CO-FOUNDER ENRIQUE MACIAS SAYS, "WE REALIZED THE COLORING BOOK PHENOMENON WAS OVERTAKING THE ART SCENE, WE FIGURED IT WAS A GREAT MEDIUM TO SHOWCASE WHAT CARLOS HAS THE ABILITY TO DO, AND AT THE SAME TIME, CREATING THE EXPERIENCE TO NOT ONLY LET PEOPLE ENJOY HIS ART, BUT TAKE PART AS BEING THE ARTIST THEMSELVES."
Love Buzz hosts first ‘Thursgays’ with ‘Ride The Rainbow’ art event

The idea is ambitious, but not the least bit unattainable. As El Paso expands to becoming one of Texas’ well-known cities, it will need its thinkers, artists and closetos meet one another, and events like “Ride the Rainbow” give them a chance to build relationships that will help them achieve their plans for El Paso.

Love Buzz will be hosting Thursgays every third Thursday of the month from 6:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Mike Vasquez may be reached at mike@unprospect.com.

BY MIKE VASQUEZ

The Prospector

Love Buzz, a bar located at 3011 Pershing Drive, hosted the first official “Thursgays: Ride the Rainbow.” The event featured an array of local art, comedy and musical performances, including LEZBRINA, a female hip-hop group from El Paso, all given to celebrate the L.G.B.T. community. From designers fashion to photography, face painting to drag, the night became a hub of artistry where local artists came to share and show their work.

The bar is a neighborhood dive snuggled between a Dollar General and the Pershing Inn, two businesses that have been there for decades. There was a unicorn piloted with the rainbow barn standing on the table in the middle of the room. The bartender, a bearded guy casually sporting a unicorn onesie, was the first person to greet everyone. On the patio, patrons were able to paint blank mannequins, buy handmade jewelry and paintings from local artists.

With a title like “Ride the Rainbow,” it’s easy to assume that this event was marketed specifically to the gay community alone, but Aaron Torres, the event’s coordinator, said that it isn’t true.

“This is not gay night at Love Buzz,” Torres said. “To me, it’s queer night. It’s a night about openness and really an accepting of everybody regardless of orientation and gender.”

This is Torres’ first year back in El Paso in a decade. His plans for the city begin with events like “Ride the Rainbow.” “Pride Square (El Paso’s gay center) is known as a safe spot, but I want people to realize that El Paso is really open-minded and progressing to where you can be yourself at any bar,” Torres said.

The night lived up to its name. From the bold mapping of LEZBRINA Ti to The Goddess self-proclaimed as “pure-punk rock,” “Ride the Rainbow” aimed to provide entertain-

ment one would not usually see at Pride Square in downtown El Paso.

“The idea is ambitious, but not the least bit unattainable. As El Paso expands to becoming one of Texas’ well-known cities, it will need its thinkers, artists and closetos meet one another, and events like “Ride the Rainbow” give them a chance to build relationships that will help them achieve their plans for El Paso.

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MINER WELCOME WEEK

TUESDAY, JAN. 26—GREEKS ON THE PLAZA

Meet UTEP’s fraternities and sororities at the Centennial Plaza and see what they have to offer. Hosted by Fraternity and Sorority Life. Event starts at 10 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 27—MINER SPIRIT

Live music, a food truck and activities will be held at the Union Plaza as UTEP Athletics host this event starting at 10 a.m. Be sure to wear your UTEP gear.

THURSDAY, JAN. 28—THROWBACK THURSDAY

Flashback to the ‘80s at the Union Plaza starting at 11 a.m. Vintage arcade games will be available as well as T-shirt dyeing.

FRIDAY, JAN. 29—FRIDAY NIGHT Flick

“The Hunger Games: Mockingjay: Part 2,” will be screened at the Centennial Plaza at 6:30 p.m. Concessions open at 6 p.m.

Free admission.
La Patrona is a good choice for both adult and children

BY JASON GREEN
The Prospector

To review this restaurant, I took my 10-year-old son, I told him that we were going to review a restaurant and that it was a top secret mission, which really made the whole experience a lot more fun for me — watching him tip-toe to the bathroom multiple times to check out the décor and report back to me. Our readership is not always single students but, very often, single mothers and fathers or married parents with children — they have to eat too — just like I did last Thursday night at La Patrona, just north of campus on Nueces St. The new restaurant has opened where several former bars inhabited along with a few other restaurants. I took my son mainly as a way of finding out how kid-friendly the place truly was — yes, I used him as a guinea pig. He enjoyed it.

The restaurant was only about a quarter full at 7 p.m. on a weeknight. We found a seat in the pink-tinted, gangster-era atmosphere of the aptly named restaurant and were greeted by our waiter who took our drink orders and returned promptly with homemade chips and several condiments including perfectly spiced red and green salsa. We started with an appetizer of Ceviche de Pescado, which the waiter explained — or tried to explain — was Paraguayan. Ceviche is marinated raw fish. It was absolutely amazing. Apparently, Paraguayan means that it has much more lemon and cilantro than those who are used to Mexican ceviche would be expecting. The fish pieces are bigger too. At La Patrona, it is recommended along with the aguachilas, according to some internship friends that I made in a subsequent visit. Aguachilas is a Mexican dish made up of shrimp drenched in a liquid seasoning of lime juice, onions, chili peppers and salt. They also recommended the drink specials. Speaking of drink specials, there are a plethora of them. The menu includes specials for almost every night of the week at the full bar. On Friday, there is a mariachi band and on Saturday a full on rock band takes the stage. Although not a traditional Mexican plate, the french fries at La Patrona are the bomb — according to my dinner date, a 10-year-old food critic. The grilled food is where it’s at for La Patrona, though.

If you’re dining with a big group, the plates for four are an enormous value. For just about $40, you can get a corn asada plate that is ample food for four, consisting of phenomenal carne asada, sausage, four baked potatoes, four orders of beans and grilled onions and peppers. It also includes beans, of course. If it is lunchtime, you cannot beat any of the lunch specials ranging from $5 to $7 all served with beans and homemade tortilla soup chicken, beef or pork being the protein. Second only to the amazing grilled meat are the outstanding homemade corn tortillas. Patrons should not let the bar look or atmosphere scare them off. This place will please you as well as your children. Everyone else, seriously, it is grilled meat, homemade tortillas and outstanding homemade salsa with cheap drink specials. I highly recommend that you go to La Patrona as soon as possible.

Jason Green may be reached at theprospectordaily.net.

ATTN: STUDENTS:

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION GAME

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NO GUEST TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THIS GAME
A historic season in the making rolls on for the Lady Miners as they come home to face Southern Miss (Thursday, Jan. 28) and Louisiana Tech (Saturday, Jan. 30) in the Don Haskins Center.

The Miners (16-1, 7-0 Conference-USA) are off to the best start in program history. They are currently on an eight-game winning streak and currently ranked 31st in the nation, according to the NCAA Women’s Basketball RPI. The only other C-USA team with an unblemished conference record is Western Kentucky (7-0).

Before returning to the Don Haskins Center, the squad overcame adversity on their two-game road trip to Florida last weekend. After trailing Florida Atlantic 30-18 deep into the second quarter, they rallied with a 60-36 run and took the win, 78-66. Isaiah Nash, Camerasia Turner, Starr Breedlove and Sparkle Taylor recorded 17, 15, 15 and 14 points, respectively. The four accounted for 79.5 percent of the team’s points.

Head coach Keitha Adams commented her team for their come-from-behind victory, and called the game “a hard-fought win against a good team.”

The second roadblock for the Miners came after their victory against FAU. Without much rest, they had to travel to Florida International for Saturday’s game; but they had to face an eight-game winning streak and is currently undefeated in Conference USA.

LeBron James is on the decline.

Instead of writing a cool, hip introduction to this column, let me make it clear why this is being written. Our sports editor heard some reports about some radio personalities saying that Lebron James is on the decline, and he wanted me to give my take.

Is LeBron James on the decline? Short answer is yes.

Before we get into the details, let me preface one last time and say that everything that follows is not pro or anti-LeBron, it is the reality of his situation.

LeBron James is on the decline. His best years are behind him. He is slowly becoming less and less athletically dominant, and his strength of field, the NBA’s best player is not as firm as it used to be.

You could go even further and say that LeBron is not the best player in the league anymore. Lebron is on the decline, which can be proven by three factors: health, statistics and consistent impact on a game-to-game basis.

He is not the athlete he used to be, and that is saying something, because he is still a freakishly good athlete. But the slight deterioration is obvious, he gets beat off the dribble by smaller guards more often, he does not elevate as high with the same consistency and his effort on defense has dropped significantly in the past two seasons.

Lebron has resorted to what could be called the cherry picker defense, rather than recover on blow bys, he opts to sprint down the court for easy baskets or outlet passes, in hopes that the man he defended turns the ball over or misses the shot.

He constantly poaches for steals, roams around in the half court and now rarely covers the opposing team’s best players unless it’s a positional matchup.

He still puts in effort on defense, but not like the LeBron of old. This is not because he’s an NBA diva, who doesn’t care, it is just a side effect of aging in the NBA. For most guards, the first thing that goes along with their athleticism is their defense.

I’m not saying LeBron has gone full Harden circa 2014, but he does show signs of being a bad defender from time to time.

Next on the agenda are the numbers. It is simple, the stats do not lie. You could look at how his points, rebounds, assists, steals and blocks per game averages have all dropped, but those are not good indicators in explaining a decline.

The five major per game averages can easily be doctored by playing more minutes or increasing usage percentage, they don’t really delve explaining a decline.

The field goal percentage from 10 feet and out has dropped significantly in the past two years. The five major per game averages can easily be doctored by playing more minutes or increasing usage percentage, they don’t really delve explaining a decline.

He is the most efficient player since the turn of the century, and possibly a few others are better than LeBron James on the decline.

So stop worrying NBA fans, LeBron still has some good years ahead of him. But that is what makes this guy so freakish great, even as a player in decline he is still really good. So stop worrying NBA fans, LeBron still has some good years ahead of him.
Men prepare for Southern Miss, La Tech

BY JUAN CARLOS NAVARRETE
The Prospector

The Miners’ back-and-forth season continued on Saturday, Jan. 23, when they lost at home to Florida International University, 79-69. UTEP hopes to put that loss behind them as they take on Southern Miss on the road.

The Miners (11-9, 3-4 CUSA) had a chance to take over fourth place in Conference USA when they took on FIU at home. The Miners’ loss proved to be detrimental not only because it places the team under .500 yet again, but also because the Miners seemed to be reliable at home.

“We got beat by a club that I thought was just better than us tonight,” said coach Tim Floyd. “We just got outplayed.”

“We need to come out with more energy and make sure we take care of the ball,” said senior forward Cameron Artis-Parker. “We need to get back to the basics of playing basketball.”

“I think that offense contributed to it,” said senior guard Jordan Clark. “We need to get back to the basics of playing basketball.”

Although the Miners were able to cut what was once a 21-point lead to three, they were not able to get the win at home.

“I do respect our effort late and the fact that we tried to come back,” Floyd said. “We tried to double, tried to force the issue, all those things were positive the last 15 minutes, but then again the 17-2 run after being up 7-2 was not good.”

The biggest issue for the UTEP team has been their ability to play on the road. The Miners so far are winless in Conference USA when they have to play a team in any arena that is not the Don Haskins Center.

“We got to figure a way to win on the road,” Floyd said. “They team we are playing on Thursday (Southern Miss, Jan. 28) beat this team, they beat them on the road.”

UTEP will not only have to play with a wireless record on the road, but they also are playing a team that beat FIU 66-60. Southern Miss brings to the table a great front line that can shoot from behind the arc, which the Miners will have to try to neutralize.

The Miners will have to keep a close eye on Southern Miss’ guard Kerstyn Jackson, who is averaging 13 points per game. Jackson is also a big threat behind the arc and is shooting almost 50 percent from the 3-point line.

“We are just going to have to do what we can do, and make them put the ball on the floor, and make them take it to the rack, and not let them have any open shots,” Omega Harris said.

To win on the road is not easy for any team, but the Miners are going to have to find a way to win against Southern Miss.

Although the Miners are at 3-4 and in sixth place in Conference USA, Floyd is trying to make sure that his team keeps on fighting.

“It won’t be easy. None of them are easy,” Floyd said. “I look at our 11-9 record, I watched UCLA this afternoon, they are 11-8. There are a lot of teams fighting it right now.”

Confidence is something this team does not lack even after a loss. With players like Omega Harris, who every game is looking better, Harris has carried his weight from behind the arc; he is making half of his 3s every game.

“I mean, we still feel we can go out our way. It’s just another loss on the record and we get the next one,” Harris said. “We are going to go in there with the same mentality we’ve been having when we are at home. We are on the road and just handle our business and come back with a W—that’s all.”

Angel Illoz / The Prospector

Bring Johnny to Dallas

BY CHRISTOPHER PINONES
The Prospector

The Cleveland Browns are making significant changes this offseason, starting off with Hue Jackson, the former Cincinnati Bengals offensive coordinator, who was hired as the head coach. The new arrival dwells on a startling question for quarterback Johnny Manziel and the decision of his future in a Browns uniform.

Manziel has been a backup quarterback since being drafted in 2014, but he has failed to see him in a Browns uniform as “Johnny Football” the proclaimed name given to him as a hero and existing figure at the quarterback position. Nowadays because of off-field discrepancies, Johnny has not been favored or liked in the Browns’ offense. Now, two questions arise: who will Manziel end up with if his career in the NFL is over? After two seasons with the Browns, Johnny threw for 1,675 yards and had a QBR rating of 74.4. Over the course of 14 games, he posted a 3-11 record when starting at the QB position. Johnny Joe, owner of the Dallas Cowboys, has high interest for the young quarterback, and Johnny has not been expressing his desire to be a Cowboy. He would be returning to his home state of Texas, where he grew up playing high school football and college ball for Texas A&M. This would be a smart move for him.

Manziel has shown spurs of what he can do, but we haven’t seen his full potential. We need to see Johnny go to Dallas. Jones was a hot topic a few years ago because he wanted to get the most out of his career. To watch him play, everyone knew Houston would need to draft Manziel, but instead, he selected Zach Martin. If someone were to come to this move with the Cleveland Browns, who are obviously sick of Johnny Football, both sides will be happy. Jones has settled similar predicaments with stars that weren’t media friendly, and each time it has proven to be a success. The Cowboys have needed a good backup dating back to the Jon Kitna era. History has shown that none of these backups can win games or perform their duties well. This past 2015 season was a prime example as America’s team finished with a 11-1 record without their starting quarterback. Tony Romo. These backup quarterbacks, Brandon Weeden, Matt Cassel and Kellen Moore, could not get the job done this past season. If Romo goes down and Manziel is on hand, there can be a sigh of relief just a young QB is ready to go.

Johnny Football has not been favored over the years, and it has surprisingly only gotten worse. Fans in Texas want him here. He is a young guy who could use a second chance. In the past, Jones has been successful in turning a “troubled player” into a hot commodity. A few years back, Dez Bryant, the Cowboys’ star wide out, was in discussion for the same maturity level as an NFL pro. Look at Terryl Owens, Adam "Pacman" Jones and Greg Hardy as examples of guys who caused troubles off the field before arriving to Dallas. Jones seems to welcome these types of players with open arms, and has helped resurrect many careers. With Jones’ techniques, he could do the same for Johnny Manziel.

The pieces could call for a fit of success with both parties receiving what they want, but the controversy of this signing is also a high risk. Johnny, although being a good prospect, is also a liability. He has been arrested numerous times and has been caught partying in a way the NFL does not wish to be represented.

Then again, he is improving. On and off the field, the improvement is there. Manziel is a hot commodity with a lot of electric star-studded highlights at the quarterback position. The talent is absolutely present and it is up to him to not let it go to waste. A team like the Dallas Cowboys could unlock Johnny Manziel back to “Johnny Football.”

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